

At a Glance:
Agricultural Management Assistance

May 2008

Overview

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides payments to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the conservation provisions of AMA. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is responsible for an organic certification cost-share program, and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) is responsible for mitigation of financial risk through an insurance cost-share program.

AMA is authorized under the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000. It was amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill), and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

Legislative Changes

The 2008 Farm Bill amended Section 524(b)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add Hawaii as an eligible AMA State.

Funding is made available through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for each fiscal year from 2008 through 2012 in the amount of \$15 million. CCC shall not use less than 50 percent of funding for NRCS conservation activities; not less than 40 percent for Risk Management Agency (RMA) activities; and not less than 10 percent of funding for Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS) activities.

AMA is available in 16 states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

More Information

For more information and updates about the AMA and other Farm Bill topics, please refer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA>.

