

Program	Program Purpose	What's New?	What land is eligible?	Length of Agreement	Financial Assistance	Common Practices
Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP	EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to help farmers and forest landowners improve soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land; provides financial incentives to producers to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQIP purposes include forest management, as well as practices related to organic production, air quality, and energy conservation. \$300,000 payment limit; up to \$450,000 with waiver from Chief for environmentally -significant projects. 	Agricultural land and non-industrial forestland	2-5 years	Practice Payments	Animal Waste Storage Facilities, Grazing Systems, Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management, Erosion Control, Water Quality Practices, Forest Management Practices, and Pest Management
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative CBWI	CBWI provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest landowners to implement conservation practices to minimize nutrient and sediment losses in order to restore, preserve, and protect local water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.	<p>This initiative is new under the 2008 Farm Bill.</p> <p>CBWI will offer payments to implement a targeted list of practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p>	Agricultural and nonindustrial forestland in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farms within designated priority watersheds receive preference in the ranking process.	2-5 years	Practice Payments	Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Stream Bank Fencing, Conservation Buffers, Grazing Systems, Continuous No-till, Manure and Wastewater Management
Wetlands Reserve Program WRP	WRP offers landowners the opportunity to protect and restore wetlands on their property. The program's goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bog turtle Initiative to target landowners with Bog Turtle habitat for WRP enrollment For restoration cost-share agreements, annual payments may not exceed \$50,000 per year per easement. Applicant must have owned land for 7 years. Some exceptions may be approved. 	Most private wetlands converted to agricultural use prior to 1985 are eligible; wetlands must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits.	10-year restoration agreements, 30-year or permanent easements	One-time conservation easement payment; up to 100 percent cost-share for restoring or improving wetland habitat	Wetland Restoration, Wetland Enhancement, Conservation Cover, Tree Planting
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program WHIP	WHIP is a voluntary program for private landowners to develop and improve high quality habitat that supports wildlife populations of National, State, and local significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments may not exceed \$50,000 per year. Publicly owned land is not eligible. 	Private agricultural and non-industrial forestland	2-5 years	Practice Payments	Conservation Cover, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Stream and Stream Corridor Habitat
Agricultural Management Assistance AMA	AMA helps agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest landowners manage risk and voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations.	Applicants must be in compliance with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements.	Agricultural land and private, nonindustrial forestland	2-5 years	Practice Payments	IPM, Irrigation, Seasonal High Tunnels
Conservation Stewardship Program CSP	CSP encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking additional conservation activities; and Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSP is now available statewide instead of being offered only in designated watersheds. Participants must implement at least one new activity to be eligible to receive payments. 	Private agricultural land and private, non-industrial forestland	5 Years	Annual Payments for a combination of maintaining existing level of conservation, and adding conservation activities	Enhancements– Incorporating Manure, Cover Crop Mixes, Hardwood Crop Tree Release, Forest Stand Management, Advanced Nutrient Management, Advanced Grazing Management, Energy – Related Activities, Wildlife Habitat
Grasslands Reserve Program GRP	GRP assists landowners and operators in protecting grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving and restoring grassland resources on eligible private lands through rental contracts, easements, and restoration agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible acres are limited to private lands. A portion of enrolled acreage must be set aside or managed as wildlife habitat. 	Private grassland for which haying or grazing is the predominant use, areas historically dominated by grassland, or grassland areas that provide	10-, 15-, and 20-year rental contracts, or permanent easements	Annual Payments for rental; one-time payment for easements	Improved Grazing Techniques, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Wildlife Habitat Management

Farm Bill 2008

How it can help you

The 2008 Farm Bill offers landowners and farm operators incentives to help them voluntarily implement the conservation management practices included in their operation's conservation plan. It provides conservation provisions to help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, and conserve energy. Government and non-government organizations stand ready to help producers use Farm Bill programs to make improvements to their farms. This guide introduces the assistance available to help you implement your conservation plan.

Financial and Economic Incentives

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of financial payments to producers and landowners interested in conservation programs. Some programs offer annual payments for a conservation use, others offer one-time, up-front payments for long-term easements for conservation use, and most include government funds to share the costs of installing conservation measures.

Technical Help

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps producers plan and implement conservation practices on private lands. Technical assistance is provided on a voluntary basis. The Farm Bill continues to provide funding for Technical Service Providers (certified private vendors) who may also provide conservation technical assistance. Local USDA offices can provide more information.

Partnership Assistance

USDA works with many partners to deliver conservation services and programs. Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Extension offices, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and many other private conservation organizations each play an important role. Experts in each organization can provide technical help and may offer additional assistance.

Conservation Opportunities for Beginning Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, and Minority Farmers

The 2008 Farm Bill focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services. New and beginning farmers, limited resource farmers, and minority farmers may be eligible to receive a higher payment rate and advance practice payments of up to 30 percent for materials and labor when work can begin immediately.

How to get started

To get started working with NRCS, visit your local NRCS field office or Conservation District. NRCS is listed in your phone book's federal government section under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. You can also find NRCS field offices online at:

<http://offices.usda.gov>

An NRCS employee will work with you to develop a conservation plan for your operation. The conservation plan will address your conservation goals and environmental risks on your farm.

Financial assistance for conservation measures is available through the programs described in this brochure. Your local conservationist will help you determine which programs best fit your needs.

For More Information

Contact your USDA Service Center or Conservation District for assistance, or find more information at www.usda.gov/farmbill, and at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In partnership with local Conservation Districts, NRCS is charged with promoting and supporting conservation on private lands.

Working with NRCS is always a voluntary decision on the part of a landowner. The ultimate goal of NRCS is to ensure that our natural resources will be preserved for future generations.

Conservation Practices and Programs For Pennsylvania Landowners



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