

## NRCS NEBRASKA

# BY THE NUMBERS | 2016



### SOIL

**280,000** acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality.



### WATER

**200,000** acres of improved irrigation efficiency.

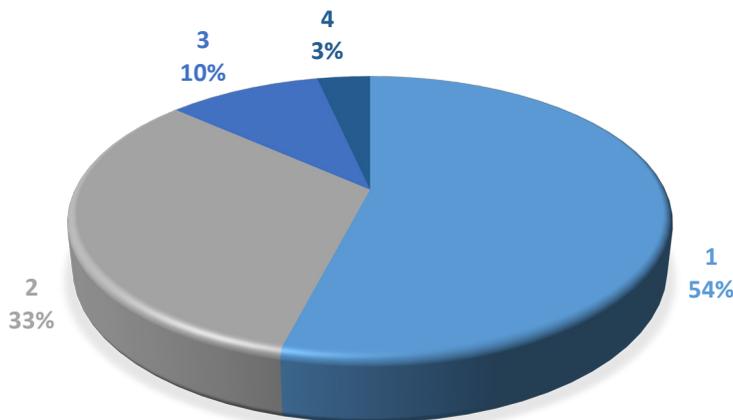


### LAND

**700,000** acres of grazing and forest land protected through conservation.

USDA's **Natural Resources Conservation Service** provided a wide range of programs and services to enable Nebraska landowners to implement conservation practices and management activities in 2016. According to NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson, these programs and services, and the partnership with the Natural Resources Districts, are providing Nebraska landowners with technical and financial resources to help them protect and improve soil, water and air quality, as well as wildlife habitat. NRCS staff worked with Nebraska's landowners to apply conservation plans on over 600,000 acres during fiscal year 2016.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NEBRASKA FARMERS AND RANCHERS BY PROGRAM



- 1 = Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- 2 = Conservation Stewardship Program
- 3 = Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- 4 = Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

# CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

New contracts: 707  
Acres: 285,426  
Obligated: \$17,348,195  
*(includes all EQIP initiatives)*

### EQIP Ogallala Aquifer Initiative

Contracts: 92  
Acres: 8,918  
Financial assistance: \$3,357,511

### EQIP National Water Quality Initiative

Contracts: 22  
Acres: 2,778  
Obligated: \$716,013

### EQIP Organic Initiative

Contracts: 3  
Acres: 1,621  
Obligated: \$185,671

### EQIP High Tunnel Initiative

Contracts: 16  
Acres: 39  
Obligated: \$81,401

## Conservation Stewardship Program

Contracts: 602  
Acres: 540,000  
Obligated: \$10,474,630

# 2014 FARM BILL PROGRAMS

The 2014 Farm Bill was enacted in February 2014. NRCS offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment. The following is a short description of each.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

## THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP)

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

## THE REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

Assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, and ACEP; and in certain areas the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.

Wondering about **Farm Bill 2014 programs?**  
Visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.

