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USDA Awards More Than Half a Million Dollars to Support Wetland Mitigation Banking in Georgia

ATHENS, GA, September 28, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it will award \$546,901 for a new wetland mitigation banking project in Georgia through the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program. This program helps conservation partners develop or establish mitigation banks to help agricultural producers maintain eligibility for USDA programs.

“These wetlands will provide agriculture producers an affordable mitigation option to remain in compliance for USDA Farm Bill programs while establishing more banks that support wetland functions,” said State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph. “Healthy wetlands help filter our water, sequester carbon, curb soil loss, and provide habitat for wildlife.”

In Georgia, The CORBLU Ecology Group, LLC is expanding its [existing agricultural wetland mitigation bank acreage](#) by restoring a 40-acre site that has been secured from a historically underserved landowner. Additional sites will be pursued following the restoration of the secured site.

Wetland mitigation banks create credits through the restoration, creation, or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for impacts on wetlands at other locations. Most wetland mitigation banks, however, serve the development community and are not affordable to agricultural producers.

Producers seeking benefits through most USDA programs must comply with wetland conservation provisions by affirming they will not impact wetlands on their lands. In situations where avoidance or on-site mitigation is challenging, the Farm Bill allows producers to mitigate their conversion activities off-site through the purchase of mitigation banking credits.

This competitive grant program helps states, local governments, and other qualified partners develop wetland mitigation banks to assist agricultural producers with meeting the wetland conservation compliance requirements and remain eligible for USDA programs.

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Nationally, USDA will award \$5 million for eight wetland mitigation banking projects across the country.

Projects and partners in others state include:

- EnviroScience in Ohio
- Iowa Agricultural Mitigation, Inc.
- Magnolia and Partners, LLC in Illinois
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Milton Environmental Consultants in Arkansas
- South Dakota Farm Bureau

For project descriptions and more information, visit the [Wetland Mitigation Banking Program webpage](#).

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