

NRCS Program Assistance



For Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Q. Am I a socially disadvantaged farmer?

A. A socially disadvantaged farmer is one subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities. This includes African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Hispanics, Asians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

Q. What is conservation?

A. The protection, preservation, and management of natural resources — soil, water, air, plants and animals.

Q. What are conservation practices?

A. Land and structural management methods to benefit the natural resources.

Q. What is technical assistance?

A. Professional consultation, information, and tools needed to develop a conservation plan and implement practices.

Q. What is financial assistance?

A. Funding set aside for farmers to install conservation practices on their property.

Q. Can I obtain funding to improve my farming operation?

A. Yes, if your operation qualifies. NRCS programs help farmers improve productivity and enhance the environment — and can include financial assistance.

Q. How much financial assistance could I qualify for?

A. A Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher may receive financial assistance up to 90% of the estimated conservation practice cost.

Q. Can I receive program money in advance?

A. Yes. NRCS can advance the applicant 50 percent of the program funding.

What Conservation Programs Can Help Me Succeed?

Are you looking to reduce erosion through natural buffers, improve grazing areas, restore wetland areas, enhance soil productivity, or have other conservation needs? If so, look to NRCS! Conservation programs are a way for the government to pay for part of the cost of healing the land with conservation practices.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):

Provides planning, design, and implementation assistance to landowners who conserve, maintain, improve, plan, and apply practices benefiting natural resources.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

Promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Technical and financial assistance are available to help eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible farmland.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):

Provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

Promotes the improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant, animal life, and other conservation at a higher level than most programs require. Technical and financial assistance are available to address cropland and forested land that are an incidental part of a farm operation.

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center which can be found at www.farmers.gov/connect.

