

Key Points

March 2003

National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation

- The National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation (NNRCF) is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established by Congress in 1996 to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in its efforts to conserve natural resources on private lands.
- The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to enable the Foundation to use, license, or transfer symbols, slogans, and logos of the Foundation.
- The purpose of the NNRCF is to promote innovative solutions to natural resource problems, conduct research, undertake educational activities, and support and encourage conservation of natural resources.
- The NNRCF is made up of a nine member Board of Trustees, an Executive Director, and a staff hired by the Foundation to carry out its duties.
- Initially, the Board of Trustees, along with the Executive Director, is appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to terms determined by the Secretary. Once appointed, the Board of Trustees will develop a constitution for the Foundation outlining procedures for the nomination and selection of subsequent Board members. The Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of the Board.
- The NNRCF provides the means to research and promote innovations for the conservation of natural resources on private land to prevent excessive soil erosion; enhance soil and water quality; and protect wetlands, wildlife habitat, and strategically important farmland subject to urban conversion and fragmentation.
- The Foundation builds partnerships among agencies and agricultural, public, and private constituencies interested in promoting voluntary conservation on private lands.
- The NNRCF, with private funding, can make grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations and engage innovators of natural resource conservation concepts and technologies to find conservation solutions to natural resource challenges.
- It is the intent of the Foundation, and the authorizing legislation, to use the funds:
 - To promote innovative solutions to the problems associated with natural resources on private lands, particularly with respect to agriculture and soil and water conservation;
 - To promote voluntary partnerships between government and private interests in the conservation of natural resources;
 - To conduct research and undertake educational activities, conduct and support demonstration projects, and make grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations; and
 - To provide other leadership and support to address conservation challenges, such as the prevention of excessive soil erosion; the enhancement of soil and water quality; and the protection of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and strategically important

farmland subject to urban conversion and fragmentation.

- Once the Foundation is established, the mechanism for grant funding will be created under the leadership and direction of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director. Announcements for any grant program administered by the Foundation will be published, as required by law.
- The Foundation is authorized to accept funds from individuals, corporations, businesses, and nonprofit organizations and agencies. Gifts to the NNRCF are tax deductible.

For More Information

If you need more information about the NNRCF, please contact Doug Lawrence at 202-720-8851 or doug.lawrence@usda.gov. Information also is available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>



Visit USDA on the Web at:
<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>

Note: This is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of farm legislation. Rather, it is preliminary and may change as USDA develops implementing policies and procedures. Please check back for updates.