



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Programs Team Report



12/05/2024 Leadership Report

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

Financial Assistance (FA) Farm Bill Programs FY2024 Results



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Agricultural Assistance Management Program (AMA)



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Final FY24 Farm Bill Obligations By Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Agricultural Assistance Management Program (AMA)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligated \$4,251,403 • Total Contacts 136 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligated \$190,790 • Total Contracts 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligation \$596,456 • Total Contracts 27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HU Contracts 89 (65%) • HU Obligation \$2,722,948 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HU Contracts 6 (54%) • HU Obligation \$99,467 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HU Contracts 15 (55%) • HU Obligation \$339,224

Final FY24 IRA Obligations By Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligated \$1,346,049 Total Contacts 94 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligation \$511,732 Total Contracts 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HU Contracts 42 (44%) HU Obligation \$611,875 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HU Contracts 10 (41%) HU Obligation \$213,694

Easement Programs FY2024 Results



**Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs –
Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)**



**Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs
–Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)**



**Regional Conservationist Partnership Program
(RCPP)**

FY 2024 Easement Obligations By Program

Agricultural Lands Easement Program (ALE)	Wetland Reserve Easement Program (WRE)
<p>Obligated \$621,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding in 2024 was used to obligate 1 new ALE parcel and to complete a modification (\$196,500) to an existing parcel based on the final appraisal	<p>Obligated \$297,707</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding in 2024 was used to obligate 4 restoration plans



RCPP-Forest Health Works

- **100% of funds anticipated to be obligated by the end of FY25**
- **US-Held Easements**
 - 4 easement applications obligated in FY24 totaling \$819,525
 - 30 applications totaling 1,727 acres
- **Entity Held Easements**
 - 7 applications
 - Applications from 5 land trusts
 - Applications totaling 168 acres
 - 5 application pre-selected, totaling 147 acres

ASTC-Programs Update FY25



Programmatic Updates

- Farm Bill payment limitation has been waived while we wait for a new Farm Bill
 - FY25 EQIP and CSP contracts **not** subject to *payment limitations* identified in the 2018 Farm Bill.
 - Regulatory contract limits still apply.
- **A new Farm Bill could change this guidance during the fiscal year.**

Programmatic Updates

- Conservation Stewardship Program has increased the minimum annual payment from \$1,500 to \$4,000.
- This change makes CSP more appealing to those smaller scale producers. They are more willing to implement activities on their farm to increase their stewardship level over the 5 years of the CSP contract.



Programmatic Updates

- Update to Historically Underserved (HU) definition for CSP and EQIP.
- Chief approved a waiver in July 2024 to expand the HU regulatory definitions which remove the barrier for these entities and ensures equal treatment in program delivery. The waiver only applied to entities without members or whose entities do not have an ownership interest in the organization.

FY 2025 Initial Allocations By Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Agricultural Assistance Management Program (AMA)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
<p style="text-align: center;">\$5,617,126</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$126,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$580,000</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of contracts to expend full allocation: 223 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of contracts to expend full allocation: 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of contracts to expend full allocation: 14

FY 2025 Initial IRA Allocations By Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
IRA EQIP \$5,397,195	IRA CSP \$933,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of contracts to expend full allocation: 165 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of contracts to expend full allocation: 35

District Allocations

- Each district (Northern, Southern & Eastern) will receive their own allocations for EQIP and CSP
- Allows each district to work with their Local Working Group to identify priorities

DISTRICT	EQIP	CSP
NORTHERN	35%	40%
EASTERN	30%	30%
SOUTHERN	35%	30%

District Allocations

Farm Bill District Allocation

Farm Bill Program	Northern	Eastern	Southern
CSP (Farm Bill)	\$96,515	\$82,726	\$96,515
EQIP (Farm Bill)	\$1,368,346	\$1,026,260	\$1,026,260

IRA District Allocation

IRA Program	Northern	Eastern	Southern
CSP (IRA)	\$248,209	\$212,750	\$248,209
EQIP (IRA)	\$804,579	\$603,434	\$603,434

- **NHQ Mandates:**
 - **BFR = 10%**
 - **SDFR = 10%**
 - **Livestock = 50%**
 - **Wildlife = 10%**

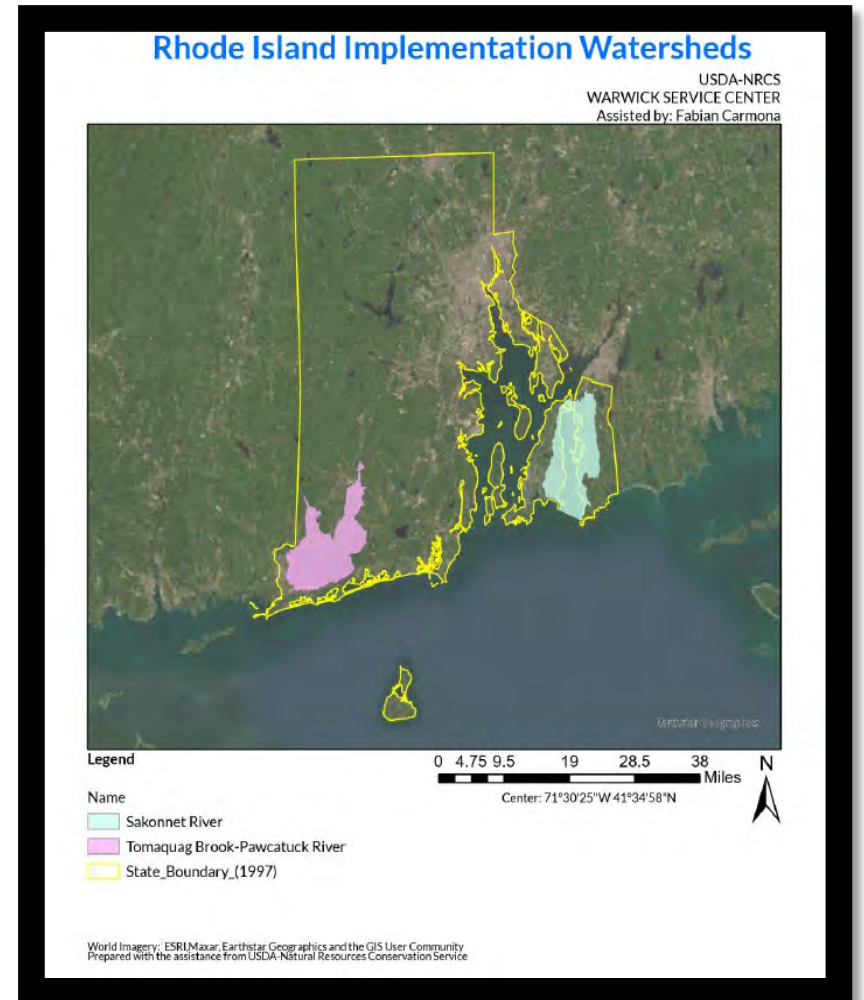
National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

- NWQI is a partnership among NRCS, state water quality agencies and the U.S. EPA to identify and address impaired water bodies through voluntary conservation.
- Two RI watersheds are eligible for NWQI funding
 - Sakonnet watershed
 - Tomaquag watershed (NEW! added in FY25)
- NWQI funding in RI is focused on:
 - Reducing concentrated erosion
 - Reducing field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
 - Storage and handling of pollutants
 - Reducing wind and water erosion



National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

- Eastern (Sakonnet watershed) allocated \$205,084
 - 10 contracts to spend funds
- Southern (Tomaquag watershed) allocated \$205,084
 - 10 contracts to spend funds



Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

- State-level competitions for projects that support early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. CIG state competitions fund projects that target state-identified conservation priorities.

Farm Bill Allocation	IRA Allocation
\$270,054	\$269,860
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovations that meet state initiatives (to be announced).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovations that meet state initiatives (to be announced).

Rhode Island's CIG applications will be announced via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) in February/March.

NEW RCPP: US-Held Easements for Farm Viability

- In partnership with RI DEM's Agricultural Land Preservation Commission (ALPC), RI NRCS will manage \$5.6 million for this new program.
- The goal of Rhode Island's new RCPP project is long term land protection through perpetual easements. This project will conserve prime and important farmland soils, terrestrial habitats and the wildlife that they support.
- First US-Held easement program for agricultural land easements in the nation.



FY 2025 Easement Farm Bill Allocations By Program

**Agricultural Lands
Easement Program
(ALE)**

Allocated \$556,074

**Wetland Reserve
Easement Program
(WRE)**

Allocated \$542,616

FY 2025 Easement IRA Allocations

**Agricultural Lands
Easement Program
(ALE)**

Allocated \$400,000

**Wetland Reserve
Easement Program
(WRE)**

Allocated \$1,542,310

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