



United States Department of Agriculture

# NRCS

## Who We Are and What We Do



### Our Mission

Guided by the mission of Helping People Help the Land, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, 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.

### 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 Texas 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 landowners and managers through Farm Bill programs for the benefit of farm or ranch, watershed and community. Additional easement programs are also available to provide long-term management options.

### How to Get Involved

Participation is voluntary and there is no fee. If you are interested in learning more about our conservation programs and services, contact your local NRCS service center. Find us online at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

### Conservation Technical Assistance

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, ranchers, local governments and urban landowners. Although CTA does not include financial assistance, landowners may develop plans that can, in turn, serve as a springboard for future participation in NRCS conservation programs.



**NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION  
SERVICE**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

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## *Helping People Help the Land*



### Farm Bill 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 and ranch lands. The following is a summary of the various conservation programs funded through the 2014 Farm Bill and other federal programs:

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Assistance for broad spectrum of conservation practices that promote agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality.

#### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Encourages producers to embrace long-term comprehensive conservation by maintaining and improving existing practices to address priority resource concerns

#### Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA) Program

Helps agricultural producers use conservation to manage risk and solve natural resource issues through natural resources conservation.

### EASEMENTS

#### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

#### Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

#### Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands, which provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, and improve water quality.

### PARTNERSHIPS

#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners, through contracts and agreements, to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

### WATERSHEDS/COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

#### Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

Undertakes emergency measures on watersheds damaged by fire, flood, and other natural disasters to prevent erosion and runoff that could endanger lives and property.

#### Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program

Provides technical and financial assistance to entities of State and local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) for planning and installing watershed projects.

#### Watershed Surveys and Planning

Assists Federal, State, and local agencies and tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources.

#### Watershed Rehabilitation

Local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,800 dams in 47 states since 1948. Many of these dams are nearing the end of their 50-year design life. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to address critical public health and safety issues in these communities.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact the local USDA NRCS office serving your county. Your USDA Service Center can be obtained on the NRCS website at:

**[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

