

NRCS Conservation Programs and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



Overview

The IRA provides USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with \$19.5 billion in additional funds over five years for its existing conservation programs, including the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), and the [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#).

The IRA directs NRCS to use these additional funds specifically for climate change mitigation, activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage, like:

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Reduced-Till and No-Till
- ◆ Nutrient Management
- ◆ Prescribed Grazing
- ◆ Tree/Shrub Establishment
- ◆ Wetland Restoration

Through this funding, NRCS is seeking to both benefit the climate, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and the producer, by improving access to programs and providing financial and technical assistance to improve their farm, ranch, urban operation or forest land.

NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities

For a list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities, eligible for IRA funding in fiscal year 2023, see: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf.

How to Apply

EQIP and CSP

NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but if you're interested in EQIP or CSP, you should apply by your state's ranking dates to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process: nrcs.usda.gov/ranking-dates.

ACEP

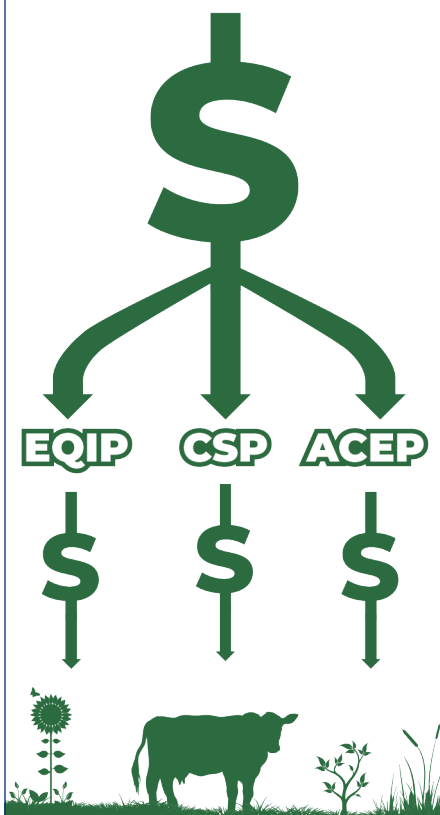
ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) applications for the current IRA funding cycle must be submitted by **March 17, 2023**, for the first funding round.

Improving Access

Every producer has a part to play when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of the size or type of operation. Whether you are a new or an existing NRCS client, we encourage you to apply. We want to make sure you have access to our programs and get all the assistance for which you are eligible.

Contact NRCS at: farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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Climate-smart mitigation activities, e.g.

- Cover Crops
- Reduced-Till and No Till
- Nutrient Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Wetland Restoration

