USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Programs Update for STTC

12/11/2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

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FY2024- In review

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FY24 Summary-General funds

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
  - Over 12 million obligated
- **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**
  - Over 1.1 million obligated
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
  - Over 1.3 million obligated

*Official numbers will be released at a later date

FY24 Summary-Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Climate Smart Agricultural and Forestry practices

For Maine

199 IRA contracts
$13,090,116 obligated (CSP and EQIP IRA)
17, 789 acres contracted

NEW – Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool

This tool provides state-by-state data showing investments for Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding. Final data are available for fiscal year 2023, with year-to-date data available for fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

ACCESS THE VISUALIZATION TOOL →

RCA Data Viewer | Natural Resources Conservation Service

FY2025 Program Delivery

Delivery Decisions for FY2025

- Application batching deadline for most programs (EQIP, AMA, CSP) was August 23, 2024

- Application deadline for ACEP WRE and ALE is December 6th and December 20th

Note: Batching deadline for FY26 is set for August 22, 2025. Sign up is continuous

ACT NOW-FY25

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Maine (NRCS-ME) is using Act Now to deliver conservation contracting faster.

The Act Now process allows NRCS to approve and obligate a ranked application in a designated ranking pool when an application meets or exceeds a state-determined minimum ranking score without waiting until the NRCS field office ranks all applications in the ranking pool.

ACT NOW-FY25

- Applications eligible for the Act Now ranking pools will be accepted on a continuous sign-up basis in the order received until March 7, 2025.
- Any application that ranks at or above the NRCS-ME established minimum ranking score of 75 points will be preapproved, as long as funds are available
- Will end sooner if set-aside funds are expended

ACT NOW-FY25

ACT NOW-EQIP-IRA Climate Smart Agriculture

- Conservation Cover (code 327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (code 328)
- Soil Carbon Amendment (code 336)
- Cover Crop (code 340)
- Mulch (code 484)
- Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till (code 329)
- Residue & Tillage Management, Reduced Till (code 345)

ACT NOW

FY25 MAINE ACT NOW-EQIP Planning Activities

- Conservation Planning Activities (CPAs),
- Design and Implementation Activities (DIAs),
- Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs)

Payment Schedules

- Currently posted to the National Website.
  Payment Schedules | Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Important to note that Maine has a subset of scenarios that are offered in Maine. This is posted to FOTG.
  Maine | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA

FY2025 Fund Pools

Statewide Fund Pools-Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP and CSP-IRA statewide fund pools for FY2025:

- Ag Land Classic
- Ag Land Beginning Farmer
- Ag Land Socially Disadvantaged
- Ag Land Organic (not for CSP-IRA)
- NIPF Classic
- NIPF Beginning Farmer
- NIPF Socially Disadvantaged

Statewide Fund Pools-Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

AMA statewide fund pools for FY2025:

- High Tunnel Systems
- Irrigation (both micro and sprinkler)

Statewide Fund Pools-Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP statewide fund pools for FY2025:

- Beginning Farm-Ag Waste
- On Farm Energy
- Organic Initiative
- Socially Disadvantaged
- State Wildlife
- Tribal Projects
- Urban
- NWQI

Statewide Fund Pools-EQIP IRA

Climate Smart Agricultural and Forestry practices

- Forestry
- Agland (Crop, Pasture, Farmstead)

  Note: Wildlife practices are eligible in both pools
- Socially Disadvantaged
- Water Conservation (Irrigation)
- Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC)-focus on pastureland

Local Fund Pools

EQIP Local fund pools:

- Agricultural Waste
- Cropland
- Forestry
- Pasture

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for Inflation Reduction Act

  NRCS accepts applications year-round for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE). Interested producers, landowners, and partners should apply by **Dec. 20, 2024**, at their local NRCS office, to be considered for this state-led funding cycles.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program | Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Act Now: March 7, 2025

- Application Deadlines for **Fiscal Year 2026** (EQIP, AMA, CSP): Aug. 22, 2025

QUESTIONS?

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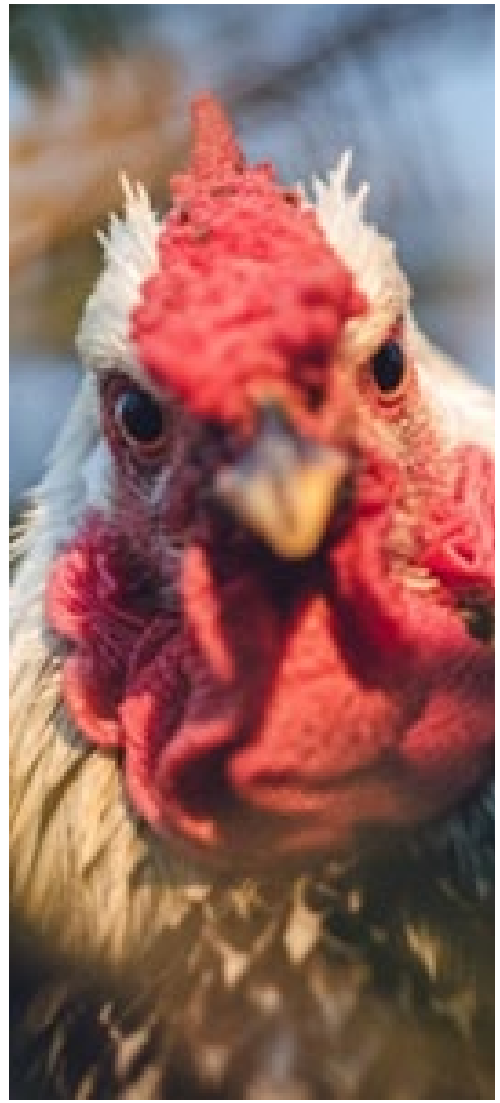
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

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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