

Tennessee NRCS AT-A-GLANCE



February 2023

FY 2022 Conservation... By the Numbers

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture provided **\$11.3 million** from the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) for installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

NRCS provided technical assistance in planning, engineering, or agronomic design and layout, and inspection of **2,205 BMPs**, which stabilized **106,000 acres**.

- 96,464 conservation practices planned, 49,356 implemented
- 2,366 conservation plans written on 335,094 acres
- 5,092 conservation plans applied on 618,441 acres
- 156,850 acres of practices applied to improve environmental quality in the Conservation Technical Assistance program
- Obligated more than **\$12.2 million** on 219 contracts on 104,756 acres in CSP-Classic
- 45 percent of EQIP funding and 14 percent of CSP funding obligated to contracts with Beginning Farmers
- 53 percent of EQIP funding and \$14 million obligated to 468 contracts with Historically Underserved customers
- 56 contracts in 53 StrikeForce counties in Tennessee totaling **\$2.5 million** on 4,700 acres
- 215 contracts totaling **\$5.3 million** on 88,700 acres in cover crops
- Funded 52 contracts on 5,100 acres totaling **\$2.7 million** through the EQIP Landscape Conservation Initiatives
- Received **\$3.9 million** in Watershed Operations funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Farm Bill

NRCS greatly appreciates our partnerships with the 95 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Tennessee, Tennessee's Association of Conservation Districts (TACD), Department of Agriculture (TDA), Conservation District Employees Association (TCDEA), Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D), and many others. Without them, we would not be able to reach our farmers and landowners to implement conservation systems through our voluntary programs on private lands in the state.

FY 2022 Accomplishments

Tennessee NRCS continues to move the agency mission forward through voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs. Our employees and district partners and others have done a tremendous job with the delivery and implementation of our conservation efforts to producers in Tennessee.

Last year, Tennessee NRCS:

- Exceeded the National average of **87 percent** on contract implementations.
- Processed **4,061 payments** to Tennessee producers in the amount of **\$30 million**.
- Led the Southeast Region on applied acres reported to improve soil quality on **127,219 acres** through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Obligated **\$1.6 million** in Seasonal High Tunnels for **163 contracts**.
- Exceeded the National target of **50 percent** funds obligated towards Livestock and **10 percent** towards Wildlife.



Tennessee NRCS received a total of **32 proposals** for competitive funded agreements in FY 2022 in the categories of Conservation, Urban Conservation, and Collaborative Outreach. Of the 32 proposals received, **13 proposals were selected for a total funding amount of \$500,000**.

The first class of the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee Southeast Leadership Development Program (SLDP) saw **4 out of 7 participants in Tennessee move up to higher level positions** within the agency. This program provides a unique developmental opportunity to prepare NRCS employees for positions of greater responsibility. Currently, Tennessee has **5 NRCS leaders participating in the second class of this program**.

NRCS will continue to work on diversity, equity, and inclusion as relates to conservation programs, technical assistance, and employment as we aim for another successful year by putting more staff in our local field offices and prioritizing technical training for our employees.

FY 2022 Program Highlights

Last year, approximately **\$50 million** was obligated in Farm Bill funding and **\$22.1 million** in technical assistance to help Tennessee land users, units of local and state government, communities, and other Federal agencies with planning and implementing conservation systems.

Farm Bill Program	Obligated Funds	Number of Contracts	Total Acres
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$27.6M	834	82,000
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	\$13.6M ¹	258	125,364
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	\$775,767	6	430
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	\$6.8M	7 new agreements (6 in WRE-General and 1 in WREP) ²	967

¹ Total amount obligated for renewals and new FY2022 CSP-Classic contracts.

² WRE = Wetland Reserve Easements and WREP = Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership



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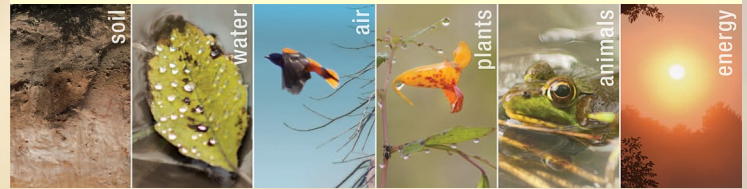
Our Mission

We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Our Vision

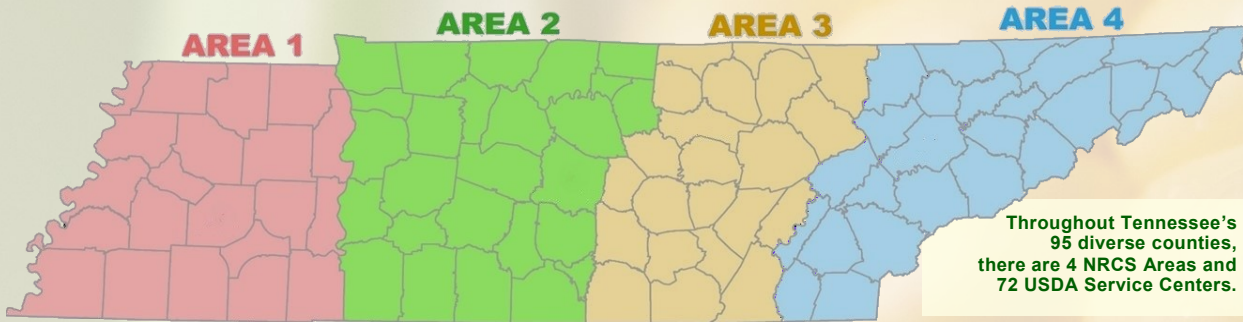
A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

Visit our website at: www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov



Helping People Help the Land

Tennessee State Map (NRCS Area Boundaries)



NRCS — Who We Are...What We Do

Simply put—NRCS in Tennessee helps American farmers make conservation work for them through its science-based conservation planning and implementation. The system of practices we promote helps farmers improve production, reduce input costs, and conserve natural resources for the future. We also provide financial resources to help with the costs involved with getting conservation on the ground and improving soil health, water and air quality, and other natural resource benefits.

As of February 2023, there were **230 NRCS employees** working in Tennessee throughout 72 USDA Service Centers in the state along with four Area Offices and the Nashville State Office. In FY 2022, NRCS partnerships included **14 active contributions, cooperative, and grant agreements totaling \$6.9 million** that supported **76 field positions**.

Our Earth Team Volunteers were also instrumental in helping us put conservation on the ground with volunteers donating hundreds of hours of their time to help Tennessee NRCS in its volunteer efforts and meet its mission of helping people help the land. These dedicated volunteers work with our conservation partners on private lands to improve soil quality, conserve water, improve air quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

NRCS is helping to ensure the health of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of American agriculture. Our **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)** program is the foundation of our financial and technical assistance delivery system. It provides land users with proven conservation technology needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. According to numerous agricultural resources, Tennessee has roughly **26 million acres** of land, of which **89 percent** is privately owned. Furthermore, **11 million acres—or 42 percent—are** farmlands.

Soil



About Our Programs...

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to help install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Water



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns.

Air



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - This program provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. ACEP contains an Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and a Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component.

Plants



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - RCPP is merit-based and targets specific vulnerable areas and is administered through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

Animals



Tennessee Goals FY 2023

Implement 2018 Farm Bill



Increase participation in Local Work Groups and State Technical Committee meetings



Expand conservation tools and support to address the unique needs of urban farmers and communities.

Cultivate a complete and diverse workforce
Maintain the Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee Southeast Leadership Development Program

Expand our conservation partnerships

Promote and elevate climate-smart agriculture and forestry activities across Tennessee

Ensure equity in the delivery and implementation of all NRCS programs and services

Train and mentor NRCS employees and partners

Continue to be visible and tell our story