

# Programs FY25

Nevada State Technical  
Committee Meeting  
November 14, 2024



## Agenda

- **FY24 Obligation Report**
- **Allocations and Updates for FY25**
- **Fund Pools**
- **Programs calendar**

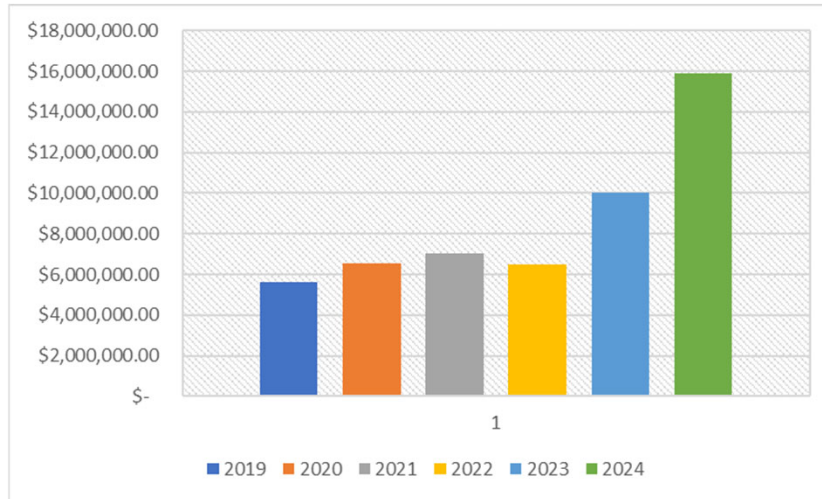


## Total Obligations in FY24 Per Program

Program	Obligation
<b>EQIP</b>	<b>\$ 7,044,766.43</b>
# Contracts	64
<b>CSP</b>	<b>\$ 1,451,776.00</b>
# Contracts	25
<b>AMA</b>	<b>\$ 513,089.00</b>
# Contracts	33
<b>EQIP-IRA</b>	<b>\$ 6,214,080.80</b>
# Contracts	77
<b>CSP-IRA</b>	<b>\$ 685,604.00</b>
# Contracts	9
<b>Total \$</b>	<b>\$ 15,909,316.23</b>
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>208.00</b>

This slide shows NRCS-Nevada's obligations in FY24. Total obligations were \$15,909,316.23; total contracts were 208 contracts. The table also shows obligations per Program type.

## Total Obligation 2019 - 2024



This graph shows NRCS-Nevada's total obligations from 2019 to 2024. NRCS Nevada increased by 60% from FY23 to FY24.

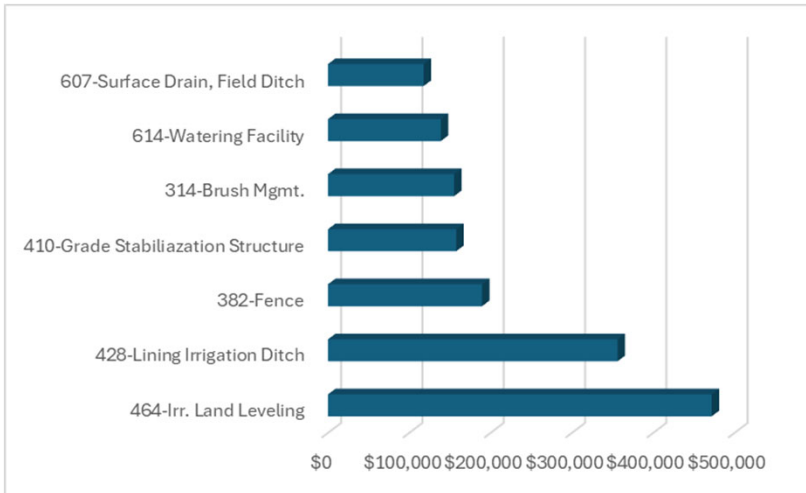
## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Project selection based on ranking and available funding.
- Separate fund pools based on resource concerns, local work groups, and initiatives, so applicants compete against similar projects.
- Contract length typically 1-3 years, up to 5.
- Payment is completed once practice is certified.
- Eligible on Public Land.



EQIP is our flagship program nationally and in NV. The slide provides general reminder of what EQIP is and how it works.

## Top EQIP Practices in Fiscal Year 2024



Not Listed:

- **430-Irrigation Pipeline**
  - \$2.35 million
- **587-Structure for Water Control**
  - \$980,000
- **442-Sprinkler System**
  - \$951,000

The graph shows EQIP spending by practice for the top 10 practices in Nevada for FY24. Practice 430 Irrigation Pipeline, 587 structure for water control, and 442 Sprinkler System are not included on the graph because their large size makes the smaller practices hard to see on the graph.

## FY24 Obligations by Fund Pool

Account (Fund-Pool)	Account Type	Amount
<b>EQIP General FA</b>		<b>7,069,670.12</b>
FY24 NWQI NV	National	85,833.00
FY24 NV Water Smart - TCID	National	660,443.43
FY24 Tribes	State	322,921.00
FY24 NV Source Water Initiative	State	652,593.00
FY24 NV_Water Management Entities	State	599,326.00
FY24 NV Beginning Farmer/Rancher	State	332,084.00
FY24 NV_Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher	State	132,027.00
FY24 Elko Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	609,714.00
FY24 Ely Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	357,800.00
FY24 Fallon Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	495,152.00
FY24 Las Vegas Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	339,933.69
FY24 Lovelock Local Work Group Area	Locally Led	599,927.00
FY24 Minden Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	465,392.00
FY24 Winnemucca Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	612,520.00
FY24 Yerington Local Work Group Areas	Locally Led	804,004.00

State and locally led account types can be changed by State Office – this includes the account and the amounts.

National Initiatives are required unless NRCS at the national level issues additional guidance.

NRCS Nevada can add funds to the national accounts from our general-EQIP funds, but we cannot take money out of them.

The funds obligated in LWG fund-pools does not represent all the funds obligated those field offices. Average obligation totals for each office was ~ \$1.75 million.

## Historically Underserved

### Four groups are defined as Historically Underserved

- Beginning Farmer/Rancher
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
- Veteran Farmer/Rancher
- Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher

These groups are self-certifying by indicating on a Conservation Application. This makes the applicant eligible for specific fund pools, advanced payment (EQIP), and increased incentive-payment rates.

Definitions from NRCS website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>

Some groups of people are identified in Farm Bill legislation and in USDA policy as being Historically Underserved (HU). Members of these groups have been historically underserved by, or subject to discrimination in, Federal policies and programs. Four groups are defined by USDA as “Historically Underserved,” including farmers or ranchers who are: Beginning; Socially Disadvantaged; Veterans; and Limited Resource.

USDA recognizes the need to be inclusive of all people and ensure equitable access to services. So, special provisions -- including specific incentives, waivers, priorities, set asides, and other flexibilities -- are available within USDA programs for producers who meet the definition for historically underserved producers. Increased financial assistance for conservation practices, dedicated conservation funding, and access to advance payments for conservation practice implementation are offered to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that fit into any of the four historically underserved groups below.

## Socially Disadvantaged Fund Pool

- Nevada's Socially Disadvantaged fund pool includes 3 of the four Historically Underserved groups.
  - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
  - Veteran Farmer/Rancher
  - Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher

The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an Individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

Socially disadvantaged groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Nevada’s Socially Disadvantaged Fund Pools also include:

- Veteran Farmer or Rancher
- Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
  
- Beginning Farmer/Rancher is not included with these fund pools because we have a separate fund pool for them. Veteran Farmer or Rancher group typically get placed into the BFR fundpool since part of qualifying for that HU group is the requirement to have been producing for less than 10 years, which would also make you eligible for BFR HU group.

## Example of Fund Pool Allocation Shuffling

Sep-24		Jun-24	
Account	Amount	Account	Amount
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,069,670</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,182,130</b>
EQIP CIC	0	EQIP CIC	0
EQIP CIC Crop	0	EQIP CIC Crop	0
High Tunnels	0	High Tunnels	0
National Organic Initiative	0	National Organic Initiative	0
Organic Transition	0	Organic Transition	0
On-Farm Energy	0	On-Farm Energy	0
Tribes	322,921	Tribes	467,500
Livestock Management	0	Livestock Management	162,100
Source Water Initiative	652,593	Source Water Initiative	676,876
Water Management Entities	599,326	Water Management Entities	599,326
Beginning Farmer/Rancher	332,084	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	422,339
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher	132,027	Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher	133,000
Elko Local Work Group Areas	609,714	Elko Local Work Group Areas	543,300
Ely Local Work Group Areas	357,800	Ely Local Work Group Areas	507,800
Fallon Local Work Group Areas	495,152	Fallon Local Work Group Areas	538,400
Las Vegas Local Work Group Areas	339,934	Las Vegas Local Work Group Areas	580,800
Lovelock Local Work Group Area	599,927	Lovelock Local Work Group Area	507,800
Minden Local Work Group Areas	465,392	Minden Local Work Group Areas	519,053
Winnemucca Local Work Group Areas	612,520	Winnemucca Local Work Group Areas	526,800
Yerington Local Work Group Areas	804,004	Yerington Local Work Group Areas	507,800

The table shows an example of how NRCS Nevada moves funds around within fund pools. We move funds to meet demand in the appropriate fund pools. Much demand in an office may be eligible for EQIP-IRA or State and national fund pools so the LWG fund pool funding might go down because the applications eligible in that fund pool may have been funded elsewhere.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP – IRA)

- All EQIP information applies plus...
  - All practices contracted must be a primary practice from the **Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)** list or will be a supporting practice to the primary practice.
  - Some Primary Practices are restricted to specific narratives.
  - Eligible on Public Land.



Climate Smart ag and Forestry list for FY25:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/NRCS-CSAF-Mitigation-Activities-List.pdf>

This list is subject to change annually as practices, practice narratives, and enhancements are added or refined.

## CSAF List Primary Practice Example

390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (acres)	E390A	Increase riparian herbaceous cover width for sediment and nutrient reduction
		E390B	Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat
391	Riparian Forest Buffer (acres)	E391A	Increase riparian forest buffer width for sediment and nutrient reduction
		E391B	Increase stream shading for stream temperature reduction
		E391C	Increase riparian forest buffer width to enhance wildlife habitat
393	Filter Strips (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts
412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting (acres)	E420A	Establish pollinator habitat
		E420B	Establish monarch butterfly habitat
422	Hedgerow Planting (feet)		None Available
430	Irrigation Pipeline (feet) • Used to reduce fossil fuel energy use <sup>21</sup>		None Available
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (acres) • Used to reduce fossil fuel energy use <sup>21</sup>		None Available
442	Sprinkler System (acres) • Used to reduce fossil fuel energy use <sup>21</sup>		None Available
449	Irrigation Water Management (acres) • Used as part of an alternated wetting and drying (AWD) system in rice fields <sup>21</sup>	E449B	Alternated Wetting and Drying (AWD) of rice fields
453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (acres) <sup>28</sup>		None Available

This slide is meant to show an example of a ‘practice narrative.’

430 Irrigation pipeline is considered a primary practice for EQIP-IRA only if the purpose of the practice is to reduce fossil fuel energy use.

## CSAF Narrative Example

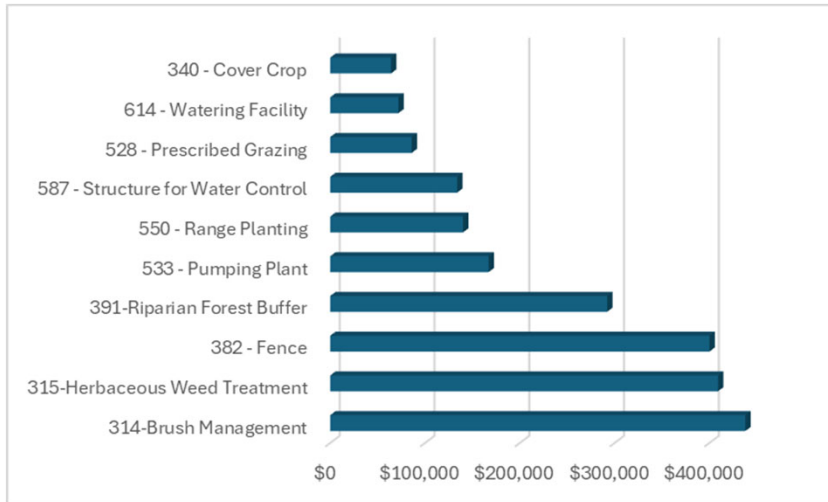
430	Irrigation Pipeline (feet)	01N	Replacement of an earthen channel that is supplied by pumping water with a closed conduit, resulting in enhanced conveyance efficiency and reduced fossil fuel energy use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use 01N when specifically replacing an earthen channel system with a closed conduit system supplied irrigation water by a pumping plant. When implemented this way, this practice enables more efficient water conveyance due to reduced seepage and evaporation, which in turn would result in fossil fuel energy savings that, in most cases, would lead to GHG emission reductions.</li> <li>• The system must not currently be supplied water solely by a renewable energy driven pumping plant to provide expected energy savings.</li> <li>• Additional criteria in the practice standard to meet the purpose of reducing energy use is required to be met when using this narrative and to be considered a mitigation activity.</li> <li>• Because the potential mitigation benefits from energy efficiency and reduction assume a baseline scenario that relies on a fossil fuel-based energy source, some areas of the country (i.e., those already using solely renewable or nuclear energy sources) would therefore not realize any GHG emissions benefits from the implementation of this practice. Planners must consider local energy sources when planning the practice as a CSAF mitigation activity; existing system must not be solely powered by a renewable or nuclear energy source.</li> <li>• When considering downstream flows of irrigation water, if in the planner's judgment there is a reasonable likelihood that irrigation water saved through this practice will be used downstream, this practice may not result in the desired overall GHG emissions reductions.</li> <li>• For other applications of the practice, use 00N (which would not be a CSAF mitigation activity).</li> </ul>
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The slide shows the narrative associated with 430 Irrigation Pipeline.

Narrative – Replacement of an earthen channel that is supplied by pumping water with a closed conduit, resulting in enhanced conveyance efficiency and reduced fossil fuel energy use.

430 irrigation pipeline can only be considered a primary practice if it fits this specific narrative. It can potentially be a supporting practice if needed to make another primary practice function.

## Top EQIP-IRA Practices Fiscal Year 24



### Not Listed:

- **430-Irrigation Pipeline**
  - \$2.43 million
- **442-Sprinkler System**
  - \$848,000

The graph shows EQIP spending by practice for the top 10 practices in Nevada for FY24. Practice 430 Irrigation Pipeline and 442 Sprinkler System are not included on the graph because their large size makes the smaller practices hard to see on the graph. You can see that this graph has a lot more Rangeland type practices listed on them due to the fact that 528 Prescribed grazing is a primary practice, typically supported by fence and watering facility.

## EQIP IRA FY24 Obligations

Account	Amount
<b>EQIP-IRA Total</b>	<b>6,678,932.98</b>
IRA EQIP Statewide FY24	5,966,906.62
Act Now IRA Statewide FY24	59,853.36
IRA EQIP Cheatgrass Challenge	0.00
IRA Tribes FY24	652,173.00

EQIP-IRA also has fund pools, but a lot less than EQIP-Classic. The table shows a breakdown of the EQIP-IRA fund pool spending in FY24.

## Agriculture Marketing Assistance

- Program At A Glance
  - AMA provides financial assistance up to 75 percent of the cost of installing conservation practices.
  - Total AMA payments shall not exceed \$50,000 per participant for any fiscal year.
  - Participants are not subject to Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
  - Participants are subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
  - AMA offers an additional higher cost-share for historically underserved producers.

This slideshow is a summary of the AMA program. These contracts closely resemble an EQIP contract. There are some differences in RC priorities, eligibility, and advanced payment.

## AMA FY24 Obligations

Account	Account Type	Amount
<b>Nevada</b>		<b>559,674.00</b>
FY24 RMA-High Tunnel	State	274,042.00
FY 24 AMA_Statewide General	State	112,422.00
FY 24 AMA_Statewide High Tunnel	State	173,210.00

AMA funds are allocated at the beginning of the year.

RMA Funds are passed to NRCS from Risk Management Agency if they are not able to use themselves

Most AMA contracts in NV fund high tunnels.

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Provide incentives for maintaining good stewardship (existing practices).
- Provides additional incentive for increasing stewardship (new activities).
- Best suited for applicants that have a history of documenting their management strategies and/or have history with NRCS.
- Annual payments over 5 years with option to renew.
- Separate Farm Bill Payment Limitation of \$200,000.
- Eligible on Public Land.



The above provides a brief summary of the CSP program.

## CSP FY24 Obligations by Fund Pool

- All funds can be re-allocated by Nevada within national guidance.

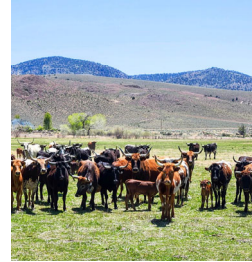
Account	Amount
<b>CSP-2018-2024-1-Renewal AgLands General</b>	<b>1,453,742.00</b>
FY24 CSP Ag Lands - Classic	715,605.00
FY24 CSP Ag Lands - BFR	194,118.00
FY24 CSP Ag Lands - SDFR	184,019.00
FY24 CSP Ag Lands - Organic	0.00
FY23 - 95F New Obligations - 2024	360,000.00

The table shows CSP obligations by fund pool. BFR is Beginning Farmer and Rancher. SDFR is Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher.

The bottom row shows that Nevada was able to use prior year Farm Bill funds to obligate additional applications in FY24. This was the first fiscal year Nevada requested additional CSP funds to meet demand and shows that this program is growing in Nevada.

## Conservation Stewardship Program CSP-IRA

- All requirements from CSP plus...
  - All “activities” contracted must be on the CSAF list and/or supporting practices from the CSAF list.
  - Eligible on Public Land.
- **Nevada obligated over \$685,604 for FY 24**



Climate Smart ag and Forestry list for FY25:

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