

## Conservation Programs for You and Your Land

USDA offers voluntary conservation programs for all kinds of land, natural resources, and people. We provide conservation programs to help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality and conserve energy.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the lead USDA agency for conservation on privately owned working lands.

## Conservation Pays

Many conservation programs offer financial incentives, such as easement purchases, cost-sharing to install conservation practices, or annual payments for stewardship.

All programs are voluntary and competitive, with the best, most environmentally beneficial projects selected for funding.



## Technical Help

NRCS professional and technical experts will help farmers and landowners identify what conservation systems can help, and what programs they are eligible for. NRCS helps producers plan, design and implement conservation practices on their land.



## Farmland and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

FRPP is an easement program aimed at protecting prime farmland from development. In FRPP, NRCS provides funds to a state, tribal, non-profit or local government program to purchase development rights on prime agricultural land. The permanent easement limits use of the land to agricultural purposes.



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP offers financial and technical help to install or implement needed conservation practices on working land. Over 70 conservation practices are available. Contracts provide flat rate payments based on average costs to install or implement the practices. All private land in agricultural production is eligible, including cropland, grazing and pastureland and non-industrial private forest.



## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP provides payments to producers who already practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years. All agricultural operations and non-industrial private forest lands are eligible. Farmers receive an annual payment for five years, based on their level of stewardship.



**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

CRP and CREP are land set-aside programs, aimed at reducing erosion, increasing wildlife habitat, and improving water quality and forestland. The landowner sets aside cropland and plants it to some type of permanent vegetation, with annual rental payments for the length of the contract. Many types of ag land are eligible, and can be planted to trees, grass, small wetland restoration, prairie and oak savannah restoration and others.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) manages CRP/CREP.



**Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

WRP is an easement program aimed at restoring wetlands that were drained for crop production before 1985. The restored wetlands help protect water quality, improve groundwater, and provide great wildlife habitat. The easement payments are for either permanent or 30-year easements.



**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

WHIP provides costsharing to develop or improve fish and wildlife habitat. The new habitat may include prairie and oak savannah, fencing, in-stream fish structures, livestock exclusion, brush management, streambank restoration and other practices. Almost any type of land is eligible.



**For more information contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center or visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)**



*Helping People Help the Land*

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# Conservation Programs for Wisconsin Landowners

Enhance Wildlife Habitat



Reduce Soil Erosion



Protect Water Quality



Build Healthy Soil



Save Energy



Protect Air Quality