Maryland Quick Facts:
Number of NRCS Employees = 81
Number of NRCS Field Offices = 23
Acres of Farmland = 2 million or 32.8% of the state
Acres of Cropland = 1.4 million
Acres of Forestland = 400,000

Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by farmers, ranchers and forest landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation’s environment. These people make day-to-day decisions about natural resource use and management on non-federal lands, and NRCS offers them the technology, technical and financial assistance needed to benefit the resources, resulting in productive lands while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

NRCS provides technical assistance to implement our programs and offers financial assistance to producers who install conservation practices. Technical assistance is provided to producers using both discretionary and mandatory funds. Discretionary funds provided through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) or CTA line item pay for staff, vehicles, computers, and on-farm conservation planning to identify resource concerns. NRCS also provides conservation plans to producers. Once a producer has a conservation plan, they can move forward without further assistance from NRCS.

When a producer chooses to work in partnership with NRCS, a contract is drawn. Funds to carry out the contract include technical and financial assistance from mandatory Farm Bill program funds. Technical assistance from Farm Bill program funds is used when an individual has signed up for a specific conservation program and detailed planning is needed to implement an identified conservation practice. Financial assistance is provided to the producer to help defray some of the cost of installing the conservation practice.

FY 2013 Highest funded Conservation Practices

1. Waste Storage
2. Heavy Use Area Protection
3. Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste
4. Nutrient Management
5. Restoration or Management of Rare or Declining Habitats
NRCS AT WORK: MARYLAND

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NRCS FY 2013 Percentage of Financial Assistance to Maryland Participants by Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number of Contracts</th>
<th>Financial Assistance Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY 2012</td>
<td>FY 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Management Assistance</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Stewardship Program</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands Reserve Program</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discretionary funds through the Conservation Technical Assistance for Maryland in FY 2013 was $4,317,816

Sources: FMMI, ProTracts 12/5/2013 & NEST 10/21/2013