

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

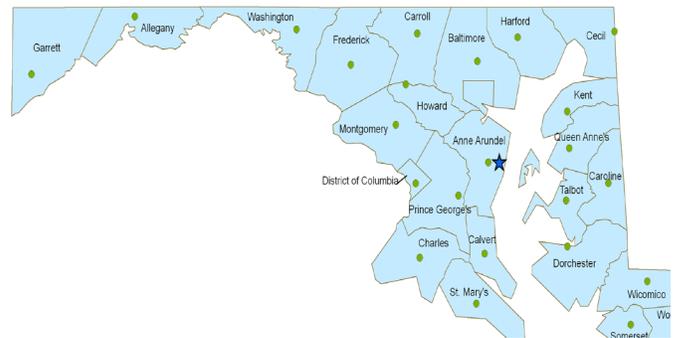
Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by farmers, ranchers and forest landowners absolutely critical to the health of our Nation's environment. These people make day-to-day decisions about natural resource use and management on non-federal lands, and 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.



Agricultural land and buffers on the Chester River in Kent County, Maryland.



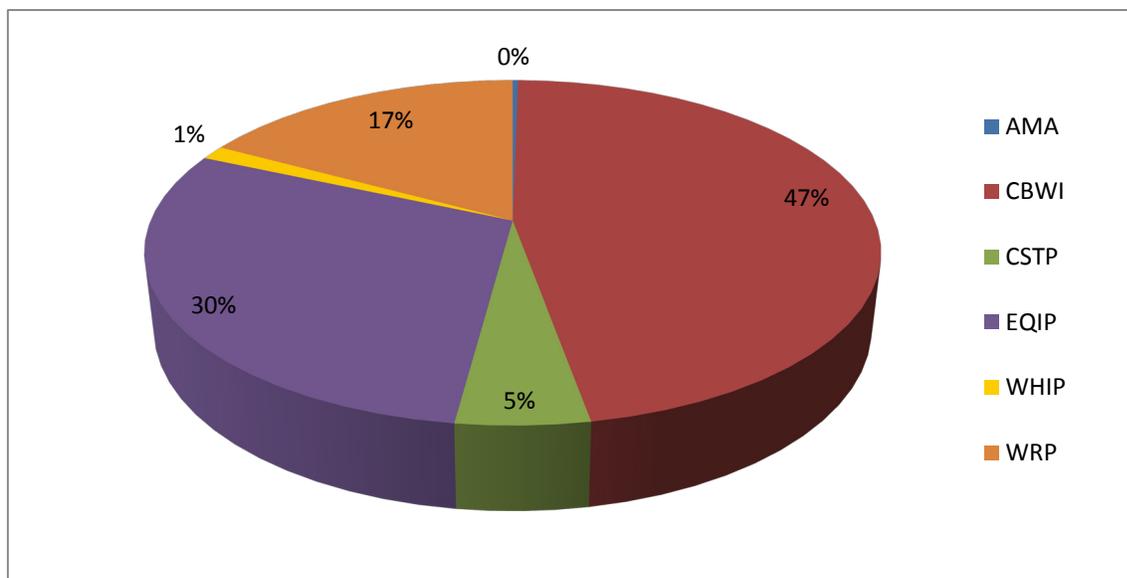
FY 2013 Highest funded Conservation Practices

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

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



FY 2012 and FY 2013 Contracts and Financial Assistance to Maryland Participants by Program

Program	Number of Contracts		Financial Assistance Dollars \$	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
Agricultural Management Assistance	13	5	79,000	62,671
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative	183	214	7,515,000	10,402,491
Conservation Stewardship Program	10	7	1,051,000	1,095,304
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	311	278	8,129,000	6,547,689
Wetlands Reserve Program	14	9	5,654,000	3,787,360
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	1	12	57,000	293,082
Grand Total	536	536	23,558,000	22,188,598

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

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



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