

Conservation Innovation Grants: 2019 Report to Congress

A Report to Congress
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Conservation Innovation Grants 2019 Report to Congress

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Introduction

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) celebrated its 15th consecutive year in 2018. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers this critical program for supporting cutting-edge innovations to address natural resource challenges on private lands.

This biennial report briefly describes the history of CIG and how the program is managed. Most of the report is devoted to a discussion of the 2017 and 2018 National CIG competitions, program improvements undertaken by the agency, and a survey of compelling CIG project results and successes. For the first time, this Congressional report also includes information on the CIG State component, highlighting data from 2014–18.

Program History

For over 80 years, NRCS has provided science-based, technically sound and proven conservation practices, advice, and alternatives to America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or manage private agricultural and forest land. Since launching the CIG program in 2004, the agency has used the program to partner with Tribes, universities, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations, for-profit companies, and more to support innovative approaches and technologies through on-farm demonstrations, field tests, and producer outreach efforts. Some of the supported innovations are designed to be ultimately incorporated into NRCS's foundation of science-based tools and guidance. Others are designed to help third parties complement NRCS's mission by finding new ways to get more conservation on the ground.

Through the first 15 years of CIG, NRCS advertised competitive grant availability and awarded over \$297 million to fund 732 projects through the program's national component (fig. 1 and table 1). Each grant requires a matching commitment from NRCS partners, leveraging NRCS funding and roughly doubling the total investment.

Program Authority

Section 2301 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171), amended section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198) to establish the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program with funding from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Section 2509 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), section 2207 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), and section 2307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) reauthorized CIG.

Figure 1: Total number of proposals received, and grants awarded through the CIG national component.

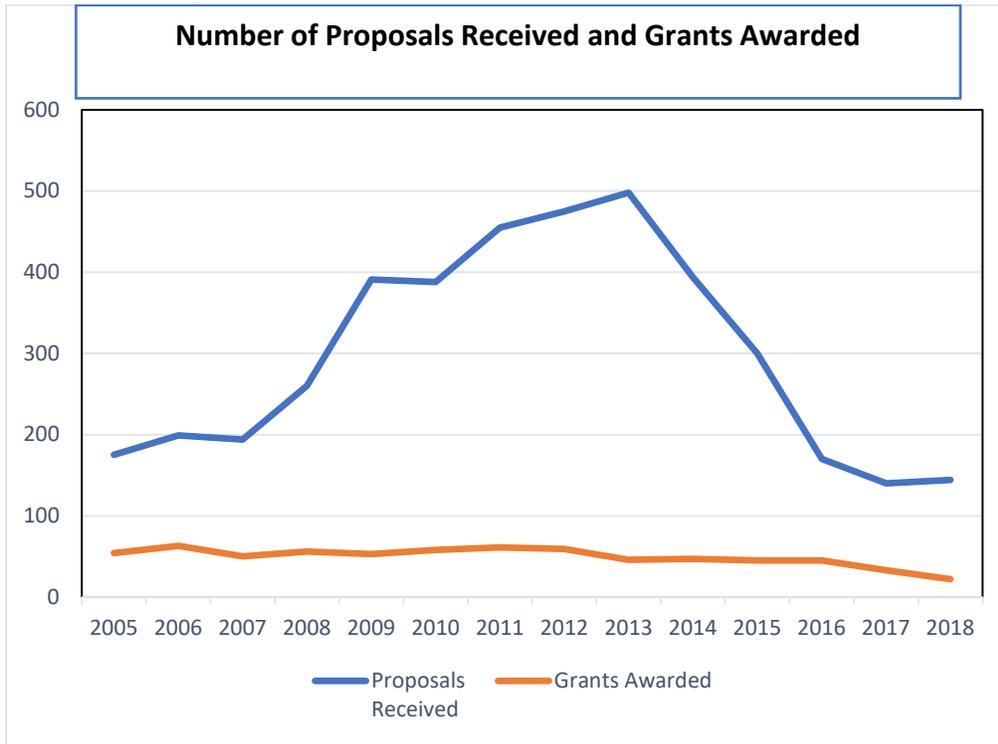


Table 1: CIG national component information.

Fiscal year	Proposals received	Grants awarded	Funding requested (millions)	Funding awarded (millions)
2004	148	40	\$55.0	\$14.2
2005	175	54	70.7	19.2
2006	199	63	75.4	19.3
2007	194	50	121.3	19.0
2008	260	56	90.7	18.9
2009	391	53	170.2	18.0
2010	388	58	221.8	17.7
2011	455	61	176.8	29.9
2012	475	59	194.3	26.1
2013	498	46	196.6	18.7
2014	394	47	166.2	15.8
2015	300	45	119.0	20.5
2016	170	45	101.5	26.6
2017	140	33	82.0	22.6
2018	144	22	77.1	10.6
Total	4,331	732	\$1,918.6	\$297.1

The downward trend in the number of proposals received, beginning in 2013, is the result of NRCS narrowing the focus of the program to high priority conservation priorities. These focal priorities are unique to each year and alternated through subsequent years solicitations. In addition, NRCS streamlined the proposal submission process to move from a pre-proposal/full proposal process to one that only requires a full proposal. This change was necessary to increase efficiencies to improve timeliness of proposal selections. See Appendix B for a list of the program priorities by FY2013-2018.

Program Summary

For the national component, NRCS annually sets aside some amount of EQIP funding (determined by the NRCS Chief) and publishes a funding announcement that identifies national priorities and the amount of funding available for the year. At the State level, each NRCS State office may choose to use up to five percent of its EQIP allocation to administer a State-level CIG competition. Each year, between 15–25 States choose to run their own competitions, which can target funding to State priorities. State component grants are limited to \$75,000 while the maximum grant size for the national component (currently set at \$2 million) is set each year by the NRCS Chief.

Proposed projects must involve farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners eligible to participate in EQIP. To encourage participation of historically underserved producers (including beginning; military veteran; and limited resource farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners), as well as American Indian Tribes, up to 10 percent of CIG national competition funds each year are set aside for applicants, or entities who work with producers, who qualify in those categories.

Peer review panels for the national component generally consist of NRCS technical experts and technical specialists from other Federal agencies. Technical peer review panelists evaluate and rank all eligible proposals within the focal conservation priorities based on the CIG proposal evaluation criteria specified in the funding announcement.

Peer panel recommendations are sent to the Grants Review Board, which consists of NRCS national leaders. The Grants Review Board considers comments from NRCS State Conservationists and ensures the peer panel recommendations are consistent with program objectives and meet the agency's goals for geographic diversity. The Grants Review Board then forwards its recommendations to the NRCS Chief for final review and selection.

After the Chief of NRCS announces the awardees, a grant agreement is negotiated and signed with each CIG awardee. CIG agreements are administered in accordance with 2 CFR 200, Federal regulation on grant management, and the NRCS Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements Handbook.

Selected applicants may receive CIG grants of up to 50 percent of their total project cost. CIG recipients must match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with any combination of cash and in-kind contributions. Grantees must also provide the technical assistance to complete the project successfully.

Experts from NRCS's National Headquarters and State offices, or one of the three national technology support centers are assigned to serve as technical specialists for CIG projects

throughout the life of the project. The technical contacts specialize in fields relevant to the grant activity, provide support for issues and concerns, and track project milestones with grantees. Technical contacts also complete project evaluations and recommend whether additional actions are needed to disseminate project results or to develop supplementary documents or products.

CIG State Component

The CIG State component is managed differently from the national component. The state priorities, number of CIG awards, and the amount of funding provided at the State level varies from year-to-year, as determined by the state conservationist in consultation with the State Technical Committee. As stated above, States choose each year whether to hold a State competition and how much of their EQIP allocation to offer (up to 5 percent). Below are the totals since fiscal year 2014 (table 2).

Table 2: Total annual awards for State CIG Projects

Year	Number of Awards	CIG Funding Amount
2014	69	\$4,386,000
2015	44	2,630,300
2016	39	2,553,800
2017	77	5,003,700
2018	59	3,920,200

State-award data prior to 2014 is incomplete. For the first 10 years of the program, CIG National Headquarters staff did not maintain State award and project information. The USDA Office of Inspector General program audit (discussed later) called for improved integration of the State component into CIG writ large. As discussed in more detail in the Program Improvements section below, improved integration of the State component began in 2017 and is continuing.

The 2017 National CIG Competition

In June 2017, NRCS selected 33 awards totaling more than \$22.6 million for the 2017 National CIG competition (see appendix A for a list and brief summaries of the awarded projects). These awards were divided among the six priorities that had been identified in the national funding announcement. The six 2017 priorities were—

- Historically underserved producer or veteran farmers or ranchers,
- Data analytics,
- Pay-for-success approaches,
- Precision conservation,
- Conservation finance, and
- On-farm water management.

The 2018 National CIG Competition

In July 2018, NRCS announced that the agency awarded \$10.6 million to 22 projects through its 2018 National CIG competition (see appendix A for a list and brief summaries of the awarded projects). The three topic areas chosen for 2018 were—

- Soil health,
- Grazing lands, and

- Organic agriculture systems.

NRCS made substantial changes in its approach to managing the program in 2018. Below are brief descriptions of the two most influential changes:

- 1) Offered up to \$10 million through the 2018 national CIG competition, which is half the usual available funding. This was an effort to focus priorities for innovation and improve program management, project oversight, and avoid duplicative awards assessing the same conservation technology or innovation. Currently, there are over 140 active national CIG projects. It was not uncommon in recent years for NRCS to support 40–50 national awards each year. NRCS is evaluating whether the economies of scale can improve effectiveness of the grants selected through CIG.
- 2) To improve the agency’s ability to help deliver project results, national CIG staff took steps to increase the integration of NRCS technical experts into the CIG grants management process. CIG staff worked closely with NRCS’s national technical discipline leaders to develop the 2018 priorities that were ultimately approved by the NRCS Chief. These same discipline leaders led the peer review process to evaluate CIG applications, and they played a large role in the success of the first ever CIG orientation workshop for new CIG awardees. By building relationships and allowing for NRCS input at the outset of CIG projects, NRCS technical experts are more engaged and are committed to ensuring that projects produce value for the agency, its customers, and stakeholders.

Program Improvements, 2016–2018

Beginning in December 2016, CIG staff initiated a concerted program improvement effort that encompasses all aspects of the program. The major changes implemented since then make the CIG program more customer-focused and results-oriented. The initiatives and positive outcomes include—

- **Making Customer Service Job #1**
Establishing a shared program inbox and an agreement modifications tracker ensure that grantee communications receive a prompt response and that grantee requests are processed within a reasonable timeframe. CIG staff developed new grantee guidance and updated the CIG website to make program guidance and forms more accessible to grantees and applicants.
- **Improving Oversight and Accountability**
CIG staff, starting in October 2017, implemented new accountability procedures to ensure that grantees out of compliance with their reporting, or other requirements of their grant agreements, are not eligible for payments. Staff developed and implemented a new file management system to better track document flow associated with CIG program management and project implementation.
- **Focusing on Program Results**
For the first time, CIG staff developed a database of project deliverables and results that includes the recording of lasting impacts of relevant projects. Staff also streamlined the project evaluation process and began researching the CIG historical record to unearth previously unexamined project results.
- **Communicating Program Value**
CIG staff embarked on an effort to improve program communications. A quarterly Conservation Innovations newsletter, launched in late 2017, provides information about

the program and highlights CIG project results. CIG staff established a database to identify project successes and press coverage.

- **Integrating National and State Components**

In most years, more CIG awards are made at the State level than at the national level. Several improvements were made to increase oversight, provide additional guidance, and gain increased awareness of CIG activities at the State level. First, a national CIG staff member is assigned to serve as the program point of contact for State CIG staff. Second, for the first time in over a decade, all CIG staff from around the country gathered for a two-day workshop in February 2018. Third, national CIG staff created a procedure for tracking and saving data on all State CIG projects and reinvigorated a process for capturing these projects' progress and results. Finally, national CIG staff began to integrate State CIG successes into programmatic communications, including the quarterly newsletter.

USDA Office of Inspector General Audit

In February 2017, USDA's Office of Inspector General initiated an audit of the CIG program (Audit Report 10099-0001-23). Released in September 2018, the audit analyzed program activities in fiscal years 2014–16. The audit called on NRCS to improve accountability and oversight of CIG projects and agreements, develop policy for verifying expenditures of grantee matching funds, reduce payment processing time, and develop an agency conflict of interest policy.

Due in part to program improvements initiated in late 2016, the agency made substantial progress in responding to OIG's findings. Several audit recommendations were addressed, and implementation of corrective actions continues.

2018 Farm Bill

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CIG and made several changes to the program by adding—

- Development of innovative practices for urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural operations as an eligible use of the program.
- Use of edge-of-field and other monitoring practices on farms as an eligible use of the program.
- A new component, On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (which includes the Soil Health Demo Trial).
- A requirement for USDA to develop a conservation practice database.

2019 CIG Competitions

On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials)

The first ever On-Farm Trials funding announcement was posted to Grants.gov on May 15, 2019. The announcement makes available to eligible entities up to \$25 million for the following priorities:

- Irrigation management
- Precision agriculture
- Management strategies and technologies
- Soil health management systems (billed as the Soil Health Demo Trial)

The deadline for proposals was July 15, 2019.

Conservation Innovation Grants National Component

The 2019 National CIG competition was posted to Grants.gov on May 30, 2019. The announcement makes available up to \$12.5 million for the following national priorities:

- Increasing the pace and scale of conservation adoption
- Water quantity
- Pollinator habitat
- Urban agriculture

The deadline for proposals was July 30, 2019.

NRCS anticipates making award announcements for both competitions during the first quarter FY2020.

Conservation Innovation Grants State Component

As of June 17, 2019, 27 NRCS State offices announced the availability of State-level CIG funding, with a total of \$6,750,000 available across the 27 States. The states and areas that held State-level CIG competitions were Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and the Caribbean Area.

APPENDIX A: CIG Results Through the Years

Below are highlights of recently completed and active CIG projects that were not previously described in the 2016 CIG Congressional report.

- Funded by a 2015 CIG award, Farmland LP, a farmland fund manager, developed a method for estimating the social and environmental impacts of a specific conservation-based farming method which they used on their own holdings. Released in September 2018, the [announcement of the CIG final report](#) was picked up by over 700 media outlets. The report noted that Farmland LP's first fund (which raised approximately \$85 million) generated a financial return of 67 percent, but also \$21.4 million in ecosystem service value, which accrues to the surrounding communities and environment. Farmland LP estimated that under conventional management practices, the same farms would have caused a negative \$8.5 million in ecosystem harm over the same period. The report provides hard numbers and rigorous methodology for the thesis that conservation-based or regenerative farming can have a positive impact on the environment and an operation's bottom line.
- Another 2015 CIG project, led by the Oregon Climate Trust, supported the [establishment of a Working Lands Carbon Fund](#). The funding was used to develop a transparent legal and financial framework for the fund which could serve as a model for any organization looking to catalyze climate mitigation investments. The framework allowed for the development of Climate Trust Capital's Fund I, a \$5.5 million carbon offset investment fund which provides upfront capital for the development of carbon credits on working lands. Fund I was launched in October 2016, supported by an investment from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Fund I invests in forestry, grassland conservation, and livestock digester carbon projects in return for partial ownership of the resulting carbon credits. Models like the Working Lands Carbon Fund hold significant potential for investors interested in conservation impacts while providing a new source of income and capital for stewardship-minded landowners.
- A [2017 CIG project led by Sustainable Conservation](#) is developing an innovative subsurface drip irrigation/manure technology that dairy farmers can use to water and fertilize (using manure nutrients) their fields. An initial pilot had shown promising results, leading to a 38 percent increase in water-use efficiency, a 52 percent increase in nitrogen use efficiency and a 15 percent increase in corn yield on a 40-acre field. The CIG funding allowed Sustainable Conservation to scale up the effort to three different farms, each operating in California counties with widespread nitrate contamination in ground water. Should the scaled-up pilot produce similar results as the initial farm tests, this new technology could be integrated into NRCS financial assistance programs.
- A [2017 State CIG project led by Virginia Tech](#) is exploring the use of a bucket grinder to remove bones from large animal mortality compost on 100 farms in Virginia. There is currently no commercial equipment available for bone screening. Leaving bones in compost is problematic for spreading the material on fields. The project aims both to demonstrate to agribusiness that a commercial solution is economically feasible, and to show farmers that screening bones from compost piles makes the practice more likely to be successful.
- [With a 2016 Conservation Innovation Grant \(CIG\) award to Greenprint Partners](#), a vacant lot in downtown Peoria, Illinois has been transformed into Well Farm, an urban forest and working farm that also serves as green infrastructure. The site covers 1.5 acres and is

engineered and contoured to optimize stormwater management, capturing water and redirecting it to vegetable beds and a plot of fast-growing hybrid poplars. Greenprint Partners engaged with the local community from the project's inception and hopes that the project can serve as a green infrastructure and urban agriculture model for cities throughout the country.

- In 2014, the City of Griswold, Iowa was faced with high nitrate levels in their drinking water, forcing them to make changes to their drinking water system. Finding a cost-effective solution was imperative for this small town of only 1,000 people. The town engaged local farmers and together they developed a plan to increase the adoption rate of cover crops in the draw zones of their municipal well field. A [2014 State CIG award](#) provided for the planning and financial assistance. Monitoring before and during the project confirmed significant nitrate reductions in the city's raw water supply. This project serves as a successful case study for how small communities can use cover crop management to reduce nitrates in municipal wells. Today, several years after the completion of that project, farmers are still planting cover crops on 75 percent of the well capture zone for Griswold. The statewide average cover crop adoption rate is 3 percent.
- The New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team received a [2013 New Jersey State CIG](#) award to facilitate an Early Detection/Rapid Response strategy to stop the spread of emerging invasive species in New Jersey's natural and agricultural systems. The CIG funding was used to develop an app called "NJ Invasives" and a web program called "IPC Connect New Jersey," which empower small-scale producers and forest owners to easily and inexpensively report invasive species they come across during their everyday work. The system allows for a rapid response to newly discovered and localized populations of invasive species which is critical to slow their spread. The app and web-based program were successfully deployed and are used by producers with thousands of records already added to the database.
- A 2014 [Conservation Innovation Grant \(CIG\) project led by Hood River County](#) for the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers focused on improving air quality by increasing the use of burn boxes when discarding pruned orchard wood. By 2015, Oregon fruit growers in the Hood River Valley stopped burning their orchard pruning wood in open piles and began safely and cleanly burning the wood in an innovative air curtain burner or burn box. The burn box produces almost no smoke and significantly reduces the amount of airborne particulates. Data gathered during the project showed discernible improvements to air quality. In 2015 alone, Hood River fruit growers eliminated about 1.35 tons of particulate matter by using burn boxes instead of open-pile burning. Because of the successful demonstration, financial assistance for burn box technology is now available to producers through EQIP's Air Quality Initiative.
- A recently completed CIG project by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) provides detailed information on the economic impact of using cover crops and no-till farming to help ensure soil surfaces are covered year-round. Adoption of no-till practices and cover crops by farmers can sometimes hinge on how these practices impact a farm operation's bottom line. NACD partnered with Datu Research LLC on the project, documenting case studies. Over 3 years, four corn and soybean farmers tested cover crops and/or no-till practices and calculated annual changes between their farming costs relative to a pre-adoption baseline. Net farm income increased up to \$110 per acre with adoption, with the costs of implementing the practices offset by reductions in input costs,

erosion repair costs and increases in yields. While the project was only a snapshot of farm operations, it adds to a growing body of evidence that the adoption of soil health systems and practices can result in more money in a farmer's pocket. The case studies are available on the [NACD website](#).

- In 2014, [with the support of a CIG award](#), the First Nations Development Institute developed a conservation planning process that was piloted on fourteen acres of land newly opened for development. This project, driven by Navajo Nation producers, provided an opportunity to generate a shared vision of land management strategies that promote wise stewardship of natural resources and serve as an affirmation of Navajo culture and traditional farming practices. Navajo Nation members were trained on conservation strategies and completed their own conservation plans. The process was documented and templates were developed to encourage replication by other Tribal producers. To date, using the process developed under the CIG grant, four Tribal producers have been awarded EQIP contracts to help finance conservation improvements on Navajo Nation lands. In addition, the “Conservation Planning Guide for Native Ranchers” was published and is currently used by NRCS, the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Navajo Nation. The guide is available as a free resource on the [First Nations Development Institute website](#).
- A recent CIG project led by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) ensures NRCS field staff are better prepared to work with organic producers, a growing segment of farmers. Through this study NCAT worked with ten other sustainable and organic agricultural organizations to review conservation practices for possible unintentional barriers that could limit the participation of or accessibility to organic producers. The team developed recommendations for changes to 15 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) conservation enhancements and the addition of one new CSP enhancement. The team also trained farmers and NRSC field staff through 10 webinars, 5 in-person trainings, and a published [guidebook](#) for NRCS field staff working with organic and transitioning-to-organic farmers and ranchers. This CIG project improves the accessibility and relevance of NRCS programs for organic producers, helping NRCS address the unique needs of organic systems.
- Two consecutive CIG projects, starting in 2011, developed the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF), a versatile tool enabling communities across the United States to improve the health of their waterways. The Environmental Defense Fund collaborating with the USDA Agricultural Research Service integrated precision conservation and watershed planning with GIS and simulation modeling software to allow for conservation planning that can be scaled up from a single farm to a full watershed. The customizable framework allows multiple conservation scenarios to be modeled, allowing multiple views on how practices would affect nutrient movement and thus their potential to minimize impact to waterbodies.

Currently, the ACPF is being used in hundreds of watersheds. ACPF data is available for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and parts of Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. A pilot project in the western Lake Erie basin is underway to expand the ACPF into the eastern Corn Belt. To learn more about the ACPF please visit their [website](#).

- A [2017 CIG award to California chapter of The Nature Conservancy](#) is developing the State's first ground water market under the new California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The market will allow farmers that reduce their ground water consumption to sell the saved water to other users willing to pay more than crop sales would generate. The small pilot program, if successful, can serve as a model for the rest of the State and provide a new income stream for California farmers.
- A [2013 State CIG award to Penn State University](#) explored the dangers of using recycled gypsum as bedding for dairy cows. The gypsum, when loaded into manure storage facilities as soiled bedding and then agitated, can off-gas deadly hydrogen sulfide. Several human and cattle deaths were blamed on sulfate poisoning, which led Penn State to apply for a grant to understand the chemical processes and devise a potential solution. The project resulted in identification of several chemicals that when added to the manure slurry could reduce or even eliminate the dangerous hydrogen sulfide gas.

To see additional CIG projects please refer to the [2016 Report to Congress on Program Effectiveness](#).

APPENDIX B: CIG Priorities Listed in Funding Announcements (FY2013-2018)

2013

1. National Category
 - a. Program Outreach
 - b. Nutrient Management
 - c. Energy Conservation
 - d. Soil Health
 - e. Wildlife
 - f. Economics
 - g. Co-Management for Food Safety
 - h. CIG Projects Assessment
2. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Category
 - a. On-farm demonstration and evaluation of recently revised P indices for use in nutrient management
 - b. Evaluation of the sociological/economic/farm management barriers to adoption
 - c. On-farm evaluation and demonstration of filtration technologies for treating barnyard runoff.
 - d. Demonstrate and quantify the efficacy of drainage management on the Coastal Plain
 - e. Projects designed to stimulate the development of water quality trading markets in the Bay Watershed.
3. Mississippi River Basin Category
 - a. Program Outreach
 - b. Water Management
 - c. Soil Health
 - d. Vegetative Practices
 - e. Nutrient Management
 - f. Adaptive Management

2014

1. Projects Benefitting Historically Underserved Producers, Indian Tribes, or Organizations Comprised of or Representing these Individuals or Entities (i.e. Outreach)
2. Nutrient Management
3. Energy Conservation
4. Soil Health
5. Air Quality and Atmospheric Change
6. Wildlife
7. Economics and Sociology
8. Environmental Markets
9. Co-Management for Food Safety
10. CIG Projects Assessment

2015

1. Environmental Markets and Finance; Greenhouse Gas Markets, Environmental Markets for Water, and Impact Investments in Working Lands Conservation

2. Natural Resources
 - a. Projects Benefitting Historically Underserved Producers, Veteran Farmers or Ranchers, or Organizations Comprised of or Representing these Individuals or Entities (i.e. Outreach)
 - b. Air Quality
 - c. Soil Health
 - d. Aquatic Resources
 - e. Economics and Sociology
 - f. Organic Operation Technologies
 - g. Wildlife
 - h. Water Quantity
 - i. Nutrient Management and Water Quality
 - j. Energy Conservation
 - k. Co-Management for Food Safety
 - l. Herbicide Weed Resistance

2016

1. Projects that describe innovative environmental enhancement and protection approaches and technologies for the primary benefit of historically underserved producers, veteran farmers or ranchers, or organizations comprised of or representing these individuals or entities.
2. Projects that develop, demonstrate and/or quantify the impacts of innovative conservation systems (and their component practices or approaches) in an agricultural setting that improve/protect ground and/or surface water quality.
3. Projects that demonstrate the cost effectiveness of leveraged public/private impact investments in working lands conservation.

2017

1. Historically underserved producer or veteran farmers or ranchers.
2. Data analytics for natural resources conservation.
3. Pay-for-success models to stimulate conservation adoption.
4. Precision conservation approaches.
5. Projects that demonstrate the cost effectiveness of leveraged public and private impact investments in working lands conservation; Climate or green bonds, Sustainable agricultural investments, Sustainable forestry investments, and Green infrastructure investments.
6. Water management technologies and approaches to maximize agricultural production efficiency and minimize off-site impacts.

2018

1. Grazinglands; *Grazing System Evaluation and Analysis, Improving Ecosystem Function and Resilience through Prescribed Burning Programs, and Grazingland Information Access Systems*
2. Organic Agriculture Systems
3. Soil Health; *Soil Health Management Systems and Soil Health Assessments*