Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease? Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1. Planning
   - Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2. Application
   - With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3. Eligibility
   - Find out if you're eligible for NRCS’ variety of financial assistance programs.

4. Ranking
   - NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5. Implementing
   - Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

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NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you. Please keep in mind that financial assistance is paid when work is complete.

As part of the application process, we’ll make sure you are eligible.

We’ll discuss your vision for your land.

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

To do this, you’ll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don’t have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA’s Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you’re interested in financial assistance.

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them according to local resource concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.

Once you sign the contract, you’ll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you’ll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted