

American Farmers – Leading the way on land conservation

Federal government support for conservation efforts

Farmers have always led the way in conserving our land. Advancing responsible farming practices helps ensure a healthy environment for future generations, while providing safe and efficient food supply. To assist in meeting this goal, Congress has enacted programs to help individual family farms with conservation efforts.

Currently, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administer over 20 programs that are available to assist producers who wish to practice responsible conservation on agricultural lands.

These are the most used programs in those efforts:

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) - a voluntary program for agricultural landowners, providing payments to farms to take highly erodible or environmentally sensitive cropland out of production for 10 or more years. Acreage enrolled in CRP helps reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies with groundwater recharge, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat. It is the federal government's largest private land retirement program. The program is administered by the FSA of the USDA, with technical assistance provided by the NRCS.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM - a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM - the largest agriculture conservation financial assistance program for working land, is a voluntary program that provides farms with financial and technical assistance to plan and implement soil and water conservation practices. Common practices include: waste storage facility, agrichemical containment facility, heavy use area, protection, nutrient management, pest management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management, waste facility cover, irrigation system, composting facility, pasture and hay land planting, pipeline, watering, facility, prescribed grazing and fence.

To get more information regarding enrollment and eligibility, or to learn more about other programs, please contact your local NRCS and FSA offices:

✿ **HURON COUNTY**

NRCS-989-269-9540
Conservation District-989-269-9540 x3
FSA-989-269-9549

✿ **MACOMB COUNTY**

NRCS-810-984-3001
Conservation District-586-752-9580
FSA-810-984-3865

✿ **ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

NRCS-810-984-3001
Conservation District-810-984-3001 x5
FSA-810-984-3865

✿ **LAPEER COUNTY**

NRCS-810-664-3941
Conservation District-810-664-3941 x3
FSA-810-664-0895

✿ **SANILAC COUNTY**

NRCS-810-648-2116
Conservation District-810-648-2116 x4
FSA-810-648-2998