NRCS in a Nutshell:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is best known by its acronym, "NRCS." NRCS is a federal agency under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). NRCS has local field office employees that work directly with farmers and ranchers to provide technical expertise and sometimes even financial assistance on conservation and management of natural resources.

- They work with farmers and ranchers to provide one-on-one personalized advice to find the best solutions for their business goals.
- Their assistance is FREE.
- They provide land management recommendations and alternatives for farmers and ranchers to consider implementing, if they so choose.

NRCS Services

NRCS provides recommendations on the management and conservation of the natural resources found on your land. For example, if you are trying to improve your land for grazing, NRCS can offer recommendations on:

- Proper seedbed preparation, planting dates, planting rates, application of soil amendments and fertilizer management, control of weeds and rotational grazing.
- We can visit you on your land and talk to you about any agricultural concern you may have.

Your Land - Your Plan

NRCS can help you develop a conservation plan based on your land management goals that will include maps, soils information, and any other pertinent information that can help you protect and maximize your land’s resources.

If there is funding for some of the conservation practices you are planning to install, then our staff will discuss these opportunities with you. Financial assistance applications are taken year round, but funding is only available during certain periods of the year based on the funding provided through the Farm Bill to USDA.
NRCS Terminology Explained

NRCS staff are soil scientists, engineers, and rangeland management specialists that understand natural resources and how they interact, but sometimes that terminology gets confusing. Never be afraid to ask your NRCS representative to explain something in a different way so you can understand it. But for starters here are a few of their commonly used terms explained:

**Technical Assistance**
This is a term they use to refer to the personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to help farmer and rancher's make informed decisions. Examples of technical assistance might be help determining the best grasses to plant, where to install a livestock pond or options to improve soil health.

**Financial Assistance**
Monetary help or aid from NRCS to establish conservation practices. Financial assistance comes from the conservation programs funded through the Farm Bill.

**Conservation Practice**
A "practice" is a land management tool that is designed to prevent or reduce soil erosion, prevent or reduce non-point source water pollution, or achieve or maintain compliance with soil and water conservation standards.

**Conservation Plan**
This is a document that identifies the conservation objectives related to soil, water, animals, plants, air, energy, and human interaction on a farmer or rancher's property. It is written in a clear, step-by-step format that meets each farmer or rancher's needs and goals. Farmers and ranchers choose options that suit their circumstances and time schedule. This plan is FREE and implemented on a voluntary basis.

**Natural Resources**
Materials from the earth that are used to support life like soil, air, water, plants, and animals.

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**Examples of Conservation Practices:**
- High Tunnels
- Range Planting
- Brush Management
- Livestock Pipeline
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management

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Want to know more about working with the NRCS?
It’s a simple process, You can:
- Contact NRCS staff in the county where your land is located.
- Find the office location by going to our directory: https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator
- Call the office and ask questions over the phone.
- Make an appointment to have someone visit your land.

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