



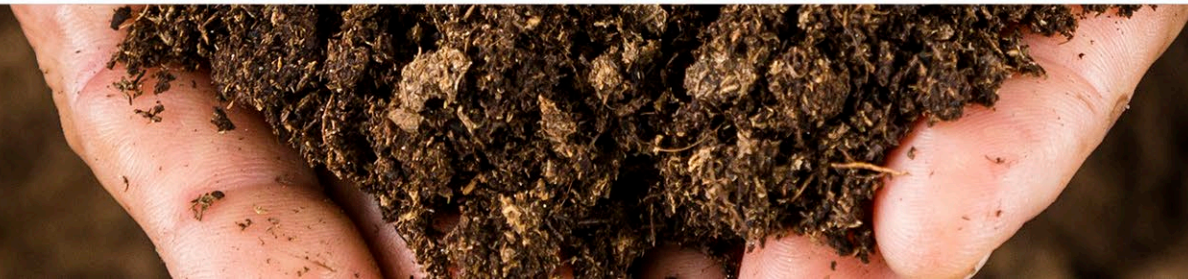


United States Department of Agriculture

James Curtis, State Soil Scientist

Soils Tools and Technology

REMOTE SENSING UPDATE



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Web Soil Survey (WSS) - Annual Refresh

The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey (WSS) website interface. At the top, there are two browser tabs: "Web Soil Survey - Home" and "Web Soil Survey". The address bar shows the URL: `websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx`. Below the address bar is a navigation bar with links: "Contact Us", "Subscribe", "Archived Soil Surveys", "Soil Survey Status", "Glossary", and "Preference". Below this is a row of buttons: "Area of Interest (AOI)", "Soil Map", "Soil Data Explorer", "Download Soils Data", and "Shopping Cart (Free)". A blue "Information" dialog box is overlaid on the page, containing the following text:

Information

Web Soil Survey Status Update
Saturday, September 30, 2023 8:59 PM CDT

The Annual Soil Refresh is completed. New and updated soil data is now available.

Close

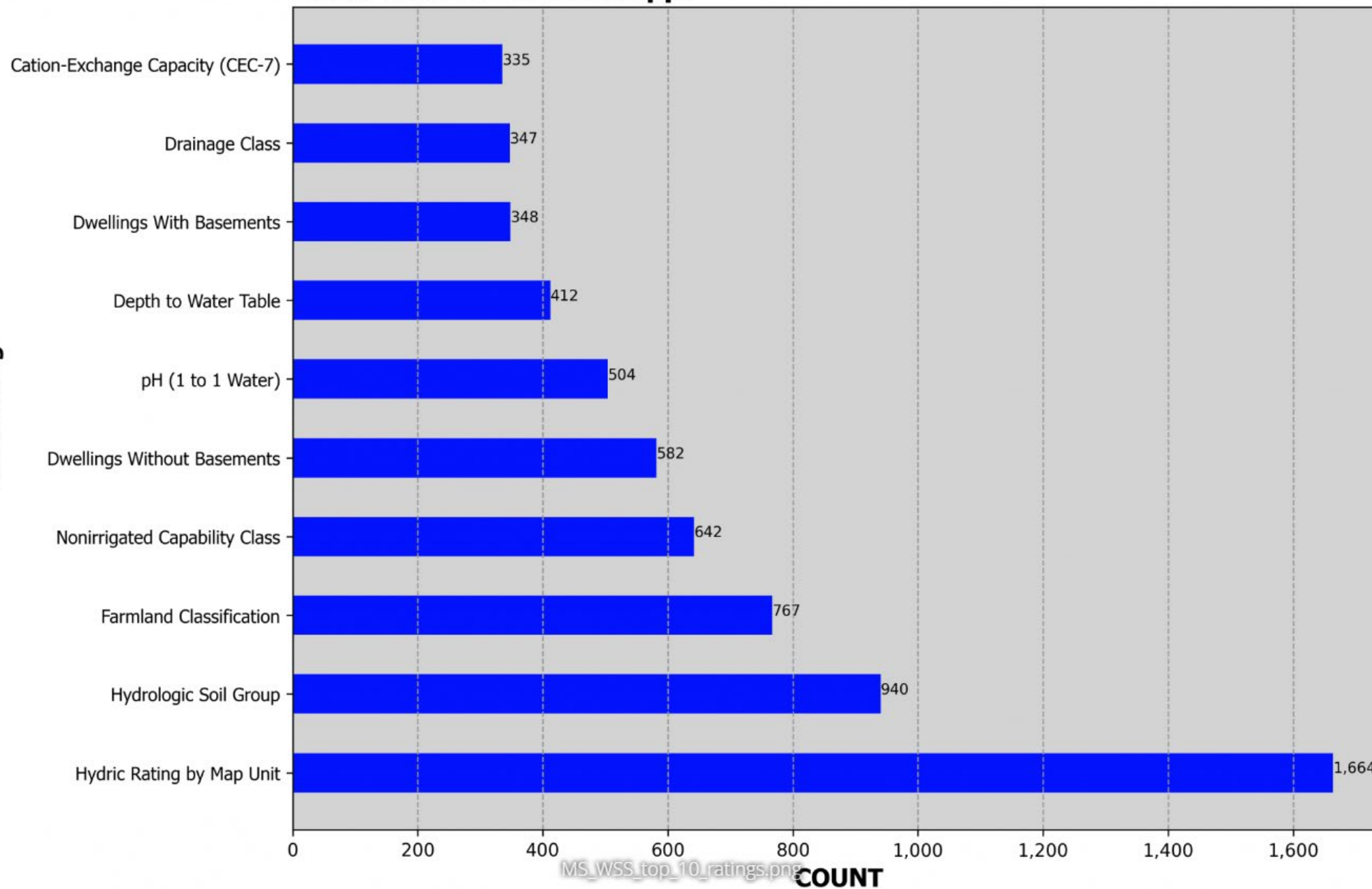
Below the dialog box, there is a "Quick Navigation" section with a search bar labeled "Address" and a "State and County" dropdown menu.



Top 10 Web Soil Survey Ratings

Fiscal Year 2023 Mississippi

WSS Rating



MS_WSS_top_10_ratings.png

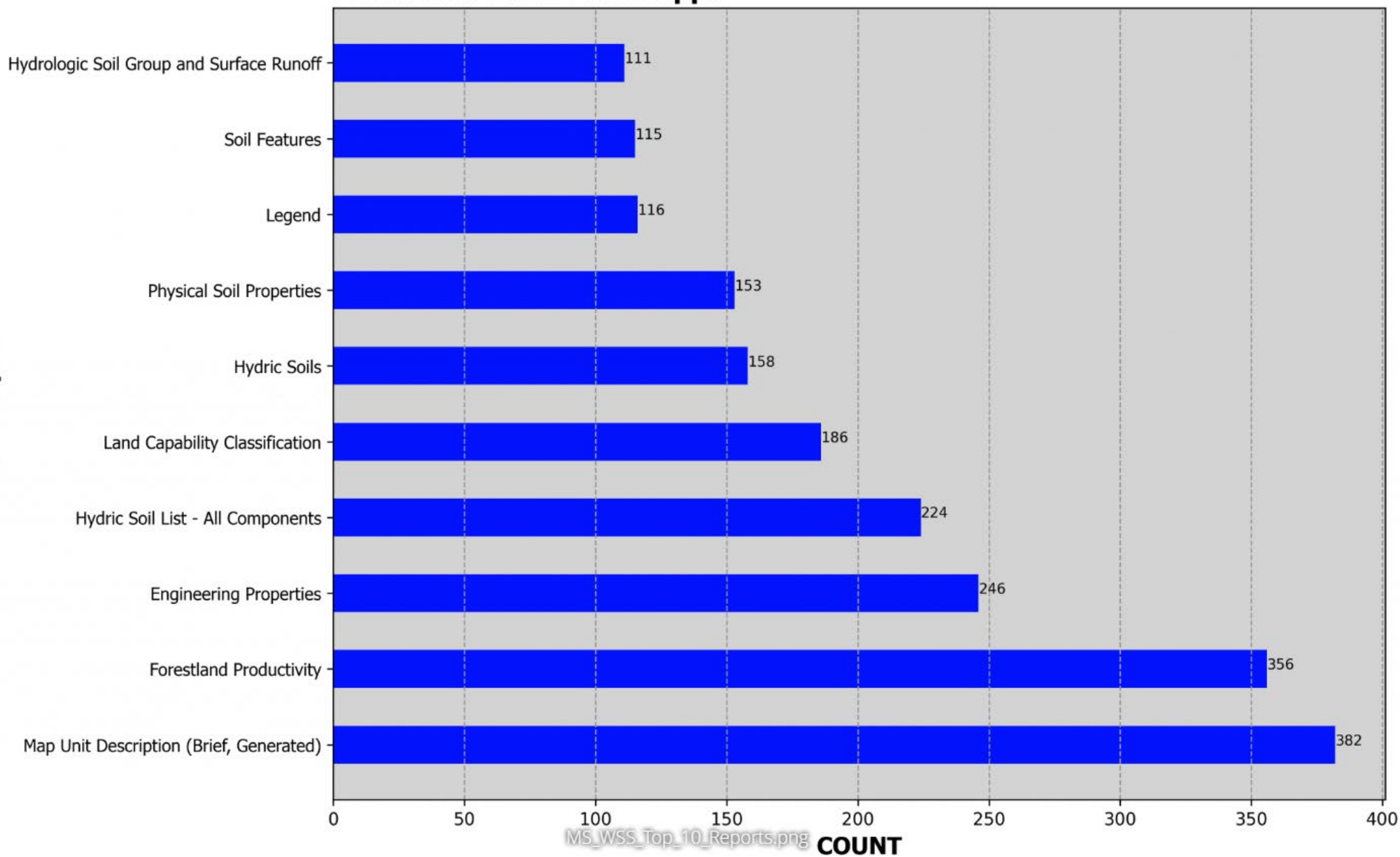
COUNT



Top 10 Web Soil Survey Reports

Fiscal Year 2023 Mississippi

WSS Report



MS_WSS_Top_10_Reports.png

COUNT

4-Band High-Res (Leaf-Off) Imagery

- Contracted by MDEQ
- 2022-2023 Central Mississippi Digital 6 Inch Orthophotography Project
- Final delivery prior to December 31, 2023
- Available on MARIS website (early CY2024)
(Mississippi Automated Resource Information System)

Natural Color

| Channel | Band |
|---|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red | Band_1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green | Band_2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue | Band_3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpha | Band_1 |

Color Infrared

| Channel | Band |
|---|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red | Band_4 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green | Band_1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue | Band_2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpha | Band_3 |



Flown Leaf-Off
2022-2023



High-Resolution versus 1M--NAIP



New Elevation Data

Table 1 Quality level (QL) specifications

| Elevation ^{1/} quality level (QL) | Horizontal resolution terms | | Vertical accuracy terms | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | Point density, points/m ² | Nominal pulse spacing, m | RMSEz ^{2/} in open terrain, cm | Equivalent contour ac- curacy, ft |
| QL 1 | 8 | 0.35 | 9.25 | 1 ^{3/} |
| QL 2 | 2 | 0.7 | 9.25 | 1 |
| QL 3 | 1-0.25 | 1-2 | <18.5 | 2 |
| QL 4 | 0.04 | 5 | 46.3-139 | 5-15 |
| QL 5 | 0.04 | 5 | 92.7-185 | 10-20 |

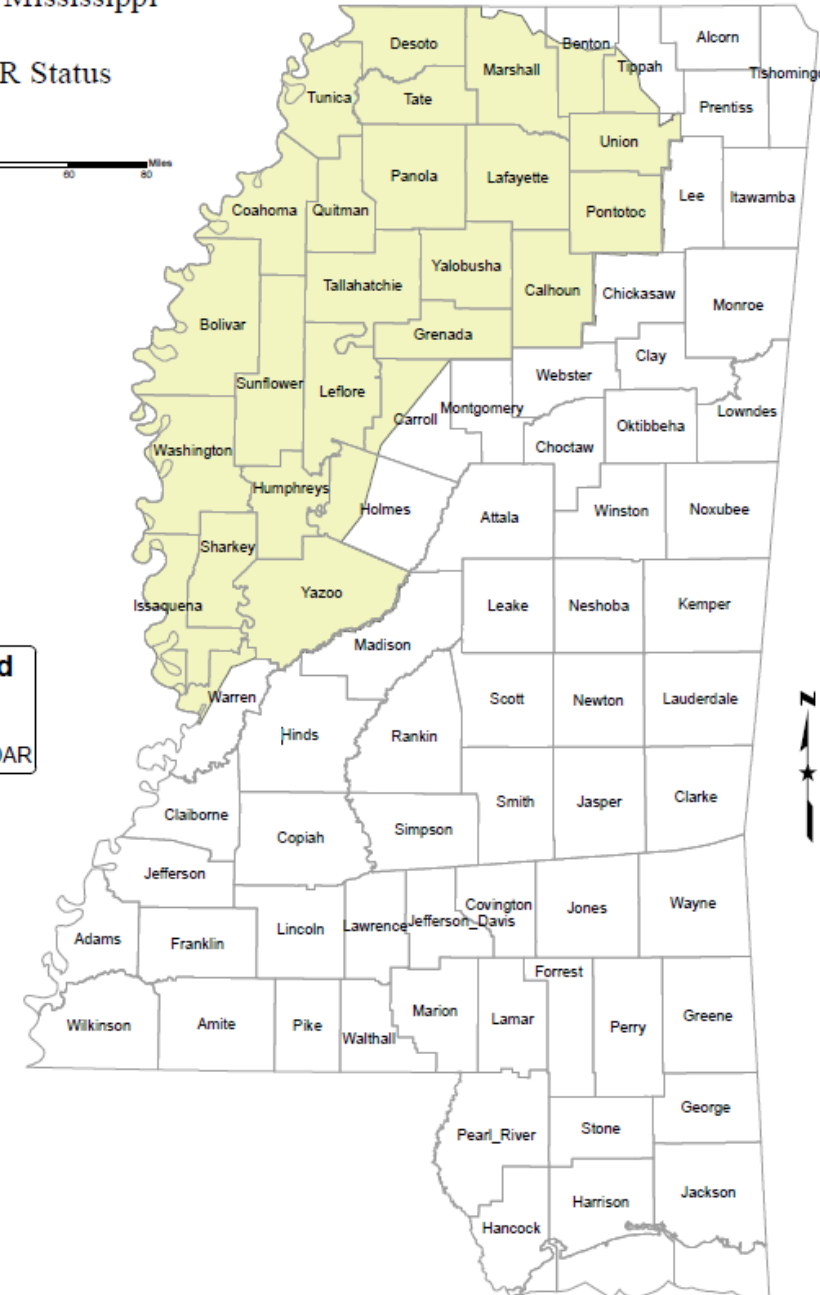
NRCS in Mississippi

LIDAR Status



LIDAR Legend

- County
- New QL2 LIDAR





THANK YOU

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Ecological Science

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- **Extend growing season**
- **Reduce number of hay bales needed.**
- **Follow soil test recommendations.**
- **Exclude livestock until minimum grazing heights are achieved.**



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810 - Annual Forages For Grazing System

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Land Eligibility

- Grazing land only
- Fields in a warm/cool season perineal sod.



United States Department of Agriculture

810-CPS-1

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ANNUAL FORAGES FOR GRAZING SYSTEMS

CODE 810

(ac)

DEFINITION

Establish adapted and compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of annual forage species suitable for pasture or fodder.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production or to extend the grazing season
- Provide temporary cover to reduce wind and water erosion and forage for sites where perennial forages will be reestablished
- Reduce excess nutrients from the soil
- Improve soil microbial life and soil aggregate stability

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to pasture and cropland where annual forages are planted as part of the grazing system forage budget. This practice does not apply to the establishment of annually planted and harvested grain, fiber, vegetable, or oilseed crops. This practice does not apply to forestland or grazed forestland.

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CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Use of this standard will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

All purposes (grazing/harvest/termination) will comply with other USDA policies where applicable, e.g., Risk Management Agency crop insurance requirements and/or any other interested parties.

Ensure that plants are not listed as noxious weeds or invasive species lists for the state.

All seed and planting materials shall be labeled and meet state seed quality law standards.

Plant species and their cultivars will be selected based upon:

- Site, weather, and soil conditions present at establishment.
- Animal nutritional requirements with no or limited anti-quality issues.
- Intended use, level of management, realistic yield estimates, maturity stage, season of use, and compatibility with other species.
- Resistance to herbicide carryover and disease/insects common to the site or location.

When planting legumes, use pre-inoculated seed, inoculum coated seed, or inoculate with the proper viable strain of rhizobia immediately before planting.

Apply all plant nutrients and, or soil amendments based on recommendations from a current soil test and as recommended by NRCS state guidance, land grant university and research institutes, extension agencies, or agency field trials.

When herbicides are used, follow all label requirements for use on forages and observe restrictions for livestock use whether grazed or harvested.

Exclude livestock until the plants are ready to be grazed.



Lemus, Rocky

- GA Andrews, Gordon - FPAC-NRCS, ...
- DC Clanton, Daniel - FPAC-NRCS, MS
- Clark, Lee - FPAC-NRCS, MS
- DJ Jones, Dennis - FPAC-NRCS, MS
- RL Lemus, Rocky
External
- Murray, Christopher - FPAC-NRC...
- MR Richard, Michael - FPAC-NRCS, ...
- GS Swain, Gregory - FPAC-NRCS, MS
- Vollmer, Jonathan - FPAC-NRCS, ...

Others invited (2)

MSU Extension & NRCS Agronomist

- Drill/overseeding methods only.
- Minimum seeding rates will be required.
- **Lime at 100% relative neutralizing value.**
- N-P-K applied per soil test
- **Forages will be applied the following season when soil test results recommend greater than 1 ton of lime or when the soil pH is less than 5.8.**
- **Lime recommendation greater than 2 tons of lime must be spread in split applications.**
- Have more than one grazing cell or pasture to facilitate rotational grazing.



Subpart 3-Bureau of Plant Industry
Chapter 04- Agricultural Liming Materials

Neutralizing and Screening Standards For Agricultural Liming Materials.

100.01 All agricultural liming materials, except marl, offered for sale, sold, or distributed in this state shall have clearly stated in the guarantee, the actual Relative Neutralizing Value (RNV). RNV is an expression of aglime effectiveness based on the combined effect of Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) and fineness of grind. The RNV is determined by multiplying CCE by a set of factors based on the particle size of the agricultural liming material. The minimum RNV allowed for sale in Mississippi shall be 63%.

Ineligible land uses

- Forest land
- Cropland
- Land not in a perennial cover.
- **Land in trees after 1990 not established to a warm/cool season perennial.**
- **Land cleared after 1990 and established to a perennial cover where there are signs of erosion.**



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Certification/Payment Requirements

- Lime tickets at the 100% RNV
- Fertilizer tickets per soil test recommendation.
- Seed tickets
- Installation of 382 prior to payment.



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United States Department of Agriculture

805-CPS-1

Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
AMENDING SOIL PROPERTIES WITH LIME

CODE 805

(ac)

DEFINITION

Adjust the soil pH with lime to change physical and chemical properties of the soil to achieve a conservation objective.

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Land uses

Cropland

Pasture land

Parings

- 590 – Nutrient Management
- 810 – Annual Forage Mix ONLY

Requirements

- Soil test per each planned land unit.
 - Lime tickets
- Lime relative neutralizing value certification @ 100%.



Lime application rates must be based soil test analysis for the planned cropping/tillage system and follow local Land Grant University (LGU) recommendations. Use soil tests no older than 3 years. Collect, prepare, store, and ship all soil samples following LGU guidance.

Soil test results must provide a recommendation for how much lime in CCE material is needed/ac to adjust the soil pH to the optimum range for the planned cropping system.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

CODE 666

(ac)

DEFINITION

The manipulation of tree species composition, stand structure, or density to achieve desired forest conditions.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes—

- Maintain or improve forest carbon stocks
- Maintain or improve forest health and productivity
- Maintain or improve forest structure and composition
- Maintain or improve wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Reduce forest pest pressure
- Reduce forest wildfire hazard

Criteria

- Silvicultural techniques
- Desired future conditions
- Regional guidelines or site-specific prescriptions
- Basal area
- Follow best management practices...

Program Eligibility

- Pre-commercial thinning
- Stands without a first thinning
- Thinned to 70-80 basal area per acre
- Current management plan where the thinning methods are identified.
 - Forest management plan – CPA 106
 - Forest stewardship plan - MFC



State Technical Committee Annual Meeting November 8, 2023

Natalie Segrest
Chief, Basin Management and NPS Branch
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality







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Agriculture



Engineering & Watershed
Olguy Louis, SCE

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Engineering

- **Completed 90 field surveys for gathering field data to be used in EQIP designs.**
- **Completed 76 EQIP designs**
- **Completed 125 CTA field visits**
- **Completed 38 CTA designs**

Watershed

- **\$461,605.61 for 9 projects (Prequalification)**
- **\$135 million dollars from the bipartisan infrastructure bill towards our watershed operations.**
- **\$8 million dollars specifically for the rehabilitation of our Watershed dam.**
- **\$210 million dollars for non-bipartisan infrastructure bill watershed operations**
 - Rocky Carter
 - Long Beach
 - South Delta Watershed
 - Others (CDS)

Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)



Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Minor revisions were made for clarity and readability purposes and to update citations for existing references. Major changes were made to the Plans and Specifications to identify needed information and to remove requirements of supplying supporting documentation with plans and specifications.

Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation (371)

The name has been changed from “Farmstead Energy Improvement”.

The standard has been rewritten to focus on the energy efficiency criteria, fire and electrical safety, flexibility, and manufacturer’s requirements.

The requirement for an ASABE S612 Type 2 energy audit has been revised to allow other assessment methods.

Criteria was added to support Prescriptive Upgrades to simplify and streamline implementation of some instances of the practice. Criteria was added for heat and air transfer systems and equipment.



Well Decommissioning (351)

This standard has undergone minimal changes. Changes to the Criteria section include adding “Laws and Regulation,” “Roles and Responsibilities,” “Disinfection,” and “Sealing and Collapsible Formation.” Deleted “Casing Grouted in Place” criterion



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Roof Runoff Structure (558)

One purpose was rewritten to remove references to foundation protection since that is not an established resource concern and now just addresses soil erosion. Minor wording changes were made to the Criteria section for clarity and specificity. Changes were made to the Additional Criteria section to Capture Water for Other Uses to address water quality for reuse of captured water and criteria modified for storage of the captured water.

Waste Transfer (634)

Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Minor revisions were made for clarity and readability purposes. The structural design requirements were updated to align with changes made to the National Engineering Manual. The criteria for reception pit size, pipe clean-outs and pipeline velocity were revised.

Sprinkler System (442)

**Updated Tables to meet current industry standards.
Modified the Land Slope section to allow for pivot systems that may not meet the slope requirement but meet the run-off and application rate requirements. Added a section for Mobile Drip Irrigation (MDI). MDI is a type of irrigation that is partially sprinkler and partially drip type irrigation and it was decided that MDI criteria is more applicable to the standard.**



Questions?

Olguy Louis
State Conservation Engineer

Suite 1321, McCoy Federal Building
100 W. Capitol St Jackson, MS 39269
Phone: 601-863-3932





MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission





**Guiding, promoting, and demonstrating conservation,
development, protection and proper utilization of the
soil, water and related resources of the state of
Mississippi.**



- ✓ **District Assistance**
- ✓ **Water Quality**
- ✓ **Surface Mines**

District Assistance



Natural Resource Education

District Assistance



Assisting the 82 Soil & Water
Conservation Districts throughout
the state of MS

- Elections and Appointments of Commissioners
- Financial Reporting
- Local projects
- 319 NPS project administration

District Programs

| Program | Beginning Balance | Funds Remaining | End Date |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| CTA | \$ 1,150,000.00 | \$ 672,470.03 | 9/30/2024 |
| District Technician | \$ 1,000,000.00 | \$ 446,624.57 | 9/30/2024 |
| CRP | \$ 3,250,000.00 | \$ 2,280,648.34 | 2/28/2025 |



✓ **Water Quality**

Non-Point Source Pollution Programs

Streambank and Shoreline Protection

Stream Crossing

Ponds

Check Dams

Cross Fencing

Grade Stabilization Structures

Non-Point Source Pollution

Programs

| Project Name | BMPs Installed | Allocation | Spent | Remaining |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ellison Creek | 6 BMPS | \$215,000.00 | \$109,222.73 | \$105,777.27 |
| Fuller Creek-Town Creek | 0 BMPs | \$346,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$346,500.00 |
| Muddy Bayou | 0 BMPs | \$297,635.00 | \$0.00 | \$297,635.00 |
| Owl Creek | 225 BMPs | \$1,149,037.72 | \$831,047.87 | \$317,989.85 |
| Platner Bayou | 0 BMPs | \$637,982.00 | \$0.00 | \$637,982.00 |
| Sherman Creek-Panola Quitman Floodway | 18 BMPs | \$538,889.86 | \$486,201.77 | \$52,688.09 |
| Upper Piney Creek | 0 BMPs | \$310,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$310,500.00 |
| Carmichael Creek-Town Creek (completed) | 76 BMPs | \$647,803.15 | \$647,803.15 | \$0.00 |

Watershed Rehabilitation

De-watering through
MSWCC Siphon System



Watershed Dam Rehabilitation



Richland Creek Dam 2A

Watershed Rehabilitation



Dam Pipe Inspections

Watershed Rehabilitation

The **Watershed Rehabilitation Program** helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state safety criteria or performance standards.

| Watershed Structure |
|---------------------------------------|
| Buntyn Creek Str 16A-1 |
| Buntyn Creek Str 16A-2 |
| Asclamore Creek Str Y-17A-1 |
| Asclamore Creek Str Y-17A-2 |
| Bentonia Creek WS Str #7 |
| Eden Creek Watershed Str Y-37D-10 |
| Tillatoba Creek Str Y-17B-1 |
| N. Tillatoba-Hunter Creek WS Y-17C-6B |
| Black Creek 100 |
| Greasy Creek WS |
| Town Creek |

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

The **WFPO program** provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribal organizations to help plan and implement authorized watershed projects for the purpose of:

- Flood Prevention
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- Public Fish and Wildlife
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Current Projects

City of Charleston

Holmes County

Hubbard Creek

Long Creek Reservior

Madison Upper Bear Creek

Tillatoba Levee

Richland Creek

Coahoma Co - Govt Ditch

Hinds County

Trim Cane

Bogue Phalia

Pelucia Creek - Leflore

Forrest County Rawls Springs

Yalobusha

Carter Rocky Levee System



Partnership is not a posture but a process-a continuous process that grows stronger each year as we devote ourselves to common tasks.

— *John F. Kennedy* —

AZ QUOTES



Conserving for our future, NOW





Mississippi Easement Programs

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FY 2024 Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE)

Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

ACEP-ALE and WRE

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) –
US Held**

Minority delta wetland easements

Upper Pearl watershed easements

FY 2024 Applications

Sign-up Deadline

October 27, 2023

ACEP-ALE

ACEP-WRE

RCPP Upper Pearl

RCPP WRE

Note- If application is on file,
we include in all available
ranking pools. No need to
file additional applications.

ACEP-IRA-WRE

November 13, 2023



Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)

Tri-State WREP – 1 project in process for 700 acres, expect 2024 enrollment.

Batture WREP – 1 project enrolled for 41 acres for ~\$215,000.

***Need additional Batture cropland offers.**

Expect \$15M+ in FY2024 WREP Funding

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- **Upper Pearl – Leake/Neshoba counties, within 2 mile buffer of Pearl river. Goal – to manage for water quality (i.e. forest habitat and protection)**

Project with Wildlife Mississippi

- **Minority Wetland Easements – dedicated fund pool for minority landowners in the delta.**

Joint project with Arkansas NRCS and KKAC Organization.

Ranking FY2024

Ranking Pool Report

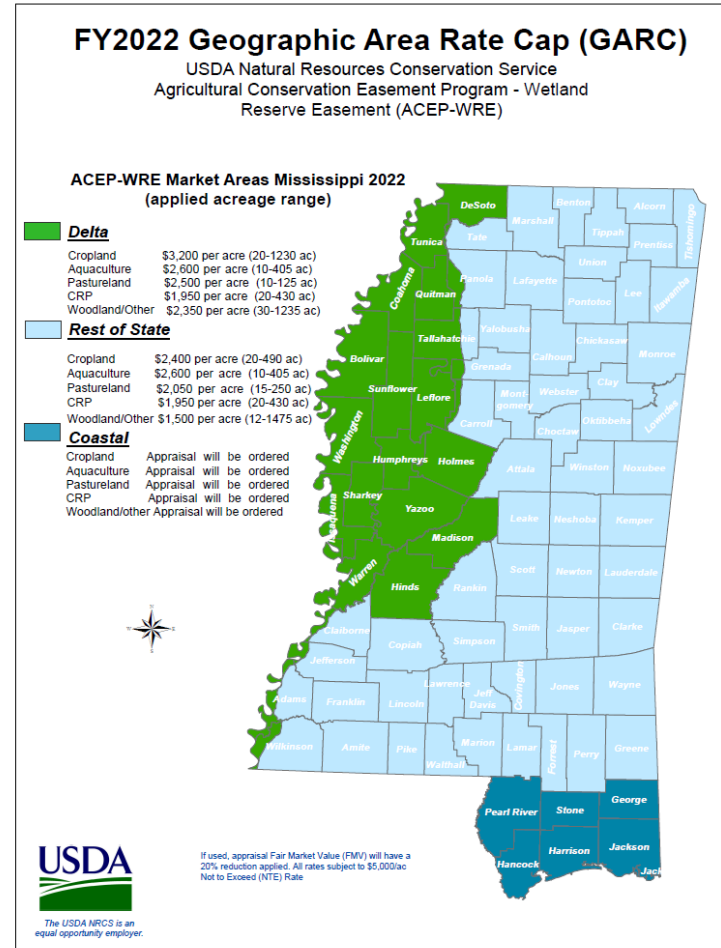
Survey: MS WRE Program Questions v2

| Section: MS WRE Program Questions v2 | | |
|--|--|--------|
| Question | Answer Choices | Points |
| Does the offer adjoin a permanently protected area? | Offer adjoins a permanently protected area on 3 or more sides. | 32 |
| | Offer adjoins a permanently protected area on 2 or less sides. | 27 |
| | Offer is within a 1/4 mile of a permanently protected area. | 23 |
| | Offer is within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile of a permanently protected area. | 18 |
| | Offer is within a 1/2 to 1 mile of a permanently protected area. | 9 |
| | Offer adjoins wooded wetland area/ perm protected area less than 250 acres. | 16 |
| | Offer less than 1/4 mile from wooded wetland area/ perm protected area less than 250 acres | 11 |
| | Offer is between 1/4 to 1/2 mile from wooded wetland area/ perm protected area less than 250 acres. | 9 |
| | Offer is more than 1 mile from a permanently protected area or more than 1/2 mile from wooded wetland area | 0 |
| Does offer touch known Black Bear or Pondberry (T and E species) or Forest Bird Reforestation priority habitats? | Yes - Intersects Black bear and/or Pondberry shapefiles | 36 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 9 - 36 pts | 36 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 8 - 12 pts | 12 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 7 - 10 pts | 10 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 6 - 7 pts | 7 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 5 - 6 pts | 6 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 4 - 5 pts | 5 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 3 - 4 pts | 4 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 2 - 3 pts | 3 |
| | FBBDMS - Priority zone 1 - 2 pts | 2 |
| | No T and E; No FBBDMS Priority zone | 0 |
| Water Quality Filtering - Non-WRE runoff from adjoining lands | Cropland | 18 |
| | Pastureland, Hay Land, and/or Aquaculture (non-ditch), Grass CRP. | 9 |
| | CRP Trees, Forestland, Other Lands, No Filtering | 0 |

- Multiple FY24 Ranking Pools
 - Statewide
 - WREP Tri-state
 - WREP Batture
 - RCPP – WRE
 - RCPP – Upper Pearl
 - Historically Underserved
- Due to Louisiana Black Bear de-listing by USFWS, points will decrease for FY2024.

FY2024 Payment Rates

- Awaiting changes for FY2024
- Expect Rate increases \$100-200
- Challenge: Difficulty finding comps for Aquaculture and CRP properties



Easement Overview

| 1992-2023 Easement Summary | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| | |
| Enrolled Easements | 756 |
| Enrolled acres | 210,553.4 |
| Closed Easements | 707 |
| Closed Acres | 202,936.8 |
| Fully Restored | 191,155.7 (as of 2023) |
| Pending Restoration | 19,397.7 |

Landowner Workshops

- 3 workshops
 - Cleveland
 - Onward
 - Jackson
- Almost 50% overall attendance by minority farmers
- Mailer/Outreach success

TIRED OF FARMING MARGINAL CROPLAND?

WRE | WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS

— MAY BE RIGHT FOR YOU! —

LEARN ABOUT WRE
Read the **Understanding Wetland Reserve Easements** brochure
<http://www.lmvjv.org/s/Understanding-WRE-MS.pdf>

BENEFITS OF WRE

- Get up to \$3,200/acre (payment rates vary by zone and land use and are in review for 2024 rate adjustments).
- Reduce risk of farming flood-prone land.
- Develop highly productive wildlife habitat.
- Keep ownership of your property. Retain access control, hunting and fishing rights, and the ability to sell the property.
- Have little or no out-of-pocket cost for habitat restoration, such as tree planting and wetland development.
- Enjoy improved opportunities to observe wildlife as well as increase hunting opportunities for waterfowl, deer, and other wildlife.
- Create potential income from leased hunting.

TO APPLY

WHERE TO APPLY | Submit your application to your local NRCS Service Center

WHEN TO APPLY | Apply by Oct. 27, 2023 to be considered for funding in 2024*

*NOTE: Applications submitted after October 27, 2023 will be accepted and considered in the next funding period

NRCS LOCAL SERVICE CENTERS

FIND YOUR LOCAL NRCS SERVICE CENTER

 <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ms/contact/local/>

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NRCS

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Easement Staff

- ASTC – Easements – Jason Keenan
- Easement Coordinator – Ron McCain
- Realty Specialist – Vacant
- Program Analyst – Jahmal Burgess
- Easement Specialist – Rick Hagar
- Easement Field Coordinator – Ben Naron
- Easement Soil Con – Jason Makamson
- Easement Biologist – Saahirah Walton
- Easement Forester – Alec Conrad
- Program Assistant
 - Ariel Hollins
- Trust for Tomorrow
 - Randal Manley
 - William McRee
 - Jacob Miller



Please put any questions in the Live Event
Q&A.

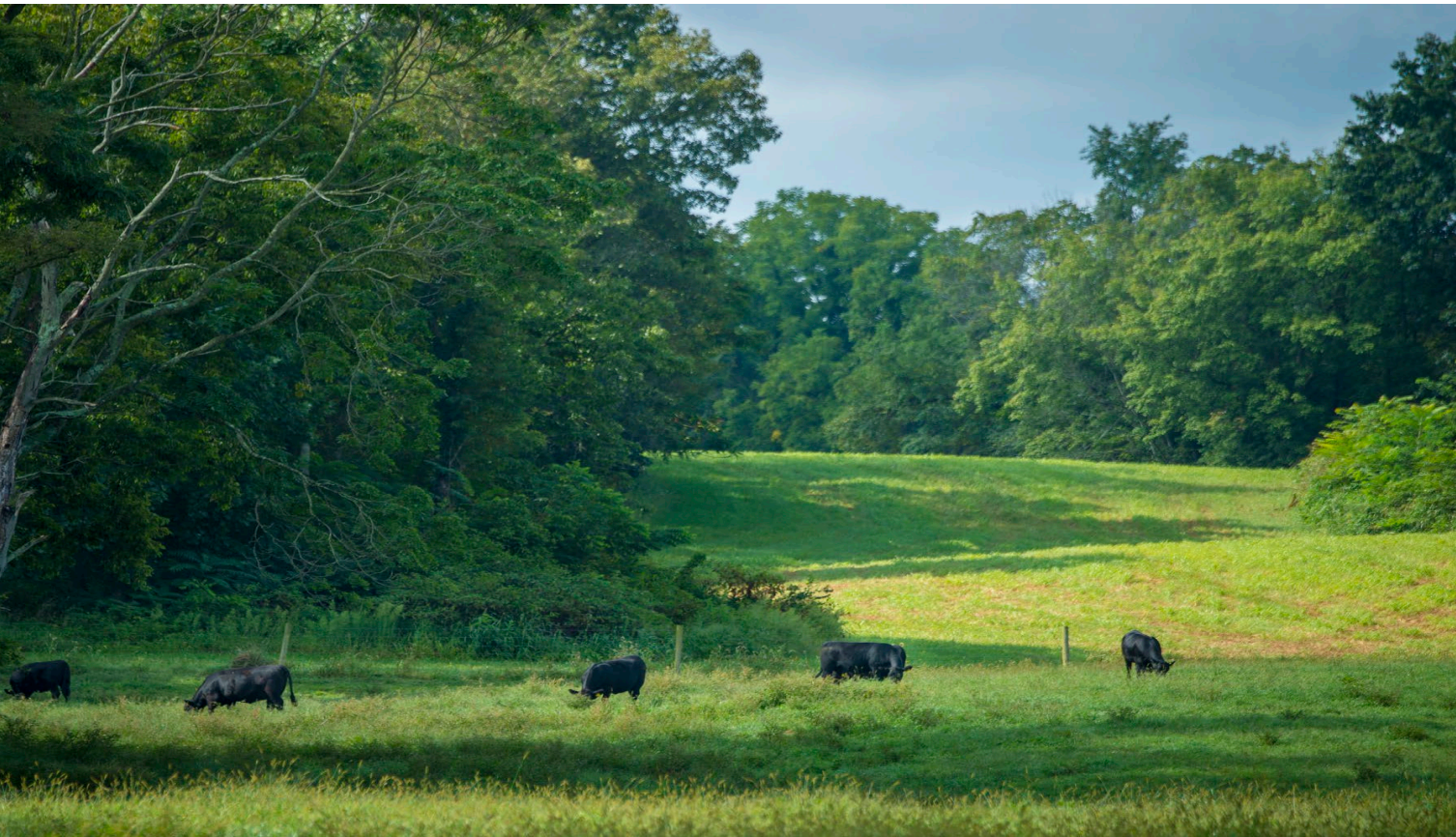
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Programs

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Financial Assistance Programs

Presented by: Earl McMillian
ASTC for Programs
Work: (601) 863-3905
Email: edward.mcmillian@usda.gov



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Financial Assistance Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Urban Agriculture

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that assist producers make conservation work for them. Together, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

Eligible program participants receive technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on their land.

Payments are made to participants after conservation practices are implemented and verified by NRCS staff meeting our standards and specifications.



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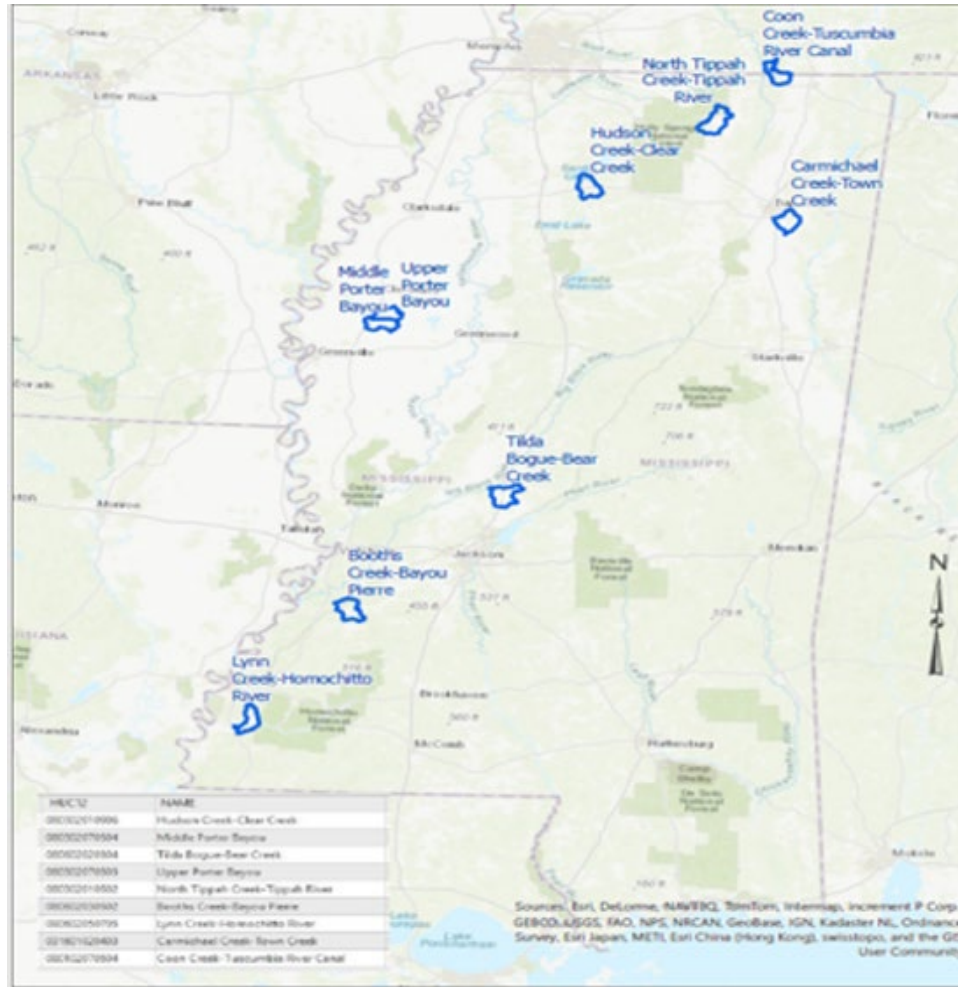


Fiscal Year 2023 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Accomplishments



What is the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)?

- NWQI was established in FY 2012 as an initiative delivered jointly with State water quality agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address agricultural sources of water pollution, specifically nutrients, sediment, and pathogens in priority watersheds throughout the country.



FY 2023 NWQI Watersheds

- Coon Creek
- Carmichael Creek
- Big Sunflower River – Porter Bayou (2)
- North Tippah Creek – Tippah River
- Lynn Creek – Homochitto River
- Booths Creek – Bayou Pierre
- Hudson Creek – Clear Creek
- Tilda Bogue – Bear Creek

NWQI in Mississippi

- In FY 2023, NRCS received 4 million in funds to assist with conservation efforts in NWQI.
- There are currently 9 NWQI watersheds eligible for funding.
- All NWQI watersheds are scattered throughout the state. (See map)



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What is the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI)?

- The MRBI was announced in FY 2009 with a primary focus of improving water quality.
- Focused on restoring wetlands, enhancing wildlife habitat, and sustaining agricultural viability in small watersheds of the Mississippi River Basin.
- Implementation of MRBI requires a flexible approach tailored to individual watersheds and should support conservation systems composed of practices that avoid, control, and trap sediment and nutrients.
- In FY 2015 MRBI was updated to align with the nutrient loss reduction strategies developed by Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) member States.
- NRCS and partners worked with producers and landowners to implement and show the effectiveness of targeted, voluntary conservation systems in priority watersheds identified as major contributors of nutrients to the Gulf of Mexico.

MRBI and NWQI Partners

- **Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)**
- **Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC)**

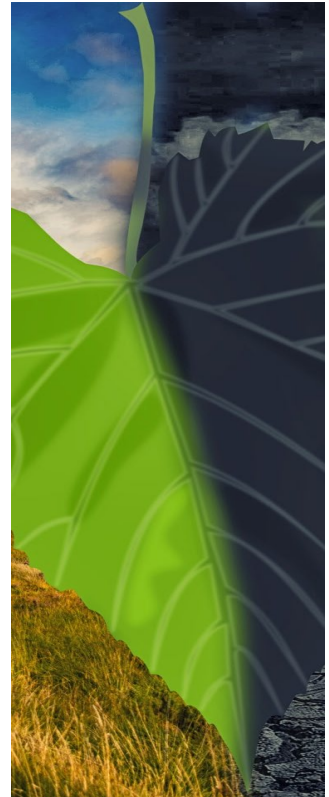
This partnership has resulted in the following:

- 9 National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watersheds
- 15 Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) watersheds
- Pulling public and private entities together
- Assisting NRCS with conservation efforts totaling over \$20,071,954.37 in the last 6 years for NWQI.
- Assisting NRCS with conservation efforts totaling over \$67,899,298.44 in the last 6 years for MRBI.

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Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry

- A whole government approach to tackling the climate issues, USDA has developed a CSAF strategy that recognizes the important role that agriculture and forestry will play in climate change mitigation and resilience.
- The purpose of this targeted EQIP sign-up for CSAF is to prioritize the adoption of conservation practices and systems that mitigate greenhouse gases (GHG) and to ensure the availability of this assistance for socially disadvantaged producers and forest land managers.
- Core conservation practices, which will also include CSP enhancements, were selected based on their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in the soil.
- States are allowed to removed any core practices that are not selected in their payment schedules.



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EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts

- EQIP Incentive Contract provisions provide for both incentive practice payments for adopting practices, and annual payments for managing, maintaining, and improving the incentive practices for the duration of the contract.
- States determine the EQIP incentive high priority area(s). These are areas with identified priority resource concerns that represent a significant concern in a State or region.
- States determine priority resource concern(s). States may identify up to three priority resource concerns for each land use within a given high priority area.
- Incentive Contract Length: An appropriate length to achieve the desired conservation benefits; not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years.



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NRCS will continue to offer
Emergency Disaster Assistance



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Fiscal Year 2024 EQIP Sign-Up

EQIP Classic including State and National Initiatives

2023 Sign-up Deadline: October 27, 2023

Eligibility Deadline: December 15, 2023

Obligation Deadline: May 31, 2024

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP encourages producers to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and condition of natural resources in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.



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CSP Assistance Types

CSP – Classic

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

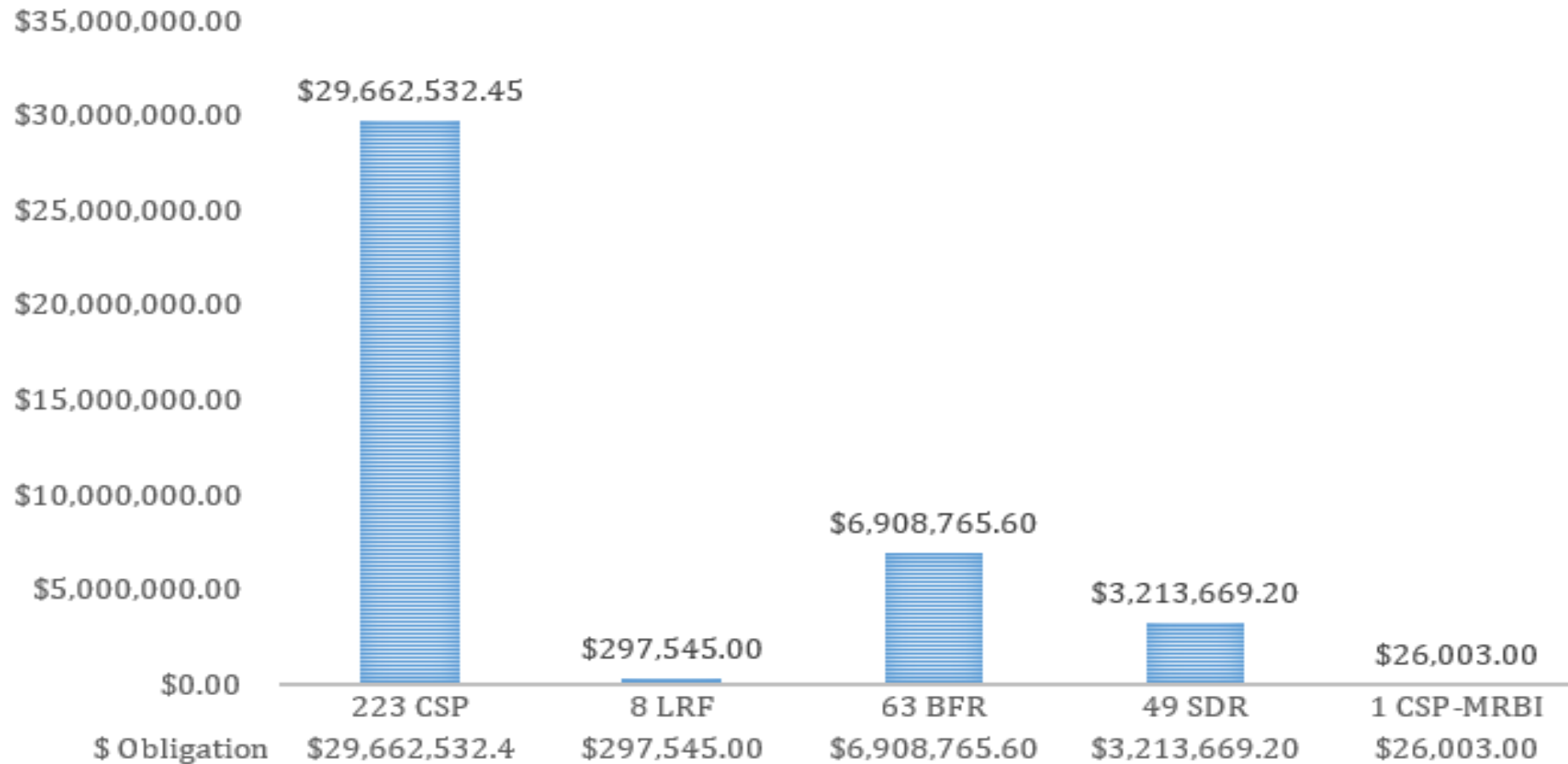
CSP – Renewals

During the first half of the fifth year of the existing contract term, NRCS may allow a participant to apply and compete to renew their contract for an additional 5-year period.

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)

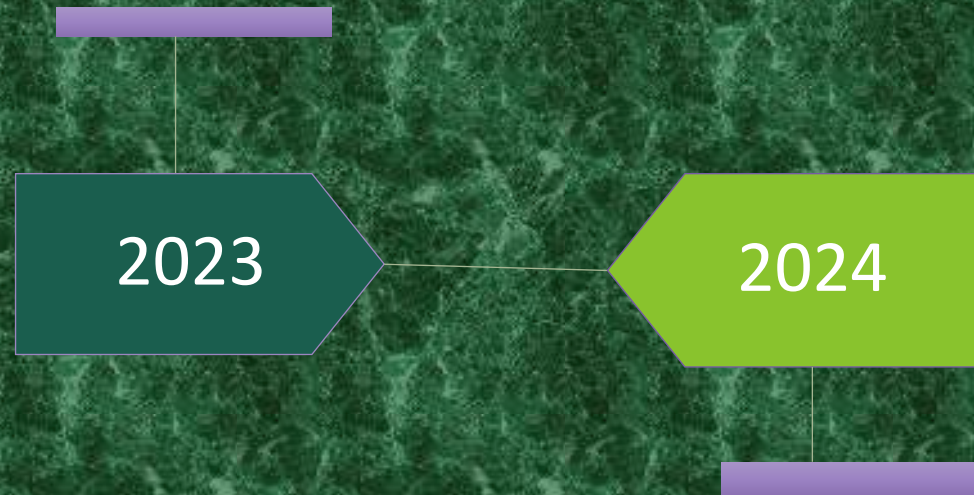
The purpose of the grassland conservation initiative (GCI) is to assist producers in protecting grazing uses, conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources, and achieving related conservation values by conserving eligible land through grassland conservation contracts.

Fiscal Year 2023 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Accomplishments



FY 24 CSP ANNUAL PAYMENTS

Participants who elect to receive their CSP Annual Payment in CY 2023 will need to submit CSP documentation prior to November 17, 2023.



Participants who elect to receive their CSP Annual Payment in CY 2024 will need to submit their CSP documentation prior to January 19, 2024.

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Fiscal Year 2023 CSP Sign-Up

CSP Renewals

Application Deadline: April 28, 2023

Assessment and Ranking Deadline: November 3,
2023

Obligation Deadline: TBA (Currently under CR)

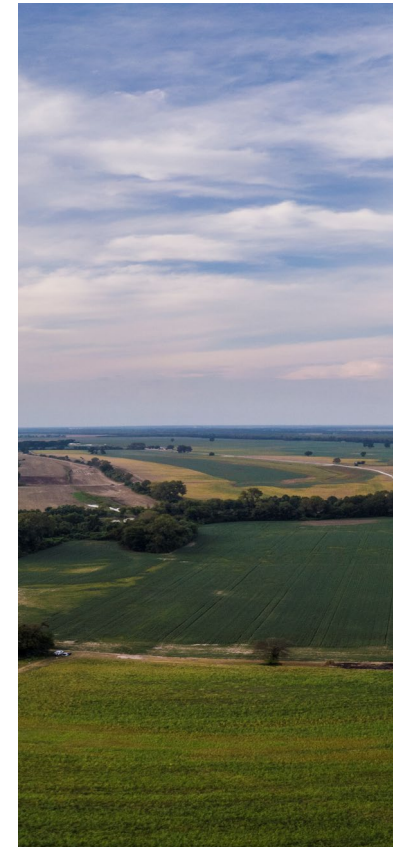
CSP-Classic

2023-1 Sign-up Deadline: October 27, 2023

Obligation Deadline: June 28, 2024

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

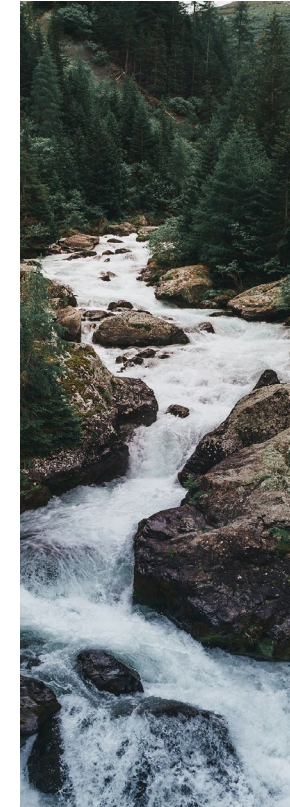
- Signed into law by President Biden in August 2022
- The IRA provides NRCS with \$19.5 billion in **additional** funds for its **existing** conservation programs:
 - \$8.45 billion Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - \$4.95 billion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - \$3.25 billion Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - \$1.4 billion Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - \$1 billion Conservation Technical Assistance
- **The IRA does not create any new programs – it gives NRCS additional funds to expand its existing climate efforts and satisfy unmet demand**
- **IRA funds begin in fiscal year 2023;**
all IRA funds must be spent
by **September 30, 2031**



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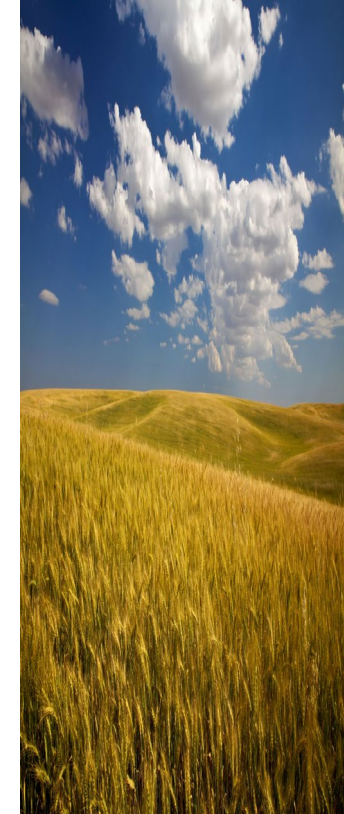
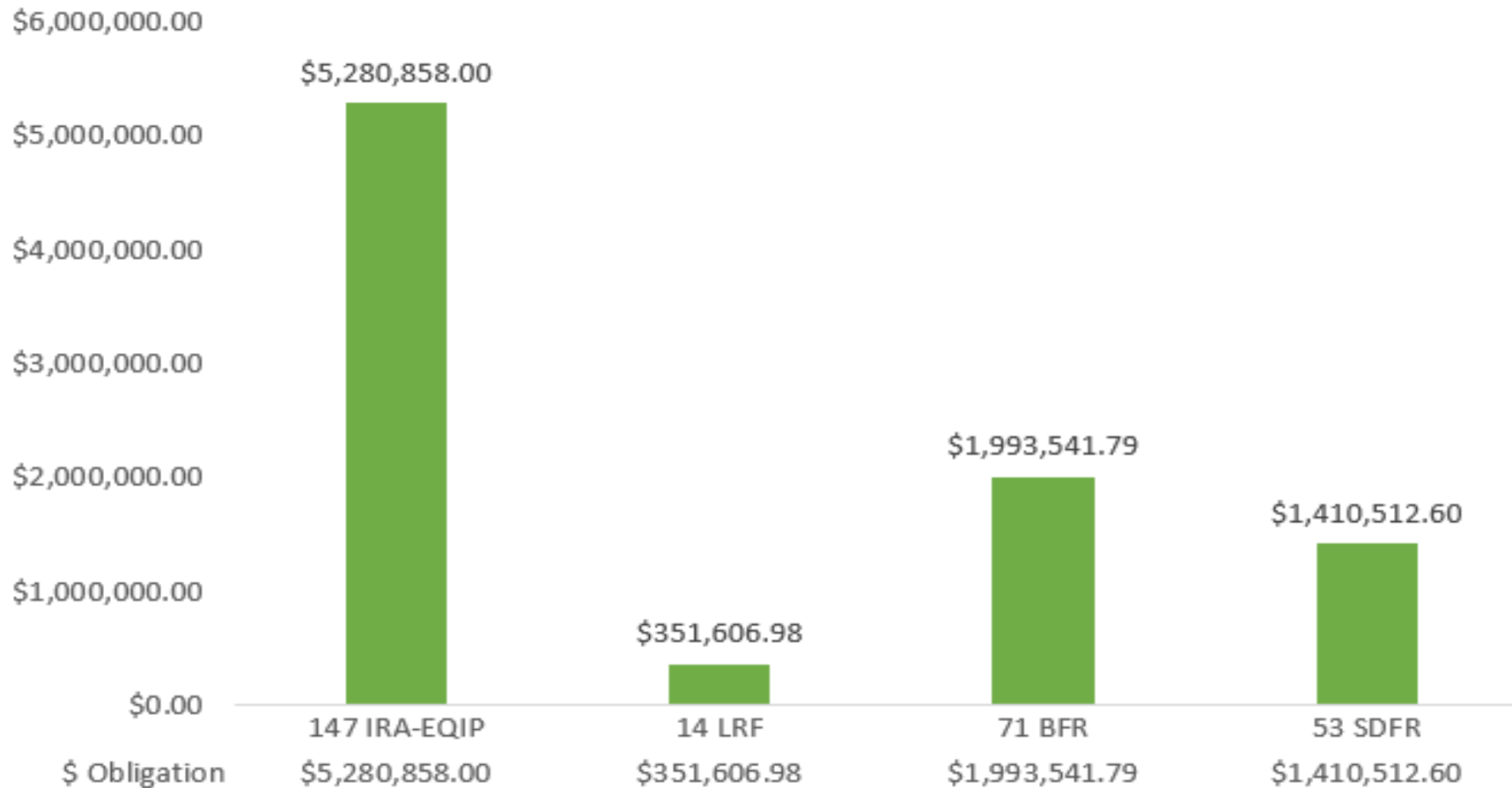
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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) IRA - CSP



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

IRA - EQIP



Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List for FY2024



Highlighted activities have been added to the list in FY2024.
Noted activities are added to the list as "provisional."

| Mitigation Categories | Code | Conservation Practice Standard Name ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (practice unit) | Code | Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Enhancement Activities |
|-----------------------|------|---|----------------|--|
| Soil Health | 327 | Conservation Cover (acres) | E327A | Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects ⁽²⁾ |
| | | | E327B | Establish Monarch butterfly habitat |
| | 328 | Conservation Crop Rotation (acres) | E328A | Resource conserving crop rotation |
| | | | E328B | Improved resource conserving crop rotation |
| | | | E328E | Soil health crop rotation |
| | | | E328F | Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter |
| | | | E328N | Intercropping to improve soil health |
| | | | E328Q | Perennial grain crop conservation rotation |
| | 329 | Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres) | E329A | No till to reduce soil erosion |
| | | | E329B | No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter |
| | | | E329C | No till to increase plant-available moisture |
| | | | E329D | No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content |
| | | | E329E | No till to reduce energy |
| | 332 | Contour Buffer Strips (acres) | None Available | |
| | 336 | Soil Carbon Amendment (acres) ⁽⁴⁾ | None Available | |
| | 340 | Cover Crop (acres) | E340A | Cover crop to reduce soil erosion |
| | | | E340B | Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content |
| | | | E340C | Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter |
| | | | E340D | Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health |
| | | | E340F | Cover crop to minimize soil compaction |
| | | | E340G | Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients |
| | | | E340H | Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles |
| | | | E340I | Using cover crops for biological strip till |
| | | | E340J | Cover crop to improve moisture use efficiency and reduce salts |
| | 345 | Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres) | E345A | Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion |
| | | | E345B | Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter |
| | | | E345C | Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture |
| | | | E345D | Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content |
| | | | E345E | Reduced tillage to reduce energy use |

The IRA Focuses on Mitigation

- The IRA directs NRCS to use the additional funds specifically for **climate change mitigation**.
- Mitigation activities *reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage*.
- FY24 list of **NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities**: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf
- NRCS is continually evaluating mitigation activities and IRA implementation approach and will update them as appropriate.
 - [Federal Register notice](#) (Nov. 21, 2022)

Applying for Programs in FY24



- NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round.
- Producers interested in **EQIP** or **CSP** should apply by their [state's ranking dates](#) to be considered for funding in the current cycle. Funding is provided through a competitive process.
- **ACEP** applications for the current IRA funding cycle must be submitted by **October 27, 2023**, for the first funding round.
- NRCS plans to roll out the next **RCPP** funding opportunity in early spring, which will include IRA funds for fiscal year 2024.



United States
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Regional Conservation Partnership Program

The RCPP Program Promotes coordination of NRCS activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns.

Partners apply to NRCS for RCPP project awards. Once projects are selected, NRCS works with partners to set aside a certain pool of funding for an awarded project. Producers, landowners, and partners then enter into producer contracts and supplemental agreements with NRCS to carry out agreed-to conservation activities.

FY 2023 Obligations

24 Contracts - \$2,215,000 – 5,249.10 acres

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RCPP-What's the Point?

- **Impact**
Proposals are effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities
- **Partner Contributions**
Cash and in-kind value added to leverage NRCS RCPP Investment. NRCS goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in a RCPP project. Partner contributions given priority in application evaluation criteria
- **Innovation**
Innovative conservation approaches or technologies, build new partnerships, take advantage of program flexibilities to deliver conservation solutions
- **Partnerships & Management**
Partners must have experience, expertise and be cable to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental outcomes of an RCPP Project. RCPP ranking gives preference to applicants that meaningfully engage HU farmers and ranchers

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Eligible Partners

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer association.
- A State or unit of local government.
- An Indian Tribe.
- A Farmer cooperative.
- Water district, irrigation district, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to producers on agricultural land. A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity.
- An institution of higher education. An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers, etc.

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Establishment of Urban Agriculture Subcommittee

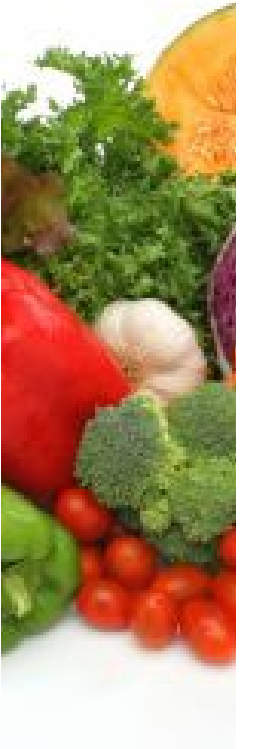
➤ In FY 2023, States are charged with creating an Urban Agriculture Subcommittee to assist NRCS with implementation of its conservation program.

Role of Subcommittee:

- Primary advisor regarding urban agriculture conservation.
- Reports to NRCS Mississippi State Technical Committee chaired by the State Conservationist.

Responsibility of the Subcommittee:

- Identify local urban ag needs, emerging practices, resource concerns and potential partners.
- Identify barriers to implementation of conservation strategies on urban and small-scale operations.
- Develop recommendations for outreach strategies.
- Provide additional assistance or advice as requested.



Subcommittee Interest?

For more information on how to become a member of the Urban Agriculture Subcommittee please contact Earl McMillian at edward.mcmillian@usda.gov.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Services

Questions?????

Contact:

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ASTC for Programs

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