The 2014 Farm Bill provides America's farmers, ranchers, and wood-industry forest landowners a package of voluntary programs for conserving natural resources. Technical and financial assistance helps agricultural producers implement conservation practices and activities that protect our water, promote soil health, enhance wildlife habitat, improve air quality, and conserve energy. This guide introduces the conservation assistance available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Farm Bill.

What's in it for you?

- Curbing erosion
  - Reduce soil movement and nutrient runoff, and mitigate the effects of erosion from agricultural lands, consider:
    - Grassed waterways
    - Conservation tillage practices
    - Windbreaks
    - Contour buffer strips
    - Field emitters
    - Prescribed grading
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP

- Conserving and improving soil health
  - To make a positive impact on your soil health, consider:
    - Residue management
    - Cover crops
    - Integrated pest management
    - Crop rotation
    - Nutrient management
    - Riparian buffers
    - Water management
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Conserving water resources
  - To protect and improve water quality, consider:
    - Riparian buffers
    - Fish habitat
    - Access to and development of streams
    - Riparian restoration
    - Riparian management
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Protecting waterways from erosion and degradation
  - To protect your streams and rivers, as well as wildlife habitat, consider:
    - Riparian buffers
    - Access to and development of streams
    - Riparian restoration
    - Riparian management
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Managing manure
  - To improve forage quality, control invasive species, and conserve habitat, consider:
    - Prescribed grazing
    - Pasture management
    - Grazing facility
    - Brush management
    - Riparian buffers
    - Tree planting
    - Forest stand improvement
    - Forest stand improvement
    - Riparian
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Managing grazing lands
  - To improve forage quality, control invasive species, and conserve habitat, consider:
    - Prescribed grazing
    - Pasture management
    - Grazing facility
    - Brush management
    - Riparian buffers
    - Tree planting
    - Forest stand improvement
    - Forest stand improvement
    - Riparian
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Establishing wildlife habitat
  - To enhance, restore, and protect fish and wildlife habitat, consider:
    - Riparian buffers
    - Access to and development of streams
    - Riparian restoration
    - Riparian management
    - Riparian
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP, ACEP

- Managing forest lands
  - To restore and protect forest lands and improve habitat, consider:
    - Riparian buffers
    - Access to and development of streams
    - Riparian restoration
    - Riparian management
    - Riparian
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, HRP, CSP

- Improving air quality and conserving energy
  - To improve air quality and conserve energy, consider:
    - Riparian buffers
    - Access to and development of streams
    - Riparian restoration
    - Riparian management
    - Riparian
    - riparian
  - Consider these programs for assistance: EQIP, AMA, CSP

Your Conservation Plan

The NRCS staff is available to help you define your resource concerns on your land and identify assistance opportunities available through Farm Bill programs. NRCS conservation professionals are available in nearly every county across the country and can help you develop a conservation plan based on your natural resource and operation goals. Through the conservation planning process, NRCS staff can identify assistance through Farm Bill programs that best match your natural resource concerns.

Power of Partnerships

All programs include Federal funds to assist with the costs associated with conservation activities in addition to the full range of services and financial assistance from partners to implement specific conservation practices on the land.

For More Information

**What USDA Offers**

- **Incentive Programs**: Regulatory, financial, or environmental benefits for farmers or landowners.
- **Environmental Programs**: Focus on conservation, wildlife protection, and resource management.
- **Agricultural Programs**: Financial assistance for agricultural practices and conservation.

**What's New?**

- New programs and incentives.
- Expanded eligibility criteria.
- Increased funding opportunities.

**What USDA Offers**

- **Easements**: Payments for undertaking new conservation practices.
- **Payments**: Assistance for restoring, protecting, or enhancing wildlife habitat.
- **Surveys and Assessments**: Data collection and analysis.

**Indicators of Success**

- Increased biodiversity.
- Improved water quality.
- Enhanced soil health.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Can I still get help?**
- **I don't own the land I farm but would like to apply for conservation assistance.**
- **What types of wildlife habitat can I develop on my land?**

**Programs and Incentives**

- **Easement Program**: Payments for permanent conservation easements.
- **Incentive Program**: Grants for implementation of conservation practices.

**Partnerships**

- **Agencies**:
  - NRCS
  - USDA
  - State agencies
  - Non-governmental organizations

**United States Department of Agriculture**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Farm Bill 2014**
- **Program Aid - 2172**
- **August 2015**

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**Program Assistant**

- **Implementation**: Assistance and guidance for program implementation.
- **Administration**: Oversight and management of program resources.

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**Funding Opportunities**

- **Incentive Payments**
- **Easement Payments**
- **Assistance Programs**

**Contact Information**

- **USDA Service Center**
- **950 Independence Avenue SW**
- **Washington, DC 20250**

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**Programs and Incentives**

- **Easement Programs**
- **Incentive Programs**
- **Partnerships and Agreements**

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**What I Can Do**

- **Assessment**: Evaluating current land use.
- **Planning**: Developing a comprehensive plan.
- **Implementation**: Implementing conservation practices.

**Natural Resources**

- **Conservation**
- **Partnerships**
- **Incentives**

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**USDA Program**

- **Eligible Land**
- **Length of Agreement/Contract**
- **Easements**
- **Producer Responsibilities**
- **What's New?**

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**Financial Assistance**

- **Incentive Programs**: Grants, loans, or technical assistance.
- **Easement Programs**: Payments for conservation easements.

**Programs and Incentives**

- **Easement Programs**
- **Incentive Programs**
- **Partnerships and Agreements**

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