

New Jersey

Fiscal Year 2006

Helping People Help the Land



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Natural Resources Conservation Service at work in New Jersey

The United States Congress established the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conserve natural resources on agricultural lands on April 27, 1935. The Soil Conservation Service opened an office in New Jersey that year on the Douglass College campus in New Brunswick. Over the years, it moved to Bayard Street in New Brunswick, then to Hamilton Street in Somerset, and finally to its present location at 220 Davidson Avenue in Somerset. The agency changed its name to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1994 to reflect its expanding mission. NRCS has been at work with conservation partners in New Jersey since 1935 helping people help the land. By providing technical and financial assistance, NRCS has worked to protect and improve natural resources and the environment to ensure that Garden State residents can continue to enjoy the benefits of productive soils, clean air and water, and open spaces.

A Message from the State Conservationist

The owners and managers of land in New Jersey, through their conservation efforts, provide a wealth of environmental and social benefits to all residents and visitors. These include clean water and air, healthy wildlife habitat, open space, food and fiber, and sustainable rural and urban communities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works hand-in-hand with the people of New Jersey to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. For decades, private landowners have voluntarily worked with NRCS specialists to prevent erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable agriculture.

NRCS employs soil conservationists, natural resource specialists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, and engineers. These technical experts help landowners develop conservation plans, create and restore wetlands, restore and manage other natural ecosystems as well as advise nutrient and animal waste management and watershed planning.

I commend our staff for the diligent work during 2006 that resulted in over \$2.5 million worth of new conservation practices installed on lands across New Jersey and over \$5 million in new contracts developed. While focus was on the Farm Bill programs, there were other successes, like the numerous Resource Conservation and Development projects that improve our local communities, the technical sessions that teach grazing lands management, and the updates to our soil surveys that guide quality natural resource decision making.

I also want to thank our partners who work day-to-day with us to implement these activities and programs. This includes the State Technical Committee members who offered insight and advice on program implementation issues, individuals who helped revise our 5-year NRCS Wildlife Plan and Long Range Water Resource Plan, state agencies who shared resources and hired additional staff for technical assistance to farmers, partners who assisted in data collection and analysis for watershed planning, and the hundreds of volunteers who directly or indirectly helped NRCS do our job.

This report summarizes the work we've accomplished in 2006. While just a snapshot of our long-term conservation efforts, it's a testament to dedicated staff that helps keep the "garden" in the Garden State. More detailed information about our work in New Jersey is available on our website www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov.

JANICE REID
Acting State Conservationist
January 2007



Conservation Technical Assistance

In New Jersey, most NRCS customers are private landowners, municipalities or counties. Much of NRCS technical assistance is provided in cooperation with conservation partners in New Jersey. There are 21 counties and 15 soil conservation districts that share common boundaries. NRCS has strong partnerships with the Soil Conservation Districts and the NJ Association of Conservation Districts. NRCS also works effectively with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Rutgers University, and other State and Federal agencies. These partnerships sharpen the delivery of natural resource management and conservation in the State.

Some examples of partnership efforts include:

- Conservation planning on farmland preserved properties, state wildlife properties, and for federal farm bill program applicants
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for livestock operations
- Agreements with Rutgers University to develop data to improve technical standards
- Partnership Outreach Committee activities
- State Long Range Education program planning and implementation activities
- NJ Envirothon (High School environmental competition)
- Career Days at Rutgers University and outreach to other land grant universities
- Resource management activities at US Army (Fort Dix)
- Delivery of conservation information including Web Soil Survey

Grazing Land Conservation Initiative

The Garden State Grazing Coalition, New Jersey's GLCI producer-driven steering committee, has been conducting numerous events to promote pasture and



forage Best Management Practices and networking among the NJ grazing community. Their mission is to strengthen existing land stewardship

partnerships and provide educational opportunities for producers, coalition members and interested community members. The NJ NRCS Grazing Land Specialist assists with the administration of this group, as well as educational and promotional events throughout the state.

In 2006, six pasture walks were held, highlighting soil fertility, winter manure management, agri-tainment and marketing, weed and grass identification and pasture forage establishment. Focus species were a mix of cattle, horses and sheep.

Future events and conferences are announced on the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative website, www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/glci.

Earmark funding of \$990,000

FY2006 earmark funding was allocated to enhance delivery of technical assistance on farms enrolled in either the NJ Conservation Cost Share Program or the State's Farmland Preservation Program. These funds support the employment of eight NRCS staff and nine NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) staff hired to work on State Cost Share and Farm Bill Programs. NJDA administers their nine positions through agreements with the Hunterdon, Mercer, and Gloucester Soil Conservation Districts.

In FY 2006 these additional staff supported:

- 119 contracts through various Farm Bill programs totaling \$4,419,887
- 91 farmers who received \$1,381,630 in State cost share for installing conservation practices on their land.

The conservation practices planned and installed as a result of earmark funding in 2006 include a wide range of soil and water related practices such as irrigation water management, integrated crop management, animal waste management, soil erosion control and others. The benefits of these practices are predominantly linked to water quality and maintaining soil productivity.

Outreach Accomplishment Report

NRCS chairs a partnership Outreach Committee with members from federal, state, and non-profit organizations. In 2006, this committee developed a State Outreach Plan that became part of the NJ NRCS Business Plan. The Plan includes goals for NRCS and the conservation partnership for ensuring that all NJ residents are aware of and have access to natural resource information and conservation program opportunities.

In FY2006, the committee:

- Developed an Outreach Reporting Tool for use by employees statewide;
- Determined the demographics of the State of New Jersey and each USDA service area for program outreach purposes;
- Created an easy to read graphic presentation of the demographic data by county for Black or African American farmers;
- Encouraged all managers (NRCS and SCD) to maintain requirement for outreach activities in employee's performance elements;
- Distributed press releases, direct mailings, and newsletters on program deadlines statewide via email;
- Displayed program information at county fairs, agricultural meetings, agricultural meetings and other appropriate meetings statewide;



- Created an outreach page on the NJ NRCS website to provide easy access to outreach information for employees and customers; and
- Translated NJ NRCS program information and publications into Spanish

Buffer Initiative

Working with our conservation partners statewide to educate the public on the benefits of buffers and on the partnership programs that can support buffer development and management, the Outreach Committee members:

- Promoted CREP and other conservation programs at three Fall Pasture Picnics organized by the Garden State Grazing Coalition;



- Developed an appealing document on the benefits and success stories of buffers, and the requirements of the 7 buffer programs in the state;
- Mailed the conservation buffer document to over 550 municipalities;
- Distributed an electronic version to municipalities via list serves across the state;
- Circulated a press release to the media announcing the outreach effort; and
- Launched a web site specifically promoting the use of buffers on the NRCS NJ website

Minority Farmer Outreach

A second major initiative to ensure all agricultural operators were aware of the opportunity to apply for financial assistance for conservation practices was also completed. Two hundred packets containing a letter, brochures and a return postcard were mailed to minority farmers in New Jersey. The postcard response format gave farmers the option to request a personal field visit, information in English or Spanish, or attend a meeting.

We received a 5% return rate on the cards. Most of the responses requested information and a personal field visit with NRCS. The farmer contact information was distributed to the local offices and contact was made with these new clients.

Plant Materials

The Cape May Plant Materials Center (PMC) located west of Avalon, New Jersey is adjacent to New Jersey's most expansive tidal marsh estuaries. The Cape May PMC is working to:

- Develop local eco-types of native plants for Farm Bill conservation programs.
- Diversify native plant availability for coastal sand dune systems.
- Develop additional native species for tidal shoreline
- Stabilization along marshland/tidal marsh estuaries
- Develop "how to" re-vegetation technologies for stabilization of highly disturbed areas such as mined lands and brownfields



Bio-Fuels

In 2006 the Cape May Plant Materials Center released one of the two cultivars released nationally by NRCS. The release is 'Carthage' switchgrass, which is a plant referred to by President Bush in the State of the Union address. 'Carthage' is considered by many to be one of the most promising native plants for alternative bio-fuels in the nation.

Estuary Habitat

The Cape May PMC also coordinated with the Michigan, West Virginia and Maryland Plant Materials Center to produce almost a half a million plants for the US Army Corp of Engineers. The plants are being used for the restoration of estuarine wildlife habitat at the National Park Service- Gateway National Recreation Area in Brooklyn, NY.

Soil Survey

The NRCS Soils Staff in New Jersey consists of the State Soil Scientist, Assistant State Soil Scientist, and two MLRA (Major Land Resource Area) Project Leaders. NRCS soil scientists in New Jersey have produced completed surveys for 19 of the 21 counties. Modern Soil survey products include:

- **Web Soil Survey** <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> was introduced in 2005. Data for most of New Jersey is available in this format, the most current data available. Soils maps, interpretations and a photo background are available and can be utilized by anyone with a computer and Internet access.
- **Soils Data Mart** <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/> provides the most current data available in GIS format. GIS system users can download county data with soils lines, attribute data, and meta data for 19 NJ counties.

Regional Soil Survey Conference Hosted

The May 2006 Northeast Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference was held at the EcoComplex in Bordentown, Rutgers University's Environmental Research and Extension Center. This event was sponsored by Rutgers Environmental Research and Extension and New Jersey Association of Professional Soil Scientists (NJAPSS) and facilitated by NRCS. The four day meeting included general sessions, committee meetings, a business meeting, a tour of the greenhouse operation at the EcoComplex, and an all-day tour featuring the soils and landscapes of both the Inner and Outer Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain.

World Congress of Soil Science

On July 12, 2006, the same partners hosted a tour as part of the 18th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) event in Philadelphia. The focus of the WCSS was "Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the



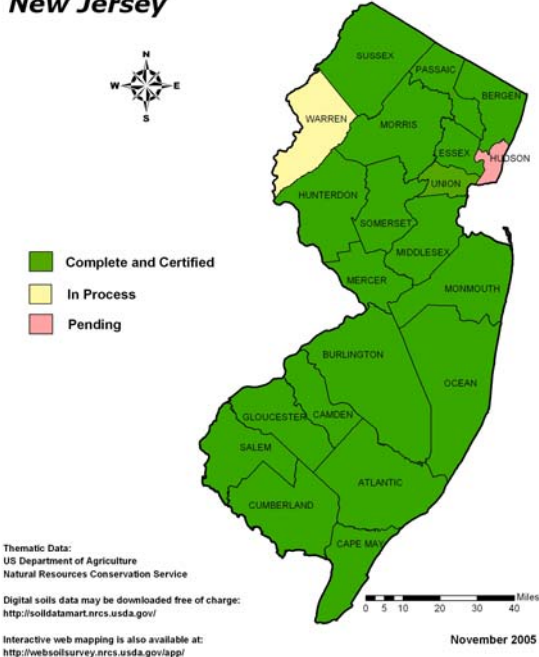
Information Age." This was the first time in 46 years that this program was held in the United States. Nearly 55 international participants took advantage of the tour of the unique soils of the New Jersey Pine Barrens led by NRCS Soil Scientist Chris Smith.

Status of New Jersey Surveys Available in 2006

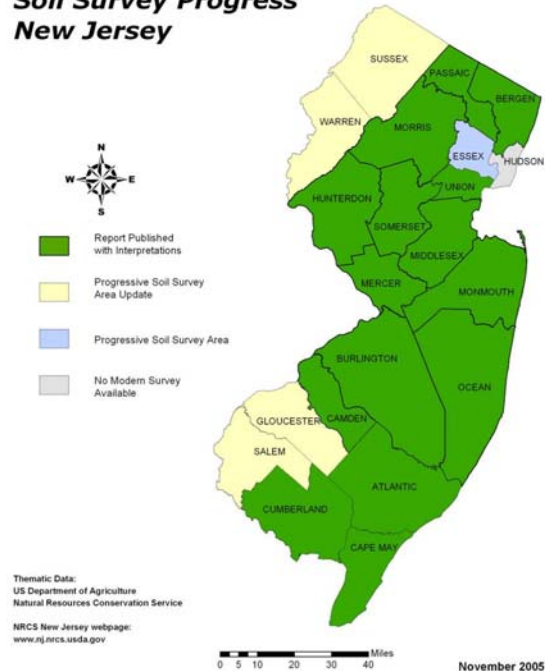
New Jersey County	Soils Data Online		Historical Soil Surveys		
	Web Soil Survey	Data Mart	Book	PDF on CD (Publication Date of Soil Survey)	Available from:
Atlantic	Available	Available	Available	Available (1978)	Vineland
Bergen	Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Liberty RC&D
Burlington	Available	Available	Out of Print	Available (1971)	Hainesport
Camden	Available	Available	Out of Print	Available (1966)	Hainesport
Cape May	Available	Available	Available	Available (2002)	Vineland
Cumberland	Available	Available	Out of Print	Not Available*	Vineland
Essex	Available	Available	Out of Print	Not Available*	Liberty RC&D
Gloucester	Available	Available	Out of Print	Not Available*	Woodstown
Hudson	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	
Hunterdon	Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Frenchtown
Mercer	Available	Available	Out of Print	Available (1972)	Freehold
Middlesex	Available	Available	Available	Available (1987)	Freehold
Monmouth	Available	Available	Available	Available (1989)	Freehold
Morris	Available	Available	Reprint for Sale	Available (1976)	Morris SCD
Ocean	Available	Available	Available	Available (1980)	Hainesport
Passaic	Available	Available	Available	Not Available	Liberty RC&D
Salem	Available	Available	Out of Print	Available (1969)	Woodstown
Somerset	Available	Available	Available	Available (1976)	Frenchtown
Sussex	Available	Available	Out of Print	Not Available*	Hackettstown
Union	Available	Available	Available	Available (2002)	Frenchtown
Warren	In process	In Process	Available	Not Available	Hackettstown

*PDF on CD of most current Soil Survey data is under production

Digital Soil Survey Projects New Jersey



Soil Survey Progress New Jersey



Watershed Programs

The NRCS Water Resources Program in NJ is a composite of several program areas: Watershed Surveys and Planning (PL-06), Watershed Rehabilitation (WF-07), Watershed Operations (WF-08), Watershed Rapid Assessment (CO-01) and Emergency Watershed Protection (WF-16).

Long Range Water Resource Plan

During FY 2006, NRCS completed a Long Range Water Resource Plan for 2006-2009 in collaboration with other agencies and organizations. The plan outlines the way New Jersey NRCS will provide assistance to manage water quality and quantity, meet society's evolving needs and sustain healthy ecosystems. Although the Plan emphasizes water related resources, it establishes a framework to guide NRCS integrated resource planning to address all resource concerns on a watershed basis. The plan recognizes that planning efforts must consider geographic, political, social and economic relations in order to successfully provide quality public service in water resource management.

The Long Range Water Resource Plan can be viewed at: http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Water_Long_Range_Plan.html

Lockatong Creek and Wickecheoke Creek

NRCS and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) teamed up to protect one of New Jersey's key drinking water resources, the Delaware and Raritan Canal. The Canal begins on the Delaware River near Stockton and provides 100 million gallons of water a day to the Central New Jersey region. In addition to water from the Delaware River, the Canal also receives water – and major pollutant loads – from two streams in western Hunterdon County, the Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creeks.

During FY2006, NRCS worked closely with the NJWSA and the local communities to gather data through local outreach meetings and GIS analysis, and prepare a draft report on sediment sources to the Canal from these watersheds. The draft report is currently under internal agency review and is expected to be released to the public in 2007.



Flood Mitigation Planning

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is receiving funding through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) for development of a multi-jurisdictional flood mitigation plan covering the municipalities within the Hunterdon, Mercer, Sussex and Warren Counties which drain to the Basin. Project information is available at http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/Flood_Website/NJmitigation/index.htm

NJOEM and NRCS signed a cooperative agreement in May 2006 for NRCS to provide technical assistance in flood mitigation planning to the 64 municipalities in the four county planning area. NRCS will provide:

- Flood hazard identification and vulnerability assessment
- Analysis of flood insurance claims and repetitive loss properties
- Historic flood damage costs by county and municipal damage area
- Basin-scale mitigation strategies and priorities
- Compendium of local mitigation strategies
- Flood mitigation website to disseminate products and planning tools
- Planning workshops
- Facilitation of two meetings per county with municipalities
- Draft/Compile Final Plan

Rapid Watershed Assessment

In July, 2006, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) held a Federal Interagency Summit to identify opportunities for collaboration between DRBC and other federal agencies. DRBC interest is prioritizing sub-watersheds of the Delaware River for a variety of land and water-related objectives including flood mitigation, non-point source control, and others. NRCS has a rapid watershed assessment process that uses available information in GIS formats and summarizes the resource needs, opportunities, and expected outcomes using graphs, charts and maps.

As a result of the DRBC Summit, NRCS agreed to submit a Rapid Watershed Assessment proposal jointly from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania at the next agency opportunity.

City of Lambertville - Swan Creek

The City of Lambertville in Hunterdon County had major floods in September 2004, April 2005 and June 2006 due to Delaware River waters backing up into the lower reaches of Swan Creek. First floor flooding of historic homes was widespread in each of these events and in the June 2006 flood event, one life was lost. In January 2006 the City of Lambertville and NRCS signed a \$60,000 cooperative agreement for NRCS technical assistance to obtain structure elevations and to develop preliminary alternatives to mitigate flooding here.

NRCS obtained first floor and/or basement low opening elevations for nearly 200 structures. Preliminary information



has been developed, using hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, on the present condition. NRCS worked with a New Jersey Water Supply Authority consultant to determine the feasibility alternate floodwater routing scenarios, with the results presented at public meetings in December 2006. A final report will be completed before the project end.

Mill Creek Dike Engineering Investigation

Mill Creek Dike was installed under the PL-566 Program in 1964 as part of the Pine Mt-Mill Creek Watershed Project. The project provided flood protection and drainage benefits to Greenwich Township, Cumberland County. A tidegate structure installed as a part of the project has deteriorated and is in need of repair. The FY2006 engineering investigation determined that the coated corrugated metal pipe used in the structure was not adequate for the expected 50 year service life of the project, and a request for Watershed Operations funds to address design of a replacement structure was made.

Delaware Estuary Levee Organization

Early in FY 2006 NRCS and the South Jersey RC&D Council collaborated in the formation of an on-going organization, known as the Delaware Estuary Levee Organization (DELO). DELO brought together past sponsors of PL83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention projects and others to discuss the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing levee systems in the South Jersey region. DELO is made up of representatives from the four counties, numerous municipalities, meadow bank



companies, Soil Conservation Districts and other organizations who have a responsibility or interest in these systems. DELO supports the continued maintenance of existing levee systems where these systems provide:

- Public safety via flood protection for lives and property in agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial areas
- Agricultural irrigation and domestic water supply protection from saltwater intrusion
- Mosquito control
- Fish and wildlife benefits

Currently DELO is attempting to locate funding to do a levee inventory of the location, extent and status of the numerous levee systems that exist and protect both urban and rural, agricultural areas in South Jersey.

Watershed Rehabilitation

In FY 2006, two assessments of Stony Brook Watershed project dams were conducted. The sites included Willow Lake Dam, the oldest project dam in New Jersey, and Rosedale Lake Dam at Rosedale Park. Annual maintenance by Mercer County has kept the two dams in relatively good condition, although a portion of the riser at Willow Lake is in need of repair. The assessment reports were completed in FY2006 and the projects are awaiting planning assistance funds. An additional request for watershed rehabilitation planning assistance for Honey Lake Dam, also in the Stony Brook Watershed, was made based on an assessment completed in 2005. This dam has been reclassified as a significant hazard due to a home located in the downstream inundation zone.

Farm Bill Programs



New Jersey received \$9,572,113 in FY2006 through the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) for eligible New Jersey landowners and agricultural producers through five funded USDA voluntary programs. This was a slight decline from the FY2005 funding allocated for New Jersey. For the life of the 2002 Farm Bill, NJ has received almost \$50 million in conservation program funding that has been transferred directly to NJ landowners and managers through the following programs:

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

AMA reduces the economic risk of adopting conservation measures for limited resource, small scale and beginning farmers. No AMA funding was received for FY 2006. Assistance was provided to prior-year participants in order for them to complete their existing contracts.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

CSP rewards producers apply high levels of conservation and management on their farms. In 2006, the Raritan watershed in Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties was selected for participation in the national program. Sixteen successful applicants received \$200,000 in their first year payments, with a total of more than \$1 million to be paid over the life of their 5 or 10 year contracts.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides financial assistance for permanent measures or management strategies that address existing resource concerns. NJ received \$4,102,532 in FY2006, and contracted with 86 producers to implement new conservation systems. Three entities received Conservation Innovation Grants to bring new technologies directly to the field. The grants will study a regional agricultural waste composting facility, test the utility of a draft NRCS standard, and implement a vegetated channel system to uptake nutrients and increase filtration of runoff water on a nursery.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

FRPP provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in agricultural uses. NJ received \$3,973,785 for FY2006 which was passed on to three cooperating entities through Cooperative Agreements. The funding will allow the protection of almost 2500 acres.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP offers private landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. No GRP funding was received for FY 2006. Technical assistance was provided to prior-year participants in order for them to complete their existing contracts.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP provides financial assistance to create, enhance or maintain wildlife habitat in six priority areas on non-federal lands. NJ received \$1,000,236 in WHIP funds for FY2006. Approximately \$375,000 was obligated to 38 private landowners through individual contracts.

NJ also signed five Contribution Agreements with cooperating partners for the remaining funds. These Agreements will provide habitat improvement on nearly 3,400 acres with the cooperating agency contributing their technical assistance to get the work done.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

WRP provides technical and financial assistance to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. For FY2006, NJ received \$435,261 which enabled the funding of one new permanent easement project. The easement closing is expected in FY2007. In FY2006, NRCS also completed the restoration of 2 older WRP projects, and made substantial progress on another 2 restoration designs.

NRCS provides technical assistance to applicants and contract holders working with Farm Service Agency (FSA) Programs, including:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP allows producers to convert highly-erodible or marginal cropland or pasture to grass or trees and receive rental payments as well as financial assistance. In 2006, NRCS provided assistance to 20 producers interested in converting expiring contracts into new contracts.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP provides rental payments and financial assistance for specific buffer practices such as grassed waterways and riparian corridors. CREP is managed jointly by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the NJ Department of Agriculture. In 2006, NRCS provided technical assistance to over 30 producers applying for these practices.

Program Implementation - FY 2006

Program	Funded Projects			Potential Unfunded - Backlog 2007	
	Contracts (Acres)		Amount	Applications	Estimated Cost
CSP	16	(5324)	\$1,016,385	N/A	N/A
EQIP	86	(7077)	\$3,736,583	60	\$2,386,920
FRPP *	22	(2396)	\$3,973,785	150	\$60 million
WHIP	38	(2810)	\$1,000,236	35	\$459,235
WRP	1	(720)	\$428,736	7 acres	\$5,847,300

* approximate – actual numbers may change upon easement closing

Program Payments - Cumulative

Cumulative payments made on previous obligations for major programs

Fiscal Year	AMA		EQIP		WHIP	
	Obligations	Payments	Obligations	Payments	Obligations	Payments
2002	\$252,900	\$ 220,557	\$ 760,463	\$ 504,010	\$ 131,909	\$ 105,536
2003	Not Funded		\$ 2,164,805	\$1,482,744	\$ 215,238	\$ 143,720
2004	\$ 384,596	\$ 82,291	\$ 4,263,836	\$ 2,479,874	\$ 259,088	\$ 67,184
2005	\$ 315,801	\$ 120,580	\$ 3,312,337	\$ 808,651	\$ 319,548	\$ 108,168
2006	Not Funded		\$ 3,742,895	\$ 606,679	\$ 1,000,236	\$ 147,066
Total	\$953,297	\$423,428	\$14,244,336	\$5,881,958	\$1,926,019	\$571,674

Program Obligations by County – FY 2006

New contracts obligated with FY2006 funds

County	CSP		EQIP		FRPP		WHIP	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Atlantic			1	42,077				
Bergen			3	68,229				
Burlington			13	631,724	2	236,050	4	36,350
Camden			3	79,341			1	4,350
Cape May			2	77,044				
Cumberland			6	237,046				
Essex							5	56,063
Gloucester			2	3,810				
Hunterdon	8	544,346	11	359,907	13	1,249,500	6	82,351
Mercer			1	17,249			4	563
Middlesex	3	65,853	2	4,632				
Monmouth			3	168,814			3	12,013
Morris	3	229,101	4	13,941			1	13,473
Ocean			1	28,513			1	10,212
Passaic			1	28,513				
Salem			8	622,610	2	748,235		
Somerset	2	177,085	1	42,498			5	472,903
Sussex			7	176,270	1	811,500	4	46,384
Warren			18	1,025,248	4	928,500	4	12,857

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

NRCS in NJ supports two locally sponsored independent RC&D Councils and their mission to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and standard of living in their designated RC&D areas. With the assistance of an NRCS Coordinator, the RC&D Councils plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

North Jersey RC&D

(Sussex, Warren, Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon, Union Counties)

Visit them online at www.northjerseyrcd.org

In 2006, the Council:

- Completed 10 riparian restoration projects using several funding sources. Working over 2500 hours, volunteers from more than 40 volunteer groups planted 838 trees and 1616 shrubs.
- Coordinated funding from four sources to complete a 150' streambank stabilization project along the Walnut Brook. To protect the streambank, the bank was regraded, rock placed, and plant material and erosion control mat installed. The site was also used for the hands-on portion of our *Restore Our Streams Workshop*; 59 workshop participants provided all the labor to install the plant materials.
- Developed and launched a new River-Friendly Farm program. The first NJ farm was certified as River-Friendly in July 2006.
- Developed nutrient and pest management plans for over 3600 acres of cropland through our Integrated Crop Management service program.
- Completed a multi-year project in the Wallkill Watershed (Sussex County) to reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution. Numerous partners worked together to provide 26 organic/transition to organic workshops; assist 26 producers with grazing assistance and 9 livestock producers with a detailed nutrition management program; and develop 13 grazing plans and 2 CNMPs.
- Sampled a section of the Musconetcong River from Washington to Franklin Township for fecal coliform bacteria as part of the Watershed planning efforts in that Watershed. Water samples were collected at 10 sites and analyzed to determine the source of the contamination.



South Jersey RC&D

(Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem Counties)

Visit them online at www.sjrkd.org

With a new coordinator on board, the South Jersey Council looked strategically at ongoing projects and worked on developing a new five year plan.

In 2006, the Council:

- Responded to concerns about dike and levee safety following Hurricane Katrina by creating the Delaware Estuary Levee Organization (DELO). DELO is a group of municipal, county, state, federal, and meadow bank representatives concerned with the need for maintenance and upgrades on the more than 35 existing levees in South Jersey. This group met nine times this year and proposes an inventory of all levees in South Jersey and legislative changes to permit local entities to assume maintenance of these structures.
- Took on the task of promoting cleaner air and less dependency on foreign oil through the sale and distribution of E85, a mix of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. This fuel can be used in many cars on the road today, but is not available in the state. The Council is working to develop a supply source and distribution points for local partners as the first step.
- Assisted Camden, Gloucester, Cape-Atlantic and Freehold Soil Conservation Districts to create Regional Stormwater Management plan in small watersheds.
- Installed a new weather station to supply data for a new homeowner lawn irrigation program.

Conservation Accomplishments – FY 2006

NRCS provide technical assistance and funding to private landowners and agricultural producers for implementation of conservation practices. In New Jersey Farm Bill dollars promote the development and use of conservation plans and nutrient management systems, wildlife habitat creation and enhancement, wetlands restoration, grazing land maintenance, and development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans. For the most part, planning is a result of current year requests for assistance from private landowners applying for current year programs. Conservation planning is done under the Conservation Technical Assistance program.

Below is a summary of the key planning and implementation accomplishments for the fiscal year.

	Planned	Applied	Estimated Annual Need
Conservation Planning (Ac)	37,851	33,007	47,551
Nutrient Management (Ac)	18,569	7,424	23,724
Wildlife Habitat (Ac)	11,072	3,666	4,622
Wetland Restoration (Ac)	156	156	375
Grazing Lands (Ac)	8,689	4,221	8,645
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) (No)	42	31	108



Accomplishments by County - FY 2006

County	Conservation Plans (all lands)		Nutrient Management		Wildlife Habitat Management		Wetlands Restoration		Grazing Lands Management		CNMP (Ac)	
	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied	Planned	Applied
Atlantic	550	1,582	457	503		270						
Bergen	40		39		1						17	
Burlington	5,102	5,121	2,219	445	258	2	127	118	399	304	69	1
Camden	324	25	67	18					82	18	21	
Cape May	141	292	132	5		108			5		1	1
Cumberland	2,696	3,084	2,486	713		5			24	11		
Essex	87	11			41							
Gloucester	708	884	453	542	53	2			71	64	51	133
Hunterdon	5,628	3,926	3,295	2,012	580	406	8	5	3,280	1,348	33	25
Mercer	2,610	2,514	570	1,024	1,769	685	2		385	38	76	37
Middlesex	2,482	340	266	256	3,631	3			38			
Monmouth	1,146	1,155	386	36	3	79			590	378	131	190
Morris	1,301	326	266	124	589	3	15	15	1,125	284	51	10
Ocean	399	557	266	52	83	2			7		7	
Passaic	12	3	3		8				1		2	2
Salem	4,998	4,977	3,547	395	307	571	1	7	140	54	329	6
Somerset	3,751	3,910	891	1,175	2,115	555	1		1,049	788		
Sussex	1,241	444	698		183	61	2	6	624	97	158	201
Warren	4,635	3,858	2,530		1,453	917		1	1,512	540	842	1,115

Conservation Practices Planned and Applied in FY2006

Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Access Road (ft)	11,362	1,040
Agrichemical Mixing Facility (no)	5	1
Animal Trails and Walkways (ft)	13,110	806
Brush Management (ac)	1,104	751
Channel Stabilization (ft)		200
Clearing and Snagging (ft)	4,157	1,797
Composting Facility (no)	6	2
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (no)	42	31
Conservation Cover (ac)	697	329
Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)	15,813	12,369
Contour Buffer Strips (ac)	878	860
Contour Farming (ac)	1,223	997
Contour Orchard or Fruit Area (ac)	590	447
Cover Crop (ac)	6,138	4,569
Critical Area Planting (ac)	689	504
Deep Tillage (ac)	57	196
Dike (ft)		13,600
Diversion (ft)	20,149	5,561
Early Successional Habitat Development (ac)	5,820	600
Air Resource Enhancement (ac)	2,409	276
Energy Enhancement (ac)	5,108	3,453
Grazing Enhancement (ac)	28	42
Habitat Management Enhancement (ac)	1,847	225
Nutrient Management Enhancement (ac)	1,838	2,153
Pest Management Enhancement (ac)	541	126
Soil Management Enhancement (ac)	2,554	3,093
Water Enhancement (ac)		365



Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Fence (ft)	325,510	201,515
Grade Stabilization Structure (no)	3	1
Grassed Waterway (ac)	11.1	12.6
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (ac)	28	
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac)	137	5
Hedgerow Planting (ft)	6,309	841
Irrigation Land Leveling (ac)		1
Irrigation Storage Reservoir (ac-ft)	61	28
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (ac)	1,047	746
Irrigation System, Sprinkler (ac)	1,841	1,317
Irrigation, Tailwater Recovery (no)	5	3
Irrigation Water Pipeline, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic (ft)	93,124	32,179
Irrigation Water Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic (ft)	2,150	2,580
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	4,286	1,878
Land Clearing (ac)	33	14
Land Smoothing (ac)	19	21
Lined Waterway or Outlet (ft)	13,195	3,213
Livestock Use Area Protection (ac)	7	
Manure Transfer (no)	5	2
Mulching (ac)	5	5
Nutrient Management (ac)	18,569	7,424
Obstruction Removal (ac)	13	6
Pasture and Hay Planting (ac)	4,319	2,087
Pipeline (ft)	56,584	17,918

Helping People Help the Land

Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Pest Management (ac)	19,243	7,561
Pond (no)	14	4
Prescribed Burning (ac)	868	976
Prescribed Grazing (ac)	2,008	1,447
Pumping Plant (no)	13	3
Recreation Trail and Walkway (ft)	6,200	3,900
Residue Management, No/Strip Till (ac)	5,214	3,421
Residue Management, Mulch Till (ac)	4,551	2,441
Field Border (ft)	44,129	50,461
Filter Strip (ac)	1,891	921
Fish Passage (no)		1
Forage Harvest Management (ac)	2,334	687
Forest Stand Improvement (ac)	2,576	147
Residue Management, Seasonal (ac)	6,702	4,415
Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	242	71
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)	7	4
Restoration/Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (ac)	3	
Roof Runoff Structure (no)	41	27
Row Arrangement (ac)	6,486	5,304
Runoff Management System (ac)	5	
Shallow Water Development (ac)	3	1
Spoil Spreading (ac)	15	
Spring Development (no)	3	
Stream Crossing (no)	3	
Stream Habitat Improvement (ac)	29	36
Streambank/Shoreline Protection (ft)	300	1,000
Stripcropping (ac)	185	
Structure for Water Control (no)	13	2



Conservation Practices	Planned	Applied
Subsurface Drain (ft)	24,719	8,685
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (ft)	21,805	5,470
Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral (ft)	5,063	7,485
Terrace (ft)	24,326	25,666
Transition to Organic Production (ac)	19	86
Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	226	92
Tree/Shrub Pruning (ac)	5	10
Underground Outlet (ft)	22,017	4,363
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	5,089	2,606
Use Exclusion (ac)	729	30
Vegetative Barrier (ft)	478	400
Waste Facility Cover (no)	8	
Waste Storage Facility (no)	45	18
Waste Utilization (ac)	547	384
Wastewater Treatment Strip (ac)	8	
Water Well (no)	47	14
Watering Facility (no)	197	41
Wetland Creation (ac)	1	1
Wetland Enhancement (ac)	128	125
Wetland Restoration (ac)	27	31
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngmnt (ac)	122	420
Wildlife Watering Facility (no)	6	2
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	17,831	2,980



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