

Wisconsin Cranberry Operations Conservation Programs Through NRCS



Programs for Working Lands

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers voluntary conservation programs to help producers and private landowners achieve their conservation and business goals. Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by NRCS goes to helping farmers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The USDA has a long history of supporting farmers and their cranberry operations by offering many different programs that align with both their conservation and business goals. Read more about the programs and associated conservation practices that NRCS offers to assist with establishing, growing and maintaining this unique food crop.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

NRCS' flagship conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to deliver conservation practices that address natural resource concerns while improving agricultural operations. For more information on EQIP, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/eqip

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Provides technical and financial assistance to build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening the operation. These conservation enhancements can be bundled to address multiple resource concerns.

► CSP Enhancements and Bundles

- Enhancements are used to improve on conservation practices that have already been implemented.
- Bundles consist of at least three enhancements. When implemented as a group, bundles improve conservation performance and address multiple resource concerns in a comprehensive, cost-effective manner.

For more information on CSP enhancements, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/csp

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Helps private and tribal landowners, land trusts and other entities such as state and local governments protect, restore and enhance land through conservation easements. Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches are protected by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land, while the Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) component helps protect, restore and enhance wetlands that have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.

► ACEP Requirements for ALE and WRE Land

ALE (must meet 1 of 4 eligibility criteria):

- Prime, unique, productive soils of importance
- Grazing/conservation value protection
- Historical/archeological resources
- Furthers local policy with ACEP-ALE

WRE (must meet all criteria):

- Certified as prior converted wetland
- Certified as farmed wetland
- Hydric soils are present

For more information on easements, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/acep

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Addresses a variety of critical resource concerns by using a partner-driven, collaborative approach to conservation. RCPP projects include a combination of on-the-ground conservation activities like land management, land rentals and easements.

► RCPP Requirements

- Producers interested in participating in an RCPP project may apply directly through NRCS or elect a representative from an eligible organization.
- Conservation activities must align with the project's objectives and geographic area.

For more information on current RCPP projects, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/rcpp

USDA-NRCS Service Centers in Wisconsin's Cranberryland

Antigo

(715) 623-6716

Black River Falls

(715) 284-4515

Mauston

(608) 847-7221

Neillsville

(715) 743-3164 ext 3

Rhineland

(715) 362-5941

Sparta

(608) 269-8136 ext 3

Stevens Point

(715) 346-1313 ext 3

Wausau

(715) 848-2330

Westfield

(608) 296-2815 ext 3

Wisconsin Rapids

(715) 423-3610 ext 3

WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/WI



Inflation Reduction Act Funding

This additional funding increases annual budgeted allocations for EQIP, CSP and ACEP, providing climate mitigation benefits and outreach for underserved producers who may have been previously unable to access conservation assistance. The main focus of the Inflation Reduction Act funding is to implement Climate-Smart practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve atmospheric carbon storage. For more information on the Inflation Reduction Act, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act

Some Common Conservation Practices for Cranberry Growers

This table does not include all practices that may be applicable for cranberry operations or available for financial assistance programs.

Practice Code	Practice Name	EQIP	CSP	CSP Enhancements Available	ACEP-WRE
314	Brush Management	◆*	◆*	◆	◆
327	Conservation Cover	◆*	◆*		◆
374	Energy Efficient Ag Operation	◆*	◆*		
380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment	◆*	◆*		
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	◆*	◆*	◆	
430	Irrigation Pipeline	◆*	◆*		
442	Sprinkler System	◆*	◆*		
449	Irrigation Water Management	◆	◆	◆	
533	Pumping Plant	◆*	◆*	◆	
560	Access Road	◆			
575	Trails & Walkways	◆			◆
587	Water Control Structure	◆	◆		◆
590	Nutrient Management	◆*	◆*	◆	
595	Pest Management Conservation System	◆	◆	◆	
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	◆*	◆*	◆	◆
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	◆	◆	◆	◆
649	Structures for Wildlife	◆	◆	◆	◆
657	Wetland Restoration	◆*			◆
666	Forest Stand Improvement	◆*	◆*	◆	◆
670	Energy Efficient Lighting System	◆*			
672	Energy Efficient Building Envelope	◆*			

**Climate-Smart Provisional Practices*

Eligibility

General Applicant and Land Requirements

Eligibility criteria are established by Congress in the Farm Bill and vary by conservation program. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit required documentation. Applicants need to establish or update records with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

► *Information to bring may include:*

- Official tax ID (Social Security number or Employer ID), property deed or lease agreement, copy of entity paperwork (if applicable).

► *Other documentation for eligibility that may be required:*

- Crop history of the working cropland, forestland, farmstead, and/or tribal agricultural land.
- Compliance with the Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation provisions and other applicable USDA-NRCS practice standards.
- Applicant's average adjusted gross income is under \$900,000/year (does not apply to tribes).



► *Landowners interested in applying for financial and/or technical assistance through NRCS should visit their local USDA Service Center or visit the Wisconsin NRCS website:*

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



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