

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on private and Tribal lands.

CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

For additional information, contact your local NRCS office, Soil and Water Conservation District office, or local USDA Service Center. NRCS offices are listed in the telephone directory under U. S. Government, Department of Agriculture.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 311
Auburn, AL 36831-0311
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830-6443

Phone: 334-887-4500
Fax: 334-887-4551

You may also visit Alabama NRCS online:
<http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/>

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Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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United States Department of Agriculture

Alabama NRCS Organic Farming Initiative



Helping People Help the Land

Organic Farming on the Rise

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing segments in U.S. agriculture. From 1992 through 2005, the acres of certified organic cropland rose from 403,000 to more than 1.7 million, organically certified pasture acres rose from 532,000 to over 4 million, and the total number of organic certified livestock rose from 11,000 head in 1992 to over 196,000 head in 2005.

The assistance provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps producers plan and implement conservation practices to allow their organic operations to be environmentally sustainable.

The National Organic Program is administered by the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service. To learn more about organic certification, visit:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/>



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is primarily used to provide financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices to address soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. A new organic provision targets organic producers and producers transitioning to organic production:

- Assistance is for conservation practices related to organic production.
- Producers are required to develop and carry out an organic system plan or carry out practices consistent with an organic system plan.

Producers must be pursuing an organic certification or be in compliance with their organic certification.

Examples of EQIP assistance available to those in organic farming:

- installing pollinator and/or trap habitats.
- installing interior fencing and watering for rotational grazing systems.
- implementing conservation practices tailored to the producer's operation.

Under EQIP, six core conservation practices will be offered with a higher payment rate to address specific resource concerns. A farmer can choose to implement any number of the following practices, and the more practices that a farmer plans to implement, the higher priority the application will be. Payment rates for each practice are available from your local NRCS office.

The "Core 6" practices are:

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Forage Harvest Management

