In FY2021, Tennessee NRCS had a busy and productive year delivering and implementing Farm Bill conservation programs to producers, partners, and local communities across the state.

Last year, Tennessee NRCS:
- Treated over 447,000 acres of land to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion, which exceeded the FY2020 target for Conservation Technical Assistance.
- Exceeded the National FY21 target of 87 percent for contract implementation ratio. Tennessee achieved 90.5 percent contract implementation ratio.
- Completed 1,022 highly erodible land conservation determinations and 277 wetland conservation determinations.
- Obligated $1.1 million in Seasonal High Tunnels for 109 contracts.
- Exceeded the National target of 58 percent funding obligated towards Livestock and 12 percent towards Wildlife.

In FY 21, Tennessee NRCS received a total of 21 proposals for competitive funded agreements in the categories of Conservation, Urban Conservation, and Collaborative Outreach. Of the 21 proposals received, 13 proposals were selected for a total funding amount of more than $600,000.

In addition, Tennessee graduated seven participants of the Louisiana-Mississippi-Tennessee Southeast Leadership Development Program. This program provides a unique developmental opportunity for NRCS employees of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, who have the potential and desire to pursue greater leadership responsibility.

NRCS continues to focus on conservation priorities and provide excellent customer service to producers across the state. Through the hard work and dedication of more than 225 employees, Tennessee NRCS continues to help put conservation on the ground and is excited about the successes that FY 2022 will bring.

FY 2021 Accomplishments

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FY 2021 Program Highlights

Last year, approximately $60 million was obligated in Farm Bill funding and $26.7 million in technical assistance to help Tennessee land users, units of local and state government, communities, and other Federal agencies with planning and implementing conservation systems.
66 hires were made in FY21.

Visit our website at: www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov

About Our Programs...

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to help install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

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.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - This program provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. ACEP contains an Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and a Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - RCPP is merit-based and targets specific vulnerable areas and is administered through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

NRCS — Who We Are...What We Do

Simply put—NRCS in Tennessee helps American farmers make conservation work for them through its science-based conservation planning and implementation. The system of practices we promote helps farmers improve production, reduce input costs, and conserve natural resources for the future. We also provide financial resources to help with the costs involved with getting conservation on the ground and improving soil health, water and air quality, and other natural resource benefits.

As of January 2021, there were 225 NRCS employees working in 72 USDA Service Centers, four Area Offices, and the Nashville State Office. A total of 66 hires were made in FY21. NRCS partnerships included 12 active contribution, cooperative, and grant agreements totaling $2.9 million that supported an estimated 64 field positions.

Our Earth Team Volunteers were also instrumental in helping us put conservation on the ground with volunteers donating hundreds of hours of their time to help Tennessee NRCS in its volunteer efforts and meet its mission of helping people help the land. These dedicated volunteers work with our conservation partners on private lands to improve soil quality, conserve water, improve air quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

NRCS is helping to ensure the health of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of American agriculture. Our Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is the foundation of our financial and technical assistance delivery system. It provides land users with proven conservation technology needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. According to numerous agricultural resources, Tennessee has roughly 26 million acres of land, of which 89 percent is privately owned. Furthermore, 11 million acres—or 42 percent—are farmlands.

Our Vision
A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

Our Mission
We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Tennessee Goals
FY 2021

Implement 2018 Farm Bill
Increase participation in Local Work Groups and State Technical Committee meetings
Continue to be technically sound in delivering conservation to our producers
Use technology to increase efficiencies
Maintain the Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee Southeast Leadership Development Program
Expand our conservation partnerships
Continue to promote and elevate Soil Health activities across Tennessee
Increase program participation of Historically Underserved, Beginning, Veteran and Women Farmers
Train and mentor NRCS employees and partners
Continue to be visible and tell our story

Our Vision
Throughout Tennessee’s 95 diverse counties, there are 4 NRCS Areas and 72 USDA Service Centers.

Soil Water Air Plants Animals

93 PERCENT Increase program participation of Historically Underserved, Beginning, Veteran and Women Farmers
164 ACRES Implement 2018 Farm Bill
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