

What assistance is available?

- Short-term contracts to assist growers, producers, farmers, and non-industrial private forestland owners with applying practices such as irrigation, IPM, conversion to organic, cover crops, buffers, nutrient management, grazing, forest management, and more than 100 other practices and enhancements
- Technical assistance to help growers in carrying out conservation practices and enhancements
- Financial assistance or incentive payments to reduce the cost to the producer

How to apply

- Contact a local USDA NRCS or Conservation District office, found at www.nrcs.usda.gov, under Find a Service Center
- Request an updated conservation plan
- Complete an application for one of the cost-share, incentive, or stewardship programs

When to apply

- Sign-up for programs is continuous
- Applications are grouped and ranked monthly, so it's best to apply early
- Contracts are written as long as funding lasts

Are all growers eligible?

- Some programs are only available to farmers who have at least \$1,000 in gross receipts.
- Some programs require ownership and/or a designated operator of the land.
- New and beginning farmers, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders may be eligible for additional incentive payments in some programs.

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

For Spanish language assistance call 1-866-232-0690

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USDA Assistance for Sustainable Agriculture



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov



Native grasses mixed with wildflowers provide excellent habitat for nesting birds and **pollinators**, and improve **soil quality**. *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*; wildlife habitat can be established and/or improved with the *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)* and *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*.



Grass-fed beef thrive on pastures improved through the *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*; grazing plans, feed management, and stockwater development are available through *EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*.



Vegetable crops are successfully raised through **water conserving** irrigation systems supported by the *Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program* and *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*.



Fruit crops use **fewer pesticides** when producers follow **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**, available through the *Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program*, *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*, and *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*.



The use of **cover crops** results in **less herbicide** application, **less erosion** of valuable topsoil, and can provide **Nitrogen** for the next crop. *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* and *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*



Certified organic and organic operations transitioning to certified organic status can receive assistance to implement conservation practices through the *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* and *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*.



Effectively using manure through **nutrient management planning** improves yields and water quality. *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* and *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*



Sustainable Forests will be targeted through USDA NRCS program funding in 2011 in the *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)* and *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* for those who already have a current Forest Stewardship Plan.