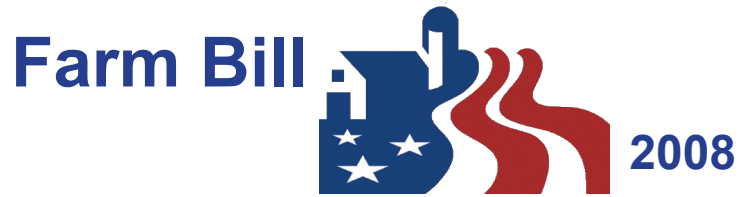




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At a Glance

How Do 2008 Farm Bill Programs Work?

Nevada

Nov. 2009

Conservation programs administered by the NRCS under the 2008 Farm Bill help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty.

NRCS in Nevada offers a number of conservation program which provide financial assistance to landowners as well as a number of programs which offer technical assistance. This month's letter will address financial assistance programs.

How do Farm Bill Programs Work?

The Farm Bill programs available through NRCS are voluntary programs that allow the agricultural producer to customize his/her needs to the program(s) available. You can sign up for NRCS programs at any time. However, by law, NRCS closes application periods so that the current applications can be processed and funded. NRCS is allocated funds each year for each of the programs mentioned below. These funds are used to meet local producers needs throughout the state based upon state and local priorities identified through the state technical committee and the local work groups.

In order to evaluate applications, NRCS field employees visit with producer and complete an on-farm evaluation of the producer's resource needs and concerns. Through this evaluation and planning, NRCS field staff are able to provide the producer with alternatives to address the identified resource concerns. After this initial evaluation period, the producer can decide if there is an NRCS program that meets his/her needs and may be able to assist with addressing the identified resource concerns.

NRCS offers financial assistance to help producers address natural resource concerns on working agricultural lands. These programs can be split into three groups, environmental improvement programs, stewardship programs, and easement programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

EIP's provide technical and financial assistance to land owners to address one or more of the 78 different environmental concerns recognized by NRCS. These resource concerns include issues (problems) such as wind erosion, water quantity for irrigation, brush management, and fire hazards.

NRCS offers three environmental improvement programs in Nevada:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP),
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA).

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is available to producers who have a proven record of conservation and are willing to do additional conservation on their working farms and ranches or non-industrial forest lands. CSP encourages producers to improve conservation systems by installing additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

The new CSP is open continuously for applications. It replaces the old Conservation Security Program.

—over—

EASEMENT PROGRAMS

The third group of financial assistance programs offered by NRCS is the easement programs. In Nevada, the

- Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP),
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and
- Wetland Reserve Program are available.

FRPP and GRP are working lands programs, intended to keep agricultural land in production as working farms and ranches.

WRP is intended to protect and restore wetlands, wetland habitat, and wildlife.

GRP and WRP also have an option for rental agreements.

MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is intended to provide an overview of Farm Bill programs. For more complete information, please contact your local USDA Service Center or NRCS Office:

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555 West Silver Street
Elko, NV 89801
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744 E. North Industrial Way
Ely, Nevada 89315
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