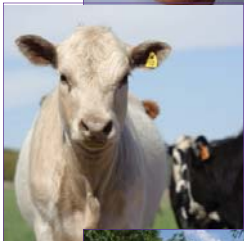


NRCS Program Assistance for Organic Farmers



For more information on NRCS programs, visit: www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov or locate your local office through the government section of your telephone directory.

Organic Farmers Wanted!

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing segments in today's agricultural community. Organically grown fruits, vegetables, and other specialty products have experienced significant increases in consumer interest and demand.

Under the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation and Energy Act), financial assistance has been established specifically for organic farmers interested in conservation planning, and implementation of conservation practices, as well as assistance for farmers transitioning to organic production.

If you are an organic farmer or a farmer

who is interested in moving into organic farming, please contact your local NRCS office.

Professional, knowledgeable staff are eager to share the opportunities NRCS has available to further strengthen your operation through a number of practices designed to benefit productivity and sustainability, as well as enhance environmental stewardship.

Organic producers may also benefit under agriculture related programs administered by NRCS's sister USDA partner, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Contact FSA <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Apply Today, Benefit Tomorrow...

If you are an organic farmer or want to transition into organic farming, contact your local NRCS office to see how you may qualify for financial assistance for conservation planning or practices such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Not only will NRCS staff outline the eligibility and application process, but they can address additional questions relating to ways you may further enhance the viability of your farming operation.

In order for a participant to receive payments for conservation practices related to organic production or the transition to organic production, the person must have an organic system

plan reviewed by a USDA accredited organic certifier.

An Organic System Plan is a management plan specifically designed for organic production or for an organic handling operation that has been agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent. The Organic System Plan includes all written plans that govern all aspects of agricultural production or handling.

For those interested, current organic producers or those transitioning into organic production will have equal access for priority program assistance from NRCS.

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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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