



United States Department of Agriculture

Alabama NRCS Programs

Jason Gardner

Assistant State Conservationist - Programs





United States Department of Agriculture

RCPP 2023 Announcement

- \$500 Million available for Classic and Alternative Funding Arrangement
- Proposals due August 18th



Overview

Project Detail

Data Download

Active Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects

Expanding Climate-Smart Commodity Markets

1

States & Territories

10

Projects

17

Major Commodities

53

Practices

Click on a state to filter the map or use drop-down menu

(All)

COMMODITY |

Search commodity lists from this filter.

Beef

Berries

Corn

Cotton

Dairy

Forest Products

Forestry

PRACTICE |

Search practice lists from this filter.

311 Alley Cropping

315 Herbaceous Weed Control

327 Conservation Cover

328 Conservation Crop Rotation

329 Residue and Tillage Management - No Till

336 Soil Carbon Amendment

LEAD PARTNER |

Click on Lead Partner to navigate to the project details.

American Forest Foundation

American Sustainable Business Institute Inc.

Archer-daniels-midland Company

Low Carbon Technologies, Llc

Mississippi State University

National Association Of Conservation Districts

Any general questions about Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities should be sent to climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov. Find answers to many frequently asked questions on our [FAQ page](#). For projects specific question, please go to Partner's website.

Data will be updated periodically and was last updated on 7/17/2023.

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities



United States Department of Agriculture

FY2023 Review

Frank Cochran

Resource Conservationist – Programs Staff



United States Department of Agriculture

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Utilize Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry mitigation activities

Subset of 39 conservation practices and associated enhancements

Examples:

Residue and Tillage Management, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Riparian Forest Buffers, Tree/Shrub Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Energy Efficiency



United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)





- Must meet Stewardship Threshold
- 5-year contracts
- \$200,000 max obligation
- Two operation types
 - Agland (crop and pasture)
 - NIPF

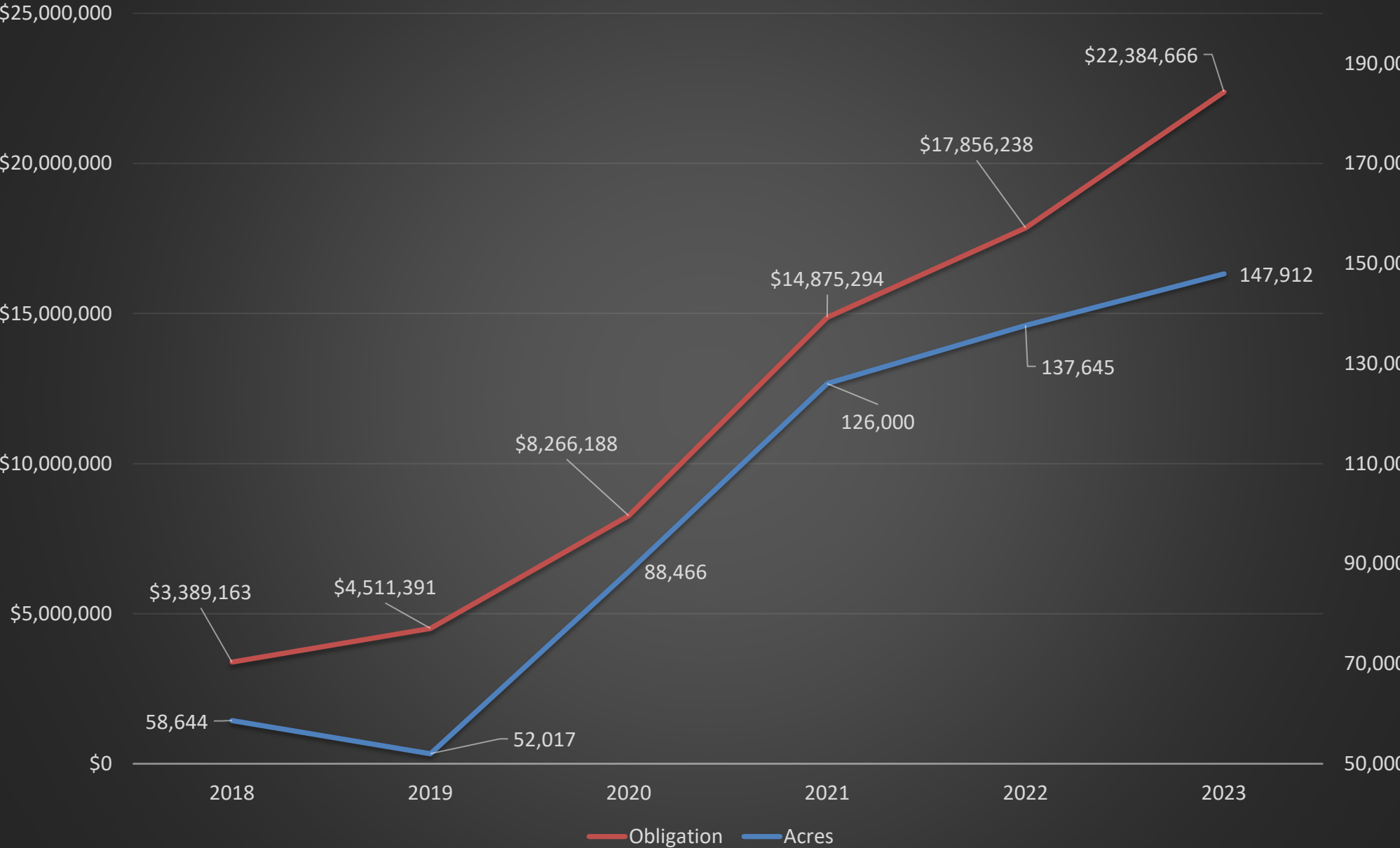




2023 CSP Obligations

	Operation Type	Obligation	Contracts	Acreage	% HU
Renewals	Agland	\$ 1,951,099	22	26,096	30%
	NIPF	\$ 1,548,901	22	5,638	24%
General	Longleaf Pine	\$ 1,870,878	13	18,037	0%
	Organic	\$ 83,295	1	564	0%
	Agland	\$ 3,720,884	34	38,139	8%
	NIPF	\$ 7,811,871	83	31,322	44%
IRA	Agland	\$ 1,238,790	9	6,486	9%
	NIPF	\$ 4,158,948	35	21,630	32%
Totals	Agland	\$ 6,994,068	66	71,285	14%
	NIPF	\$ 15,390,598	153	76,627	33%
	Grand	\$ 22,384,666	219	147,912	27%

CSP Obligation and Treated Acreage Trend (FY2018-2023)





United States Department of Agriculture

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)





United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Bill Funding Mandates:

- **10% Wildlife**
 - Gopher Tortoise, Longleaf Pine, State Designated
 - 25.4% FY2023
- **50% Livestock**
 - Cattle and Poultry
 - 50% FY2023
- **5% Socially Disadvantaged**
 - 23.7% FY2023
- **5% New and Beginning**
 - 23.5% FY2023



Locally Led Conservation:		
	All Counties:	\$7,006,655
State Initiatives:		
	Animal Mortality	\$3,868,000
	Bobwhite Quail (WLFW 2.0)	\$213,000
	Conservation Activities	\$245,000
	High Tunnel	\$640,000
	Historically Underserved (SD & NBF)	\$3,720,000
	Irrigation Efficiency	\$1,085,000
	Well Decommissioning	\$32,000
	Shortleaf Pine	\$212,500
	Soil Quality/Climate Smart	\$760,000
	Strikeforce Grazing	\$1,500,000
	Urban Ag	\$225,000
	US Forestry Endowment	\$200,000
	White Oak	\$160,000
National Initiatives:		
	Longleaf Pine	\$6,000,000
	Organic	\$85,500
	On-Farm Energy	\$1,700,000
	Water Quality	\$591,000
	WLFW Gopher Tortoise	\$3,440,000
Other:		
	IRA	\$3,000,428
Total Obligation:		\$37,167,190

EQIP Obligation and Treated Acreage Trend (FY2016-2023)





United States Department of Agriculture

Common Contracted Practices

FY2023

FY2023 EQIP and CSP Contracted Items -- Sorted by Item (Over 100)

Code	Conservation Activity	Contract Items	Obligation
338	Prescribed Burning	861	\$ 2,374,734
394	Firebreak	752	\$ 1,978,072
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	673	\$ 2,013,979
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	476	\$ 1,406,332
E666	Maintaining and improving forest soil quality	421	\$ 3,837,059
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	420	\$ 4,122,078
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	350	\$ 2,936,569
382	Fence	350	\$ 1,807,833
614	Watering Facility	319	\$ 318,607
516	Livestock Pipeline	292	\$ 803,053
E338	Short-interval burns to promote a healthy herbaceous plant community	271	\$ 2,768,261
666	Forest Stand Improvement	256	\$ 1,447,924
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	252	\$ 1,840,009
E391	Increase riparian forest buffer width for sediment and nutrient reduction	117	\$ 2,922,595
316	Animal Mortality Facility	111	\$ 2,409,608
E612	Planting for high carbon sequestration rate	110	\$ 3,609,786
340	Cover Crop	107	\$ 1,369,040
367	Roofs and Covers	106	\$ 2,111,482



FY2023 EQIP and CSP Contracted Items -- Sorted by Obligation (Over \$1,000,000)

Code	Conservation Activity	Contract Items	Obligation
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	420	\$ 4,122,078
E666	Maintaining and improving forest soil quality	421	\$ 3,837,059
E612	Planting for high carbon sequestration rate	110	\$ 3,609,786
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	350	\$ 2,936,569
E391	Increase riparian forest buffer width for sediment and nutrient reduction	117	\$ 2,922,595
E338	Short-interval burns to promote a healthy herbaceous plant community	271	\$ 2,768,261
316	Animal Mortality Facility	111	\$ 2,409,608
338	Prescribed Burning	861	\$ 2,374,734
672	Energy Efficient Building Envelope	65	\$ 2,339,305
367	Roofs and Covers	106	\$ 2,111,482
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	673	\$ 2,013,979
394	Firebreak	752	\$ 1,978,072
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	252	\$ 1,840,009
382	Fence	350	\$ 1,807,833
E590	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses	86	\$ 1,633,978
666	Forest Stand Improvement	256	\$ 1,447,924
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	476	\$ 1,406,332
340	Cover Crop	107	\$ 1,369,040
325	High Tunnel System	93	\$ 1,185,367
442	Sprinkler System	21	\$ 1,080,870



United States Department of Agriculture

Highlights





United States Department of Agriculture

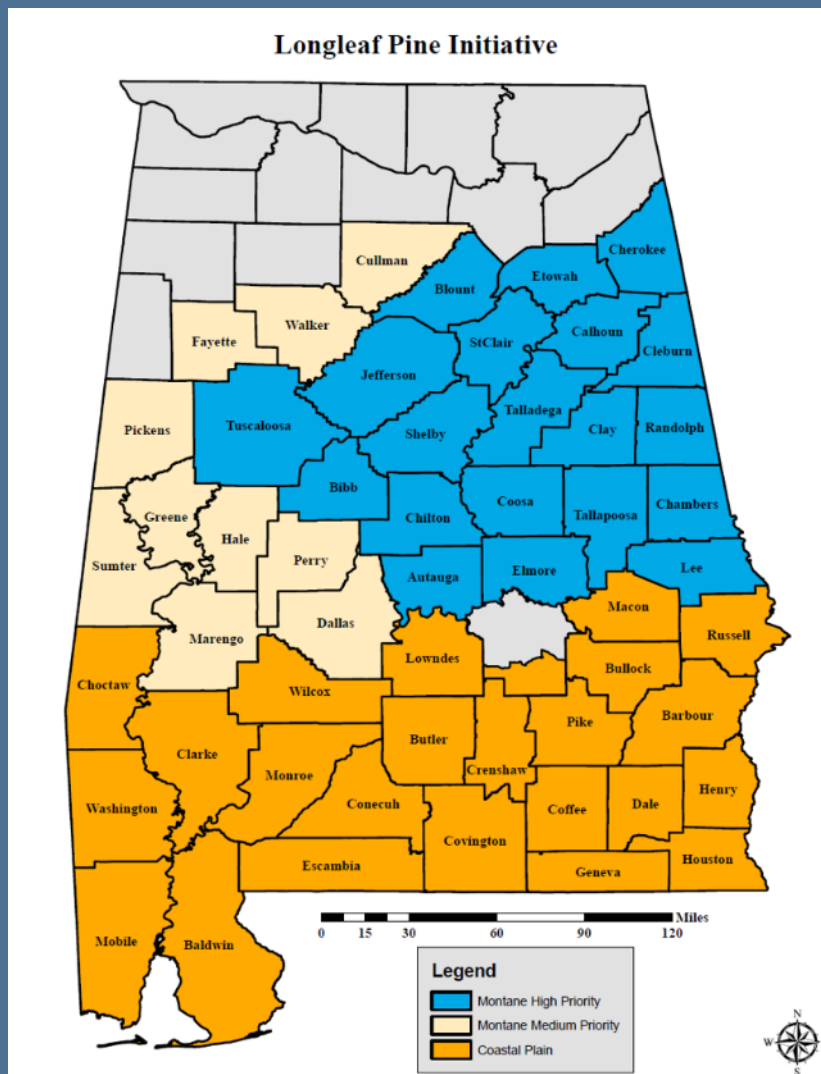
Longleaf Pine Initiative

Establishment and Management of Longleaf Pine

Prescribed Burning and Management of existing stands prioritized.



United States Department of Agriculture



FY2023

207 contracts:

125 Coastal

71 Montane High

11 Montane Medium

36,185 acres impacted



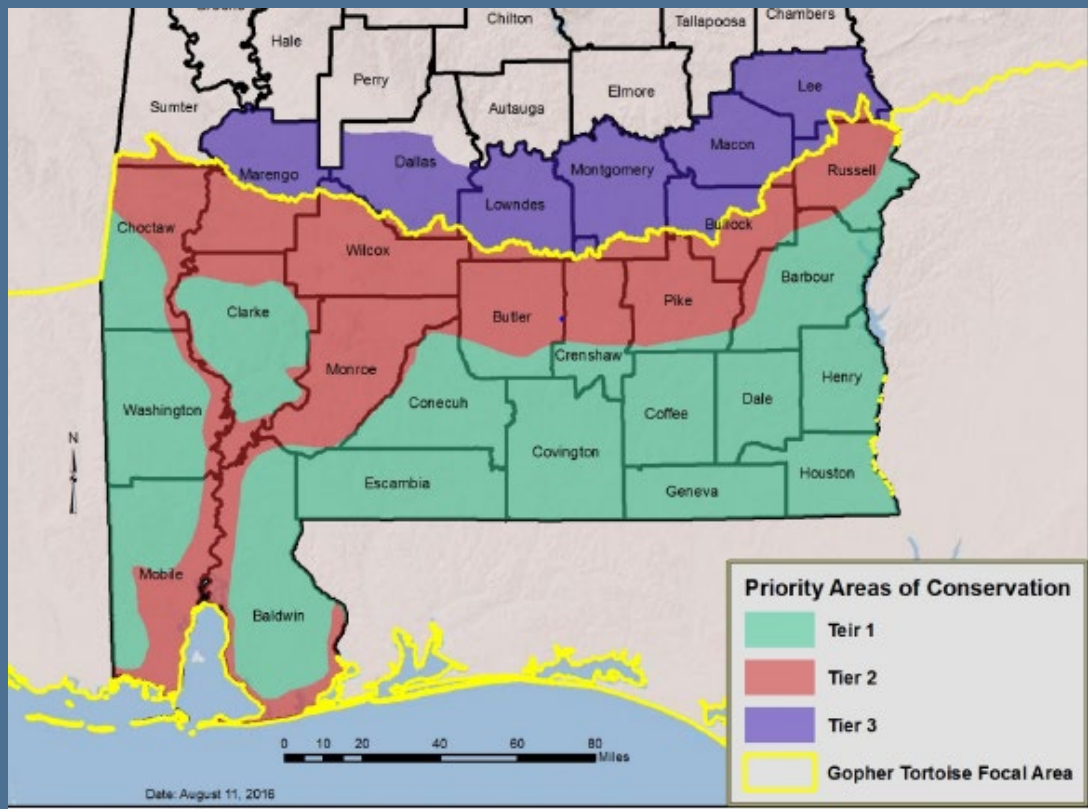
United States Department of Agriculture

WLFW – Gopher Tortoise

Establishment of Low-Density Longleaf stands and
Management of Critical Habitat for Gopher Tortoise



United States Department of Agriculture



FY2023

277 contracts
62,242 acres impacted



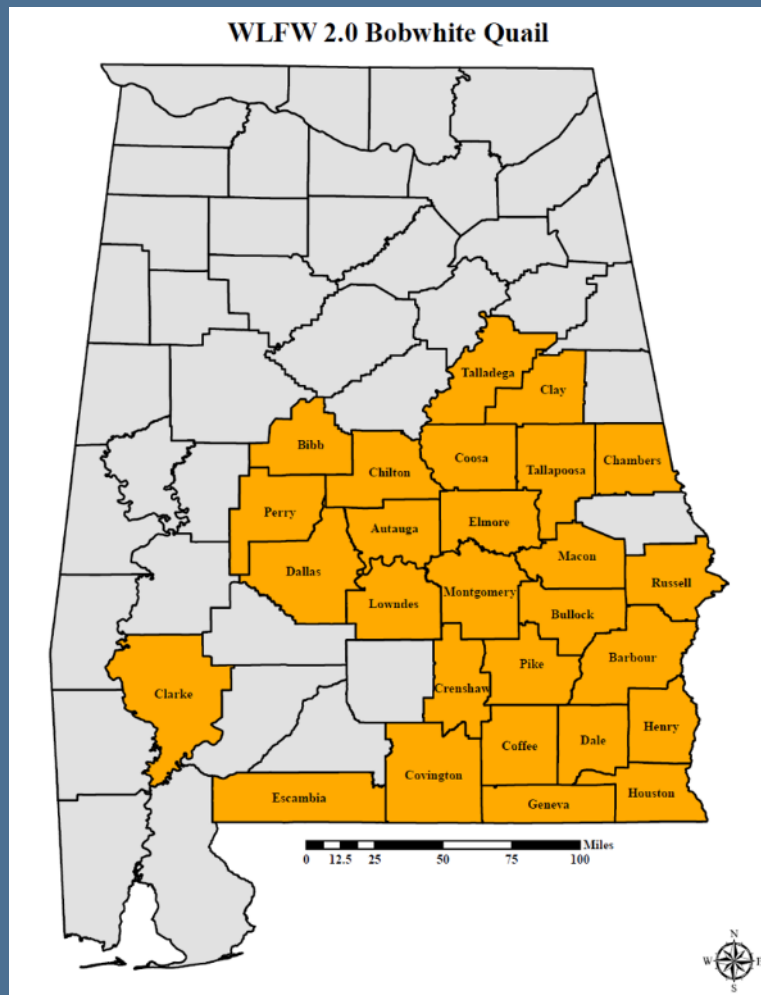
United States Department of Agriculture

WLFW 2.0 – Bobwhite Quail

Forest and Grassland management practices to improve
critical habitat for Bobwhite Quail



United States Department of Agriculture



FY2023

10 contracts
3,664 acres impacted



United States Department of Agriculture

Shortleaf Pine

Establishment and management of Shortleaf Pine





United States Department of Agriculture

Shortleaf Pine Initiative



FY2023

6 contracts
740 acres impacted



United States Department of Agriculture

White Oak

Establishment and management of White Oak



United States Department of Agriculture

White Oak



FY2023

6 contracts
669 acres impacted



United States Department of Agriculture

Livestock Mortality

89 Total Contracts:

13 Thermal Dehydrators

15 Stand-alone Bin Composters

16 Rotary Drum Composters

31 Incinerators

14 Additional contracts that included a Dry-stack



United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Planning Activities

50 Total Contracts:

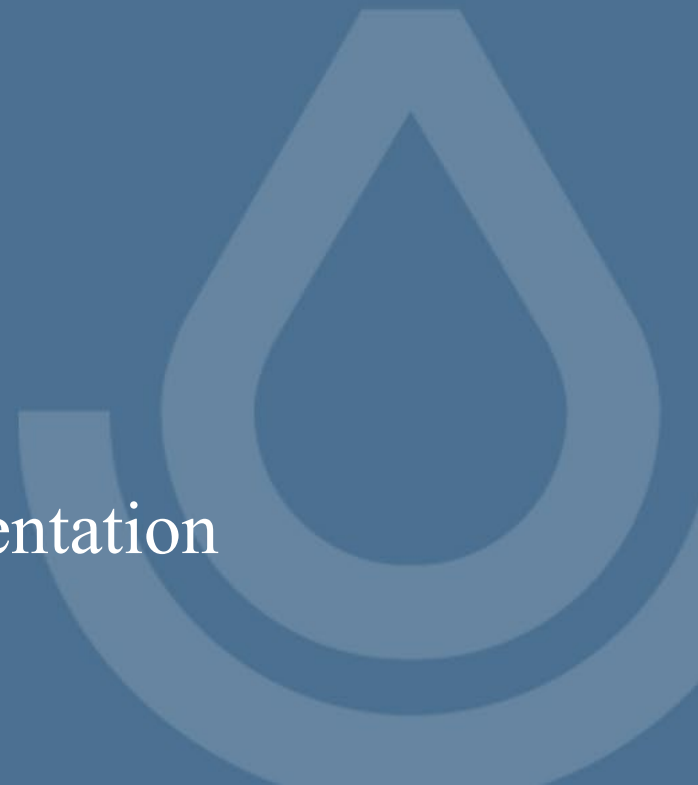
3 Organic Transition Plans

13 Energy Audits

14 Forest Management Plans

19 CNMPs

1 Nutrient Management Design/Implementation





United States Department of Agriculture

Irrigation Efficiency

16 Total Contracts:

Includes three variable-rate pivots and soil moisture sensors

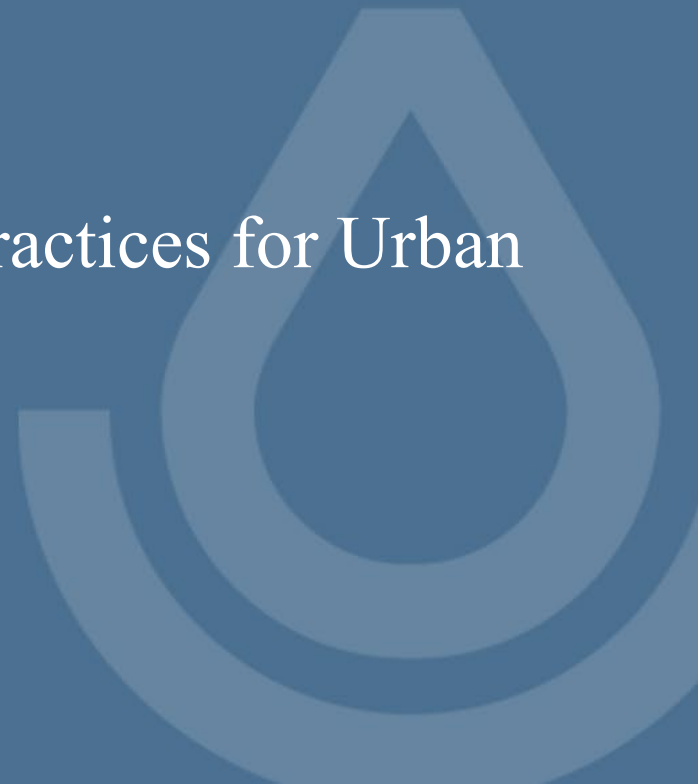
5 producers elected to include Irrigation Water Management, to further increase efficiency



United States Department of Agriculture

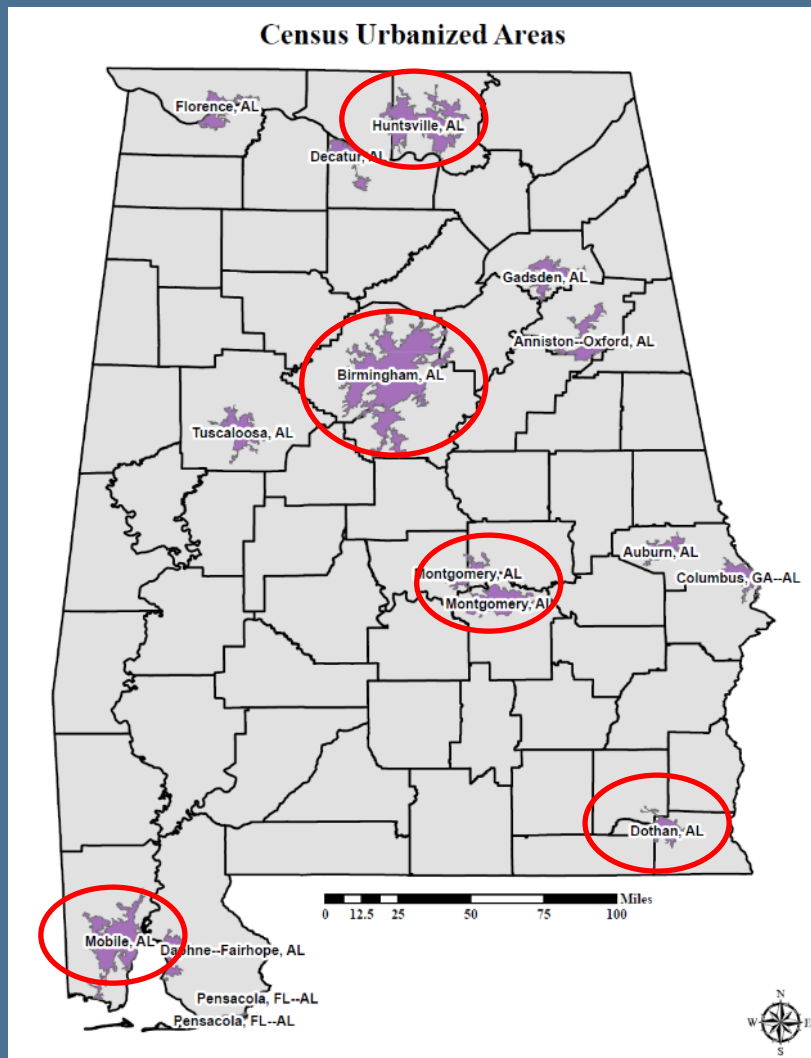
Urban Ag Initiative

High Tunnel Systems and associated practices for Urban
Farms





United States Department of Agriculture



FY2023

19 contracts
17.9 acres impacted

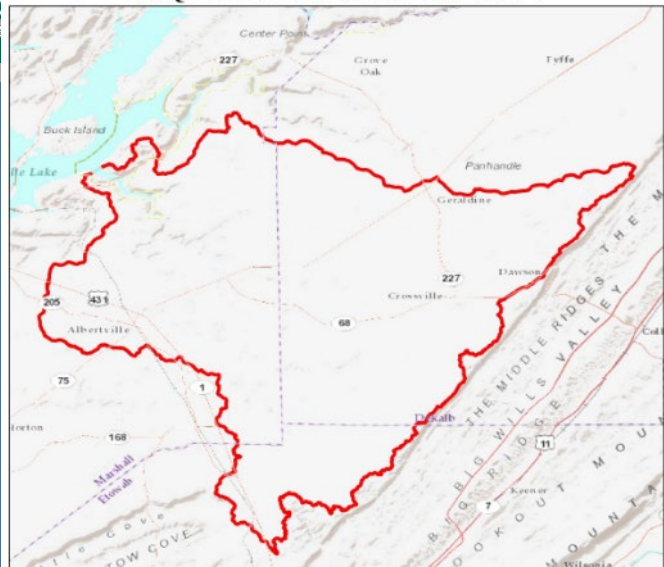


United States Department of Agriculture

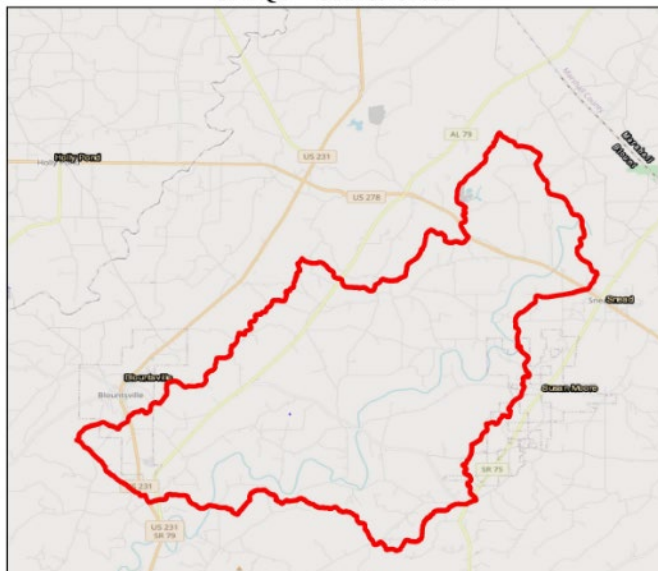
National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

Practices improving both Water Quantity and Quality

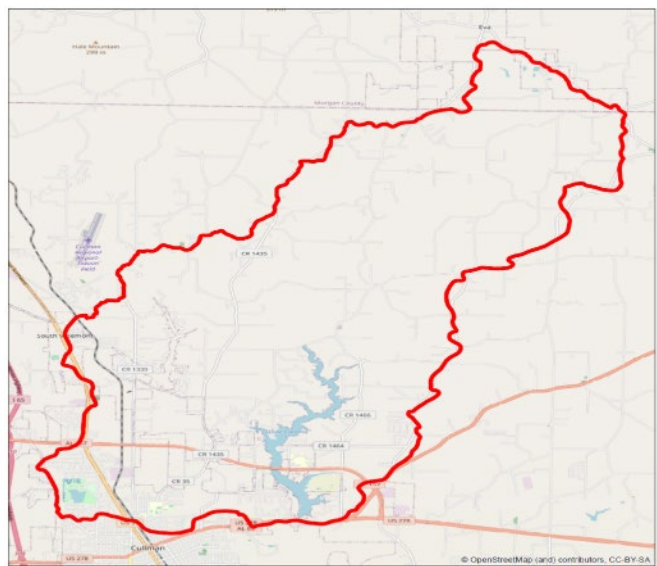
NWQI -- Guntersville Lake - Short Creek



NWQI -- Graves Creek



NWQI -- Eightmile Creek



NWQI -- Pisgah Wellhead Protection Area



FY2023

15 contracts
648 acres impacted



United States Department of Agriculture

Joint Chiefs

Cogongrass control and native species establishment



United States Department of Agriculture



Cogongrass Control Project Area

FY2023

Final Year

14 contracts
676 acres impacted

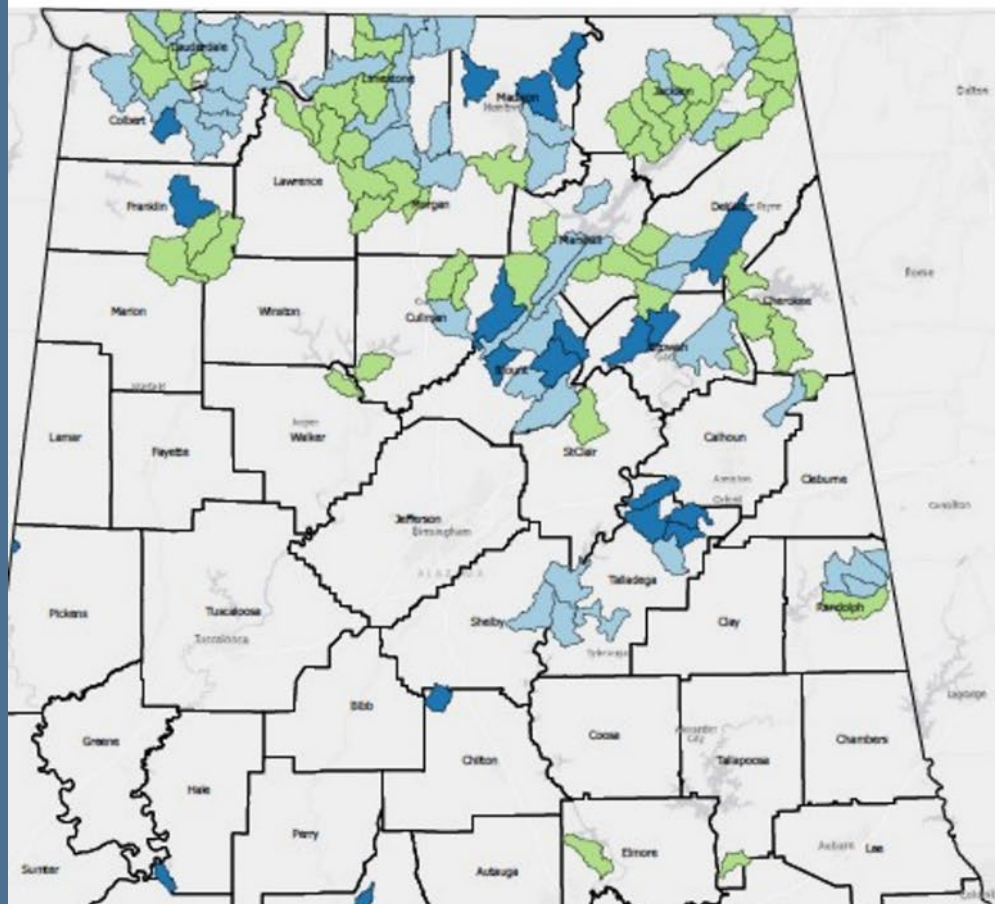


United States Department of Agriculture

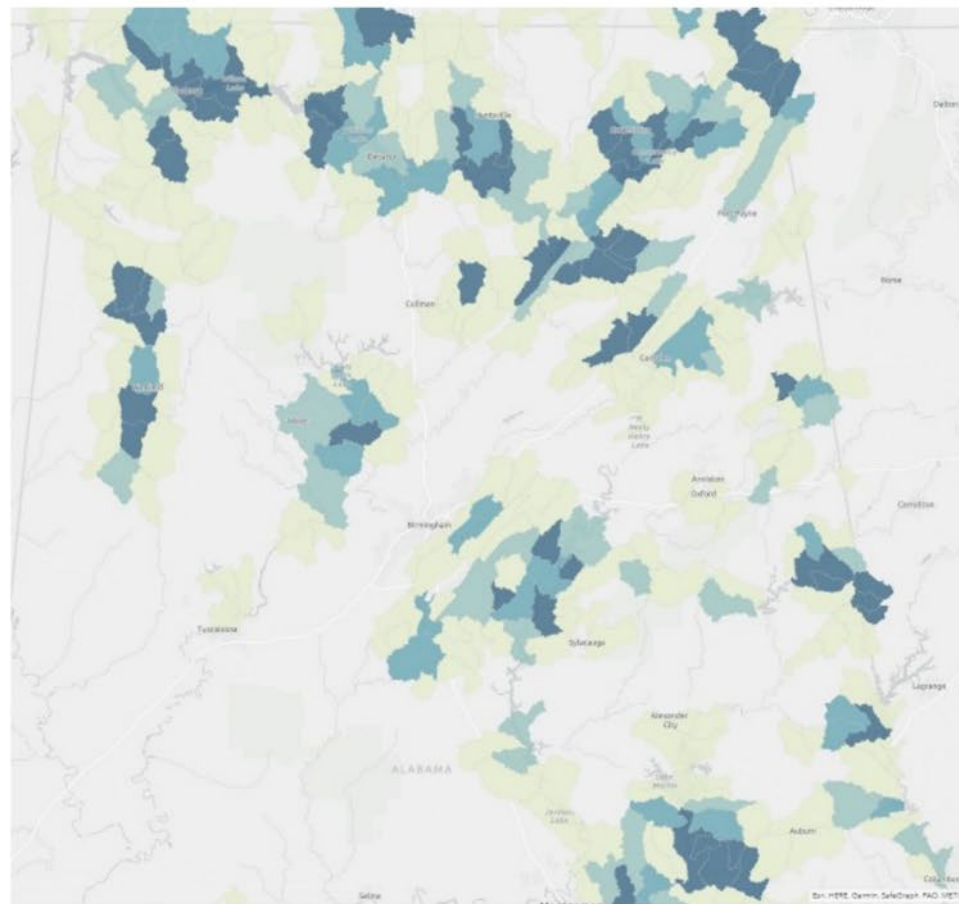
Source Water Protection

Higher payment rate on selected practices to incentivize adoption to address water quality and quantity of Alabama water sources.

NRCS source water priority areas



EPA Heat map: % of 12-digit HUC in source water protection area





Eligible SWP Practices at 90% rate for GROUND WATER watersheds

309	Agrichemical Handling Facility	449	Irrigation Water Management ⁽³⁾
313	Waste Storage Facility ⁽¹⁾	484	Mulching ⁽⁴⁾
317	Composting Facility	528	Prescribed Grazing
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	558	Roof Runoff Structure
342	Critical Area Planting	587	Structure for Water Control
351	Water Well Decommissioning	590	Nutrient Management ⁽⁵⁾
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	595	Pest Management System
360	Waste Facility Closure	629	Waste Treatment
381	Silvopasture Establishment	632	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	634	Waste Transfer
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler ⁽²⁾	657	Wetland Restoration
443	Irrigation System, Subsurface ⁽²⁾		

(1) Wet waste only, (2) Variable Rate only, (3) Soil Moisture Sensors/Variable Rate only, (4) No Plastic, (5) Precision Application only

Eligible SWP Practices at 90% rate for SURFACE WATER watersheds

309	Agrichemical Handling Facility	443	Irrigation System, Subsurface ⁽²⁾
313	Waste Storage Facility ⁽¹⁾	449	Irrigation Water Management ⁽³⁾
317	Composting Facility	484	Mulching ⁽⁴⁾
318	Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and Byproducts	528	Prescribed Grazing
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	558	Roof Runoff Structure
332	Contour Buffer Strips	578	Stream Crossing
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
342	Critical Area Planting	587	Structure for Water Control
351	Water Well Decommissioning	590	Nutrient Management ⁽⁵⁾
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	595	Pest Management System
360	Waste Facility Closure	600	Terrace
381	Silvopasture Establishment	620	Underground Outlet
386	Field Border	629	Waste Treatment
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	632	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility
393	Filter Strip	634	Waste Transfer
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
412	Grassed Waterway	657	Wetland Restoration

(1) Wet waste only, (2) Variable Rate only, (3) Soil Moisture Sensors/Variable Rate only, (4) No Plastic, (5) Precision Application only



United States Department of Agriculture

High Priority Practices

Higher payment rate for 10 practices that are not readily adopted within the state and address water quality and quantity.

FY2023 – 20,641 acres w/ \$4,122,465
4-fold increase from FY2021



The 2018 Farm Bill and EQIP rule authorize increased payments for up to 10 high priority practices to address priority resource concerns, mainly Water Quality and Quantity. The higher payment should incentivize conservation practices that have high potential for conservation benefit but are often underutilized and historic adoption may be low.

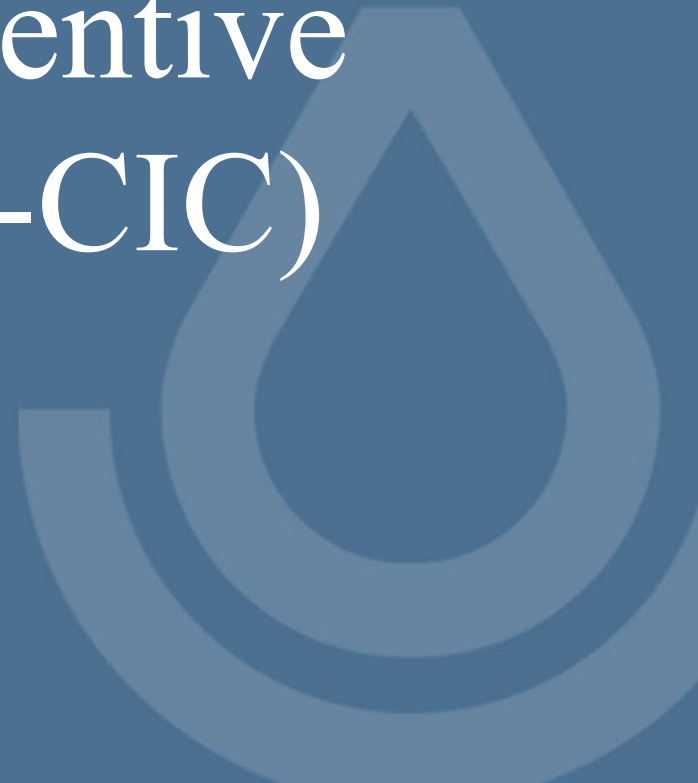
Eligible High Priority (Pr) Scenarios for 90% rate

309	Agrichemical Handling Facility	All Scenarios
316	Animal Mortality Facility	All Scenarios
351	Well Decommissioning	All Scenarios
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	All Scenarios
442	Sprinkler System	1) Variable Rate System- convert from traveler to a VRI center pivot (Low Pressure). 2) Variable Rate System Retrofit 3) Variable Rate System Renovation
449	Irrigation Water Management	1) Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder 2) Variable Rate IWM
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	Planting of Native Warm Season Grass
590	Nutrient Management	All Scenarios
620	Underground Outlet	All Scenarios
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	All Scenarios



United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)



- Intended to be a bridge between Classic EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Separate payment limits
- 5-year contracts
- Contain Annual Payments
- Set up Priority Areas
 - Must cover the entire state
- Designate up to 3 Resource Concerns per Area/Land Use
- Use minimum of 5% general EQIP allocation (up to 20)
- Use designated 'Climate Smart' management practices

- FY2023:
 - High Priority Area was the State Boundary
 - Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop and Pasture
 - Resource Concern Categories:
 - Crop:
 - Soil Quality Limitations
 - Concentrated Erosion
 - Field, Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
 - Pasture:
 - Degraded Plant Condition
 - Livestock Production Limitation
 - Field, Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
 - Practices:
 - Crop: 328, 329, 340, 590, 595
 - Pasture: 528 (included supporting practices for infrastructure)

- FY2023:
 - 22 applications
 - 13 Pasture
 - 9 cropland
 - 9 contracts
 - 8 pasture (6,373 acres)
 - 1 cropland (1,378 acres)
 - 6,373 acres prescribed grazing
 - 289 acres cover crop
 - 1,378 acres nutrient and pest management



United States Department of Agriculture

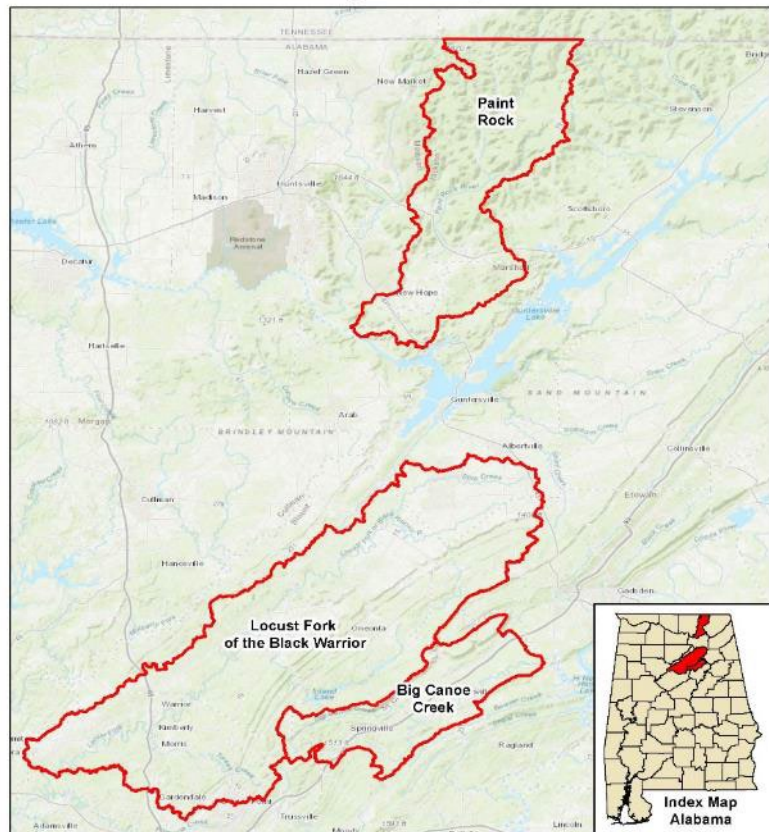
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Streambank Restoration Initiative – TNC



United States Department of Agriculture

Attachment A
RCPP Streambank Restoration Initiative
Project Area Map



Legend
Priority Watersheds



The Nature Conservancy

0 5 10 20 30
Miles



FY2023

2 applications approved

Design work has been
completed

465 feet on Paint Rock
170 feet on Calvert Prong



United States Department of Agriculture

Alabama EQIP FY2024 and forward

- Maintain emphasis on Locally Led Process
- Bolster partnerships that foster HU participation
- Increase Urban Agriculture work
- Increase adoption of Source Water Protection and High Priority Practices
- Expand Conservation Incentive Contracts
- Maintain Soil Health and Irrigation Efficiency momentum
- Please provide feedback to Jason Gardner and Frank Cochran



United States Department of Agriculture

FY 2024 Program sign-up deadline:

Tentatively November 3rd, 2023

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

2023

Lake Hadassah
Relax and Enjoy
Private Property





Mark Dewey Howell


AL ACEP Coordinator (January 2023)

- ▶ 1997 B.Sci. Auburn University Wildlife Science
- ▶ 2002 M.Sci Auburn University
 - ▶ USGS Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit
 - ▶ Molt Dynamics of Long-tailed Ducks off the North Slope of Alaska
- ▶ 19 years with professional experience working for BLM, NRCS and USFWS (AZ, MO, OR, ID, NV)

Contact: (334)887-4564 OR mark.howell@usda.gov



ACEP

- Sign-up batching determined per Farm Bill Announcement
 - Date for 2024 TBD
- 

Agricultural Land Easements - ALE

- ▶ 2018 Farm-bill Program: need cooperating sponsoring entity to proceed with program





Wetland Reserve Easements WRE



■ Funds in 2023 \$1,457,073

- Acquisition = \$1,194,109
- Restoration = \$262,964
- Total Acres = 439 acres

- Enrolling 3 easements, converting 30-year easement to permanent, and repairing multiple existing easements



Wetland Reserve Easements WRE

Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) FY 2024 in process

-Planning to request extension of FY2023 rates

**WETLAND RESTORATION CRITERIA AND GUIDELINE (WRCG)
2024**

Available for review by request





RCPP HFRP

- ▀ Healthy Forest Reserve Easements
 - ▀ Working through process to enroll 2 HFRP to convert loblolly forest to longleaf in Baldwin County
 - ▀ \$11,890,000 10,322 acres

Questions

