

Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements

The purpose of Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements (CCGA) is to leverage NRCS and partner resources to:

1. Improve soil health.
2. Improve water quality.
3. Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern.
4. Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural lands.
5. Assist communities and groups to build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Emphasis placed on projects that:

1. Build technical capacity to implement Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
2. Build technical capacity of NRCS and partner field conservation employees.
3. Build the capacity of local partners to develop and implement effective projects.
4. Leverage non-Federal and non-government resources to achieve positive natural resources conservation outcomes.

There were 27 applications totaling approximately \$7.5 million. North Dakota was able to award approximately \$3 million to 12 partners under the grant opportunity. Partners include:

- Burleigh Co SCD - Burleigh Co Urban Conservation Initiative
- Cankdeska Cikana Community College
- Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resource Management and Sustainability (FARRMS)
- ND Department of Agriculture
- ND Forest Service
- ND Association of Soil Conservation Districts (NDASCD)
- ND Conservation District Employees Association
- ND State University
- North Central SCD
- Pheasants Forever
- Red River Basin Commission
- Turtle Mountain Community College

FY2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS NORTH DAKOTA



Top 10 Conservation Practices

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Fence (Facilitates prescribed grazing)
1.6 Million Feet
632 Applied</p> | <p>6. Nutrient Management
298 Thousand Acres
3,766 Applied</p> |
| <p>2. Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Establishments
1.4 Million Feet
534 Applied</p> | <p>7. Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced-Till No-Till
220 Thousand Acres
2,578 Applied
167 Thousand Acres
2,541 Applied</p> |
| <p>3. Livestock Pipelines (Facilitates prescribed grazing)
712 Thousand Feet
419 Applied</p> | <p>8. Integrated Pest Management
290 Thousand Acres
3,902 Applied</p> |
| <p>4. Conservation Crop Rotation
528 Thousand Acres
6315 Applied</p> | <p>9. Prescribed Grazing
135 Thousand Acre
1,514 Applied</p> |
| <p>5. Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Renovation
217 Thousand Feet
93 Applied</p> | <p>10. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
99 Thousand Acres
2,219 Applied</p> |

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

"In FY18, over 140 different conservation practices were utilized in North Dakota to treat resource concerns on crop and rangeland across the State. Identifying natural resource concerns through a voluntary locally led process works!

With staffing restrictions and over 92 million dollars in funding available for conservation, our field staff delivered again and again. Conservation planning was made a priority and our goals were not only met but exceeded!

Thank you North Dakota NRCS employees and partners who share the mission of Helping People Help the Land."

~Mary Podoll, State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

Financial Assistance

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is the largest voluntary conservation program in the Nation that 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 available.

\$4.2 Million | 530 thousand acres | 273 contracts

Renewals:
\$3.9 Million | 357 thousand acres | 161 contracts

\$65.6 Million - Total funds obligated to new and existing CSP contracts.

Water Bank Program

The purpose is to preserve and improve major wetlands as habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife, conserve surface waters, reduce runoff and soil and wind erosion, contribute to flood control, improve water quality, improve subsurface moisture and change the natural beauty of the landscape.

\$3.4 Million | 8 thousand acres | 44 contracts

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. With 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. The Wetlands Reserve Easements component helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

\$1.5 Million | 948 acres | 3 easements

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 and improve or create wildlife habitat. Projects include solar well systems, pipelines for livestock, high tunnel systems, irrigation systems and pollinator and wildlife habitat.

\$21.6 Million | 299 thousand acres | 625 contracts

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Seven RCPP funded PL-566 Watershed Planning efforts are underway in cooperation with the Red River Retention Authority and local Sponsors covering 1.1 million acres. Project watersheds include Upper Maple River and Rush River (Cass Co Joint WRD), N. Branch Park River (Park River Joint WRD), Shortfoot Creek (Sargent Co WRD), Forest River (Forest River Joint WRD), Tongue River (Pembina Co WRD), and N. Branch Antelope Creek (Richland Co WRD).

Planning goals include reducing flood related economic and natural resource damages within the watersheds, including:

- Crop losses due to inundation damages to planted crops, or delayed planting.
- Damages to roads, culverts, bridges, drainage control structures, and other infrastructure as well as disruptions to transportation.
- Erosion and sedimentation damages to farm fields and legal drains.
- Flooding of homes and businesses, both rural and in small towns within the watersheds.
- Degraded water quality due to nutrient and sediment transport off of cropland during floods.
- Loss of floodplain forestland, channel adjacent wetlands, and wildlife habitat due to channel instability.

Planning teams including representatives of the Sponsor, local landowners, and local, state, and federal government were assembled for each watershed. Planning is expected to be completed by the fall of 2019 with design and construction to follow.

Technical Assistance

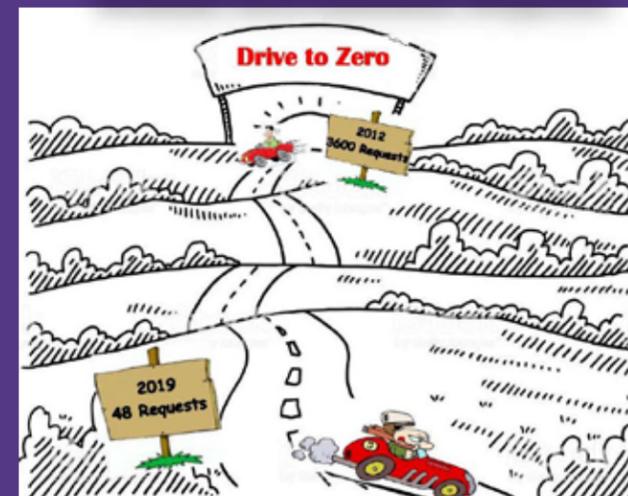
Conservation Planning

Conservation Planning First concept has continued to better serve our clientele with quality conservation plans that when contracted require minimal administration for plans changed, modifications to contracts and additional funding for the changes. In FY18 over 2,300 conservation plans were completed with 849,283 acres of cropland and 227,525 acres of rangeland applied.

Conservation Compliance

North Dakota agricultural producers have found that mitigation has been a favorable option for wetland management. In fiscal year 2018, 45 on-farm plans were completed with NRCS assistance. With the assistance of four engineering firms to augment mitigation planning efforts, an additional 75-80 plans have been completed.

Wetland Determination Requests



Soil Science

The Soil Science Division staff updated soil survey data affecting 337 thousand acres which is about 7.5 percent of North Dakota's 45 million acres. This will provide more accurate land management decisions and interpretations available to our customers through Web Soil Survey.

Soil Health education and outreach was provided worldwide by our ND NRCS Soil Health Specialist, Jay Fuhrer. Jay provided training across the U.S. and also to the countries of South Africa, Argentina, Canada, and Australia.

Plant Materials Center Irrigation Project

NRCS is nearing completion of a project to improve the reliability and efficiency of the irrigation system serving the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC), handlines at Lincoln Oakes Nursery, and solid set sprinklers at the City of Bismarck Cottonwood Park.

The pump site was moved to an easement granted on federal land on the Missouri River, owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and operated by the City of Bismarck.

The project entailed design and construction of a new seasonal floating pump station, 4 miles of buried 14-16" diameter PVC pipe, 2 linear move irrigation systems, and related valves/control systems. The linear move systems are equipped with zone control Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI), which will allow individual native grass plantings to be watered at rates that will maximize seed production while minimizing water and power use.

State of the art Irrigation Water Management (IWM) equipment, from several different suppliers in ND will be installed at the site to guide onsite irrigation. Once the system is fully up and running, it is anticipated that it will also serve as an ideal training center for state of the art Advanced IWM and VRI technology for NRCS, SWCD, and interested private irrigators.



Contractors, Weiss & Sons, Inc., installing and burying PVC irrigation pipeline on US Army Corps of Engineers easement.