

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service



It all begins with a farm visit!

The **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** make farm visits, develop plans, and provide technical and financial support for individuals who want to manage their property for livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, wildlife habitat improvement, forest stand improvement, or energy conservation.

As your conservation decision partner, NRCS provides free assistance to landowners like you to reach land use and natural resource goals. Our local offices, staffed with conservation professionals with local knowledge, can help you make well-informed conservation decisions.

We love what we do!

That's working with farmers and forest landowners like you to start, expand, enhance, or improve your natural resources and put conservation practices in place that will benefit the soil, water, air, and wildlife.

Getting Started with NRCS

Schedule a Farm Visit. Call or email your local USDA Service Center to set up an appointment.

How to Prepare. What is your vision for your land and farm? What are your challenges? Prepare a list of questions and concerns for your NRCS conservation specialist.

What to Expect. An NRCS team member will visit your property and ask about your goals for your land and can help you develop a plan to obtain them. During our farm visit we can discuss conservation planning and what financial and technical support is available for you.

Learn more about NRCS-WV Programs

Visit NRCS-WV webpage to learn more about USDA's financial and technical conservation assistance.

How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for most programs year-round. To apply, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center.

West Virginia Conservation Programs and Initiatives

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns. West Virginia has 14 different Local Working Group areas. The areas range from one county to six counties and cover all of West Virginia's 55 counties. The Local Working Groups are organized by the West Virginia Conservation District boundaries. Each Conservation District convenes annual Local Working Group meetings to identify and prioritize their natural resource concerns.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. It is the largest conservation program in the United States. Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, rotational grazing, ecologically-based pest management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat all while maintaining active agricultural production on their land.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) AMA helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices. It addresses issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) and Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. NRCS also provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.



Common West Virginia Conservation Practices

Grazing Management

Grazing management is the combination of pasture, livestock, fencing, and grazing systems used to manage forage production and harvest. The development of a grazing management plan should be flexible and dependent on the livestock producer's goals and resources. Some benefits include:

- Decreased feeding of hay and silage
- Improved forage quality and quantity
- Enhanced manure distribution
- Decreased weeds
- Decreased soil compaction and erosion
- Improved animal health and productivity
- Potential increased number of animals supported

Wildlife Habitat/Forestry

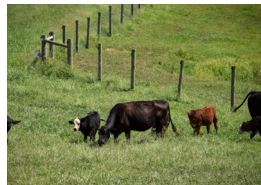
Sustainable agriculture practices on farms and forests benefit wildlife by improving soil health, water quality and plant diversity. They also create profitable, productive agricultural land that is more resilient to drought, fire, and other natural disturbances. Managing for a diverse set of conditions for all types of wildlife provides the best chance to attract a bigger pool of wildlife species. Common practices include:

- Forest Stand Improvement
- Brush Management
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment
- Structures for Wildlife
- Access Control Fence
- Early Successional Habitat Management

Urban Agriculture/Community Scale Farming

Urban agriculture and small scale farming comes with a unique set of challenges and opportunities. NRCS can help with the challenges of conservation, and support growers in their efforts to achieve local, healthy, and sustainable food for their communities. Common practices include:

- High Tunnel and Irrigation Systems
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management Conservation Systems
- Pollinator Habitat



Confined Livestock

The confinement of beef and dairy cattle, swine and poultry have greatly increased production efficiency and reduced the pressure on our nation's lands, but the concentration of domestic animals that comes with confinement brings it's own resource challenges. Some confined livestock systems include:

- Roofed Winter Feeding Facilities
- Concrete Gravel Aprons
- Waste Storage Facilities

Contact Us

WV USDA Service Centers

Beckley	681-220-5761
Buckeye	304-427-3006
Cross Lanes	304-776-5256 ext 108
Elkins	304-635-4399
Franklin	304-358-2285 ext 3019
Gassaway	304-364-5103 ext 4012
Huntington	304-697-6033 ext 8396
Keyser	304-788-2332 ext 108
Kingwood	304-441-3770
Lewisburg	681-318-4025
Martinsburg	681-247-3016
McMechen	304-238-5648
Middlebourne	304-758-2173
Moorefield	304-530-2825 ext 106
Mount Clare	304-566-3727
Parkersburg	304-422-9072 ext 111
Petersburg	304-257-4702 ext 117
Philippi	304-457-4516 ext 115
Point Pleasant	304-857-5101
Princeton	304-557-3132
Ranson	304-930-9043
Ripley	304-514-7171
Romney	304-822-3020 ext 101
Spencer	304-519-3007
Summersville	304-618-6126
Union	304-772-3006
Weston	681-533-4128
White Hall	304-368-6910

Visit our website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wv

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.