



**NRCS Resources for  
Implementing Coral Reef  
Local Action Strategies**

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USDA - NRCS  
Caribbean Area*

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**All Conservation Programs**

- [Agricultural Management Assistance](#)
- [Conservation Innovation Grants \*\*New in 2004!\*\*](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#) (Farm Service Agency)
- [Conservation of Private Grazing Lands](#)
- [Conservation Security Program](#)
- [Conservation Technical Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Watershed Protection](#)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#)
- [Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program](#)
- [Grassland Reserve Program](#)
- [Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative](#)
- [Resource Conservation and Development](#)
- [Stewardship Incentive Program](#) (Forest Service)
- [Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention](#)
- [Watershed Rehabilitation](#)
- [Wetlands Reserve Program](#)
- [Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program](#)

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**Conservation Security Program (CSP)**

- CSP is a voluntary conservation program to support ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural lands by providing payments to producers who maintain and enhance the condition of natural resources.
- CSP will identify and reward those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

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**Conservation Security Program (CSP)**

- The 2005 CSP sign-up offered in selected priority watersheds across the Nation, including St. Croix.
- Producers within these watersheds may submit an application once they meet eligibility criteria and complete a benchmark inventory documenting the existing conservation treatment on each land use within the agricultural operation for land to be enrolled.
- NRCS will provide the necessary materials for completing the inventory prior to the sign-up.

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**Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)**

- USDA-NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to sponsors and individuals to implement emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster, including:
  - removing debris from streams,
  - protecting destabilized streambanks,
  - establishing cover on critically eroding lands,
  - repairing conservation practices, and
  - purchasing flood plain easements.
- The program is designed for installation of recovery measures.

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**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals.
- Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

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**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- Financial and technical assistance.
- Eligible agricultural land:
  - Cropland
  - Grassland
  - Pastureland
  - Non-industrial private forest
- Cost share
  - 50-75%
  - 90% Limited resource or beginning farmers

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**Farmland Protection Program**

- The Farmland Protection Program is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture.
- The program provides 50% in matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or development rights.

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**Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)**

- A voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.
- Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices.
- Parcels must be ≥ 40 acres.

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**Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D)**

- The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas.
- El Caribe RC&D and El Atlantico RC&D in PR.
- Virgin Islands RC&D in the USVI.
- RC&D Coordinators are NRCS employees.

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**VI RC&D Project Examples**

**Bethlehem Old Works Reservoir Emergency Watershed Protection**

- Partners: VI RC&D, USDA-NRCS, VIDA, DPNR
- Designed & installed gabion baskets, erosion control mats & vegetation measures downstream from Bethlehem pond dam to stabilize site.
- *Funded by USDA-NRCS EWP & DPNR-DEP.*




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**VI RC&D Project Examples**

**St. Croix East End Bay BMP Demonstration**

- Partners: VIRC&D; DPNR-CZM
- Project to design & install erosion & sediment control best management practices on trail from Pt. Udall to Isaacs Bay.
- *Funded by DPNR-CZM; NOAA*




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**Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

- Voluntary program offering private landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands.
- Private wetlands converted to agricultural use prior to 1985.
- Wetland must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits.
- Funding level depends on requests received in State office & meeting evaluation criteria.

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**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

- A voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.
- Through WHIP, USDA-NRCS **provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.**
- WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 - 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

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**Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**

- Development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches & technologies.
- Eligibility:
  - State or local units of government
  - Federally recognized Tribes
  - Non governmental organizations
  - Individuals
- \$15 million available for selected grant proposals.
- 50% match required.
- FY'05 funding cycle closed.

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**Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**

- How to Apply for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG):
  - Federal eGrants portal: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
  - Request for Proposals website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>.

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**Matching Grants for Conservation on Private Lands 2005**

- NRCS partnered with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support agricultural conservation on private lands.
- In 2004 the grant program was expanded to include the Pacific Basin and Caribbean Area.
- \$3 million provided by NRCS for innovative conservation projects.
- Grants range from \$10,000-\$150,000, based upon need.

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**Matching Grants for Conservation on Private Lands 2005**

Eligible Grant Recipients:

- Local Conservation Districts,
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils,
- State and local governments,
- Educational institutions and
- Nonprofit organizations

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**Matching Grants for Conservation on Private Lands 2004**

- <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/nrcsnacd.htm>
- Deadlines for current FY closed.
  - **Pre-Proposals Due** May 16, 2005; Fall 2005 TBD
  - **Foundation Board of Director's Decision:** November 30, 2005; Spring 2006

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- [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs)
- [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

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