



FY2026 Regenerative Pilot Program

Frequently Asked Questions

December 10, 2025

Q1. What is Regenerative Agriculture?

A1. Regenerative Agriculture is a conservation management approach that addresses natural resource concerns through soil health, water management, and biodiversity to promote the compatibility of food production and sustainability

Q2. What are the benefits of regenerative agriculture to producers and the land?

A2. Focusing on regenerative agriculture builds upon the NRCS' existing conservation work by helping producers enhance land health, improve long-term productivity, and build resilient, future-ready operations.

Q3. What kind of assistance does the Regenerative Pilot Program offer?

A3. The Regenerative Pilot Program will offer financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Q4. Where will the Regenerative Pilot Program be offered?

A4. All 50 states and territories will offer the Regenerative Pilot Program.

Q5. What percentage of funding should states dedicate to the Regenerative Pilot Program?

A5. States will set aside 25% of their EQIP and CSP financial assistance funding. Both technical and financial resources will be available to producers at all stages of implementing regenerative agriculture, from those just starting out to those further along in their practice.

Q6. What are the requirements for the Regenerative Pilot Program?

A6. The Regenerative Pilot Program has three requirements:

- Whole Farm Assessment: A complete assessment of all resource concerns is required, with the goal of establishing a whole farm plan before the end of the contract period. At a minimum, whole farm plans must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories. These plans may be developed by NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers.
 - Documenting planning criteria has been met is accomplished through CART by meeting or exceeding a Resource Concern's threshold, as calculated on the Results page.
 - Whole farm will be defined based on Program policy requirements: CSP policy requires all land that the operator has control of for 5 years to be a part of the



application and thus the whole farm plan. EQIP policy supports a subset of land under control of the operator/customer to be encompassed by the whole farm plan.

- **Primary Practices:** A list of primary practices and activities is included in 440 NI-307. At least one primary regenerative management practice must be included in the contract. All practices identified in the conservation plan will be eligible for financial assistance; however, producers may select which practices they want to include in the financial assistance application based on their goals and objectives.
- **Soil Health Testing:** Participants must agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes. Financial assistance for soil testing will be available to both producers who have not previously completed soil testing and producers who are already testing their soil.

Q7. What is the duration of an Regenerative Pilot Program contract?

A7. The contract length will be a minimum of 5 years.

Q8. If soil testing was already being conducted on the land in the operation, is the producer still eligible for the Regenerative Pilot Program?

A8. Yes, customers who are already doing soil health testing at the time of application are eligible. Under a contract through the pilot, customers will need to agree to continue testing at least in the first and last year of their contract and NRCS can cover the costs of the testing.

Q9. Which soil testing activity will be used under the Regenerative Pilot Program?

A9. For the required soil testing, CEMAs 216 - Soil Health Testing, will be used.

Q10. Will the Regenerative Pilot Program have a separate sign-up deadline from the nationally set January 15 deadline?

A10. A national deadline of January 15 was established due to the government shutdown to ensure farmers did not miss an opportunity to apply for financial assistance programs in fiscal year 2026. States will have an opportunity to announce additional application batching periods after January 15 that may include regenerative agriculture.