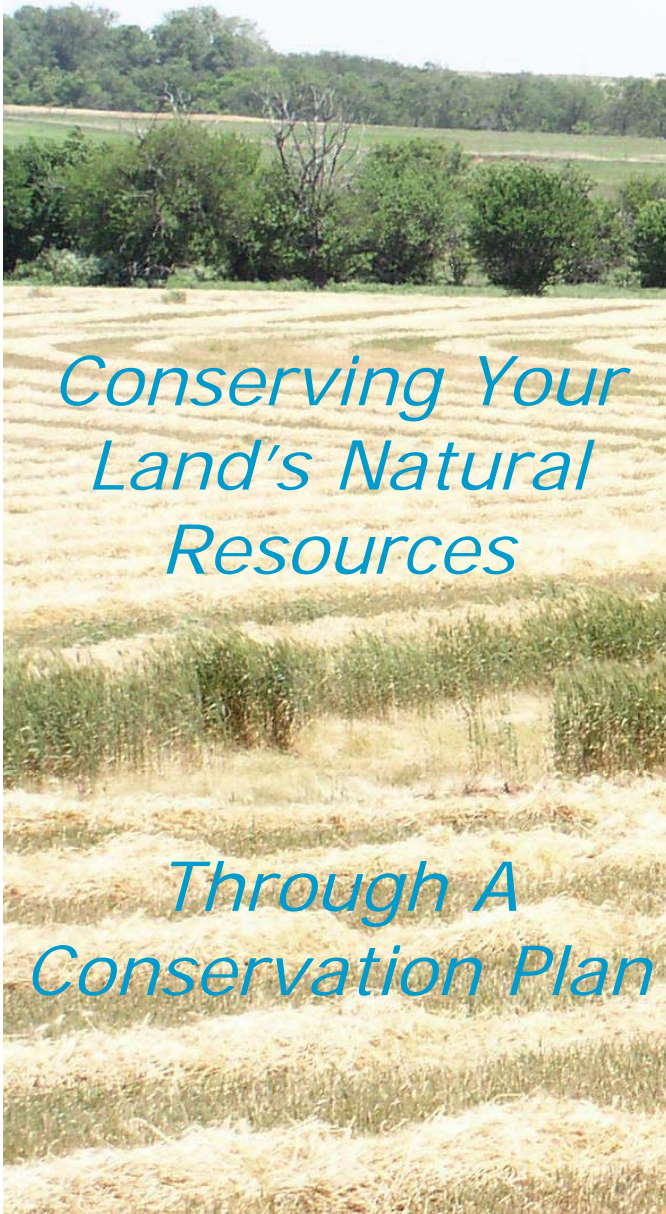


Your Land...Your Investment...Your Plan



Conservation Planning

Conservation planning is the most fundamental and important starting point for maintaining your farm or ranch's natural resources. Every farm or ranch has its own unique resource problems or concerns.

Examples of activities causing resource problems or concerns to the land's natural resources include:

- **SOIL** being washed into streams
- **WATER** quantity problems due to over pumping ground water systems; water quality problems due to polluted streams
- **AIR** transporting livestock odors or soil particles
- **PLANTS** being overgrazed, encroaching invasive plant species, or declining wildlife habitats
- **ANIMAL** waste being produced in high volumes

A conservation plan combines your farming or ranching skills with the science-based knowledge of the Conservation Planner. By working together, you can produce a conservation plan that meets your farming or ranching goals in a resource-sustaining manner.

Benefits of a Conservation Plan

- Identifies problems or potential problems overlooked on a day-to-day basis
- Protects soil along with the farm's productivity
- Helps comply with environmental regulations
- Adaptable to your changing farm or ranch operational goals
- Sets up a reasonable schedule for applying needed conservation practices that fits your timetable



The First Step

Contact your nearest USDA Service Center, and make an appointment to meet with the NRCS Conservation Planner.

USDA Service Centers are listed in the phone book under U.S. Government, or you can visit their website at www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov.

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What is a Conservation Plan?

A Conservation Plan is a written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices and systems you plan to use and maintain on your farm.



Carrying out your plan will achieve the goals of protecting the environment on and off your farm. After soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources on your property are inventoried and evaluated, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Certified Conservation Planner will review several alternatives for you to consider. The alternatives you select are recorded in the conservation plan, which becomes your roadmap for better management of your natural resources.

A Conservation Plan Includes

- An aerial photo or diagram of your fields
- A soil map and soil descriptions
- Resource inventory data which can include forage or crop production potential, or potential livestock carrying capacity
- A list of your treatment decisions
- The location and schedule for applying conservation practices
- A plan of operation and maintenance of conservation systems or practices

