

NRCS Program Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Q. Am I a socially disadvantaged farmer?

A. A socially disadvantaged farmer is one subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities. This includes African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

Q. What is conservation?

A. The protection, preservation, and management of natural resources — soil, water, forests, and wildlife.

Q. What are conservation practices?

A. Land and structural management methods used to benefit conservation.

Q. What is technical assistance?

A. Professional consultation, information, and tools needed to develop a conservation plan and implement practices.

Q. What is financial assistance?

A. Funding set aside for farmers to install conservation practices on their property.

Q. Can I obtain funding to improve my farming operation?

A. Yes, if your operation qualifies. NRCS programs help farmers improve productivity and enhance the environment — and can include financial assistance.

Q. What cost-share rate could I qualify for?

A. The qualified applicant can receive funding at a level of up to 90 percent Federal to producer dollars.

Q. Can I receive program money in advance?

A. Yes. NRCS can advance the applicant 30 percent of the program funding.

What Conservation Programs Can Help Me Succeed?

Are you looking to reduce erosion through natural buffers, improve grazing areas, restore wetland areas, enhance soil productivity, or have other conservation needs? If so, look to NRCS! Conservation programs are a way for the government to pay for part of the cost of healing the land with conservation practices.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA): Provides planning, design, and implementation assistance to landowners who conserve, maintain, improve, plan, and apply practices benefiting natural resources.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Technical and financial assistance are available to help eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible farmland.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): Promotes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands on the landowner's property. Technical and financial support are available.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Promotes the improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant, animal life, and other conservation at a higher level than most programs require. Technical and financial assistance are available to address cropland and forested land that are an incidental part of a farm operation.

Who Do I Contact For Help?

Gain valuable conservation program assistance from NRCS! Your local NRCS office has professional staff eager to meet with you either on your property or the local NRCS office to outline the various conservation programs, eligibility, and application process — and to lead you through the process. It's that easy! So what are you waiting for? These programs can help you address conservation needs, economically and strategically.

Contact your local USDA Service Center NRCS office which is located in the government section in your local telephone directory or visit the website: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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NRCS Program Assistance



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.

For more information
on NRCS programs,
visit:
www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

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