



Conservation Planning Process

1 Contact your Local USDA Service Center

[Click HERE](#) to view the office locator

Here, you'll find the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. NRCS provides assistance to agricultural producers in a manner that will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. The Conservation Planning process puts you in charge. It enables you to create your own conservation plan that incorporates your goals and objects. The plan itself does not include financial assistance but it can serve as a springboard for future participation in conservation programs. Your local NRCS office has conservation planning experts who will assist you.



2 Work with an NRCS Conservationist to Develop a Conservation Plan

A conservation plan addresses your entire farming operation identifying resource problems associated with soil, water, air, and other natural resources, and offers conservation solutions to address those problems. Many good solutions to common resource problems have been developed over the years and are incorporated into conservation practices. NRCS can help you to select conservation practices that best suit your operation.



3 Let the Plan be Your Guide

An organized conservation plan will provide a roadmap of resource development opportunities over the next five to ten year period. This will reduce the probability of making short-term decisions that may conflict with your long-term goals.

4 An Approved Plan Offers Many Advantages

The choice to develop a farm conservation plan is yours—it is voluntary; but developing it has many advantages. For example, certain NRCS programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), require an approved conservation plan. It will also greatly assist you in achieving sustainable farming practices.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS in Kentucky

Providing *conservation solutions* to protect your way of life

Our Mission

Guided by the mission of helping people help the land, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our partners and customers, we identify natural resource concerns, such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop unique solutions for restoring and protecting these resources.

USDA NRCS

www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov

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Who We Are

Our workforce consists of a diverse group of skilled natural resource professionals. With representatives in nearly every county, we have a thorough, first-hand understanding and appreciation of the challenges, limitations and special needs unique to the Kentucky landscape. These skills enable us to develop solutions that best match our customers' goals with the needs of the land.

What We Do

As an agency, our goal is to help landowners develop conservation plans and provide advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance and evaluation of voluntary conservation practices. Our activities include farmland protection, natural resource improvement, urban conservation, and local community projects to improve social, economic and environmental conditions.

NRCS also conducts soil surveys and the National Resources inventory nationwide, to provide the basis for conservation planning activities and an accurate assessment of the land's condition.

How We Do It

NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance to landowner and managers through Farm Bill programs for the benefit of farm, watershed and community. Additional easement programs are also available to provide long-term management options.

How to Get Involved

Participation is voluntary. If you are interested in learning more about our conservation programs and services, contact your local NRCS service center.

Find us online at:
www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

NRCS delivers technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). Through CTA, NRCS employees provide conservation options and recommendations, as well as planning and engineering assistance to farmers, local governments and urban landowners. Although CTA does not include financial or cost-share assistance, landowners may develop plans that can, in turn, serve as a springboard for future participation in conservation programs.

Programs

NRCS's natural resource conservation programs offer agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest landowners both financial and technical assistance to voluntarily conserve natural resources on privately-owned farm lands. The following is a summary of the various conservation programs funded through the Farm Bill and other federal programs:

Financial Assistance Programs	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Assistance for broad spectrum of conservation practices that promote agricultural production, forest management, wildlife habitat and environmental quality.
	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Encourages producers to embrace long-term comprehensive conservation by maintaining and improving existing practices and farming activities.
Easement Programs	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Conserves agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.
	Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) Protects the agricultural use and conservation values of working farms. Helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture through the purchase of conservation easements.
	Wetland Reserve Enhancements (ACEP-WRE) Restores, protects, and enhances wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement.
	Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) Restores and enhances forest ecosystems for biodiversity and more.
Watershed/Community Programs	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Undertakes emergency measures on watersheds damaged by fire, flood, and other natural calamities to prevent erosion and runoff that could endanger lives and property.