

# Conservation Programs and Accountability

## What are the NRCS Conservation Programs?

NRCS Conservation Programs are a number of federally-legislated programs intended to facilitate the implementation of natural resource conservation on private lands in the United States and its territories. Program assistance comes in the form of technical, financial, and educational assistance to private landowners/operators, depending on the individual program language. Program delivery generally is at the local level and occurs through the Field Service Center by NRCS and its Conservation Partners.

## Why are the Conservation Program data included in the Integrated Accountability System?

Conservation Programs are Congressionally-funded assistance. As required by Congress and various governmental oversight agencies, including OIG, GAO, and OMB, NRCS is required to document program results and budgetary allocation expenditures.

The **Performance and Results Measurement System (PRMS)** is the mechanism through which NRCS and its Conservation Partnership document planning and application of natural resource conservation and program delivery.

The **Total Cost Accounting System (TCAS)** is that part of the Integrated Accountability System by which NRCS staff document time invested in delivering conservation programs to the landowner/landuser.



## What type of information about conservation programs and accountability is available?

- Performance results for each performance measure, by conservation program.
- Clients assisted in the application of natural resource conservation, by conservation program.

Generally, financial, time, performance, and program data are geographically based. While most program data do not reside directly within the data warehouse, it is linkable to data within the data warehouse, based on common geographic areas. The majority of program delivery and performance results is at the county level.

## What program data reside in the Data Warehouse?

The following programs are contained entirely or partially in the IAS data warehouse:

- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

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