

NRCS Program Assistance for Beginning Farmers

There will always be a need for food, fiber, and fuel — as well as clean water and productive soils. NRCS offers beneficial conservation programs to strengthen this country's need for a sustainable and viable farming community.



Contact your local USDA Service Center NRCS office. Their phone number is in the government section in your local telephone directory or visit the website:

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>.

New Farmers Play a Critical Role in Today's Agriculture Community

A beginning farmer is defined as a person who has never operated a farm or a person who has not operated a farm for more than 10 consecutive years.

If you are that person, you may qualify for conservation practices (land management and/or structural plans and help with improvements) to help you move toward operational success while enhancing productivity.

NRCS provides conservation technical assistance (information and tools) to farmers, property owners, or others interested in the protection, preservation, and management of natural resources

that include soil, water, forests, vegetables/crops, and wildlife.

NRCS also provides conservation programs that address resource concerns that include erosion and sediment loss/control, wetland protection, and habitat restoration.

Financial assistance in the form of cost-share dollars (Federal funds partnered with the applicant's funds) are available to farmers who plan and install conservation practices that address resource concerns. These improvements can better your "bottom line" and provide environmental benefits.

What Do I Qualify For?

Are you looking to reduce erosion, improve grass cover, restore wetland areas, increase your land's productivity, or have other ideas? NRCS can help through EQIP, WRP, WHIP, CSP, and other valuable conservation programs.

If you are a new farmer, funding has been set aside to further enhance your availability to plan and install such conservation practices.

The 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation and Energy Act) made available priority funding for "historically underserved producers," which includes the

beginning farmer.

As a result, the qualified applicant can receive cost-share funding at a level of up to 90 percent, Federal to producer dollars.

Additionally, the beginning farmer can obtain 30 percent of the conservation program funding in advance in order to move ahead at a more rapid pace.

In order to participate, the individual is required to provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm, consistent with the practices in the State where the farm is located.

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NRCS Program Assistance



For more information
on NRCS programs,
visit:
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Are You a Farmer Looking for Help?

In Texas, agriculture is the State's second largest industry. For over 75 years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been working with the farming community to provide valuable programs and assistance necessary to help farmers make a positive impact on their property and natural resources in Texas.

NRCS works closely with the individual farmer to create conservation plans to strengthen both economic and environmental needs, while further protecting critical natural resources: water, soil, air, plants, and animals.

In addition to conservation planning,

NRCS has a highly trained professional staff that provides professional consulting and guidance on a vast array of conservation practices and financial assistance.

Federal funding provided through the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation and Energy Act) enhances the farmer's ability to gain a stronger foothold in the production of food, fuel, and fiber through the planning and completion of conservation practices on his or her property.

So, if you are a farmer who wants to enhance your farm's productivity and sustainability, look to the conservation experts to help you achieve these goals!

Help NRCS Help You!

NRCS wants to help the farming community, landowners, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability.

NRCS partners with key agencies such as Texas' 216 County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), and numerous conservation organizations throughout Texas to ensure the State's natural resources remain bountiful.

With key programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), to name a few, Texas' property owners have more opportunities to invest in the Lone Star State's resources.

Join the conservation movement today by contacting your local NRCS staff, or the county SWCD, for guidance and to benefit from the many programs available.

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