

Services and Programs (cont.)

Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D)

This program assists local RC&D Councils in coordinating the improvement of environmental, social, and economic conditions in rural areas. RC&D activities work to cultivate sustainable communities as well as sound management and conservation of natural resources.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

Under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), landowners and land users who qualify as socially disadvantaged, beginning, or limited resource farmers and ranchers may have additional assistance available, including increased financial support from some NRCS programs.

Watershed Rehabilitation

Through the Flood Control Act of 1944, the Watershed Protection, Flood Prevention Act of 1954, and Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000, NRCS provides assistance to watershed project sponsors in repairing and restoring aging dams and watershed structures.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. Landowners that enter into WRP may be paid an easement payment in exchange for enrolling their land. Wetlands provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and many other wildlife species.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP is a voluntary program for developing or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides assistance to private and Tribal landowners for the development of upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat.

Helping People Help the Land

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Most Alabama counties have NRCS offices co-located with Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices. The majority of NRCS offices are co-located with at least one other USDA agency.

For more information on NRCS programs in Alabama, visit our website:
<http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/>

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NRCS in Alabama



Who We Are What We Do

Helping People Help the Land

What is NRCS?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the USDA agency responsible for assisting landowners with natural resource conservation efforts on private lands. NRCS accomplishes this mission through voluntary programs which provide financial and technical assistance to landowners.

NRCS employees are highly trained in many scientific and technical specialties including soil science, soil conservation, agronomy, biology, forestry, engineering, geology, hydrology, cultural resources, and economics.

We work with landowners, Tribes, partner agencies and organizations, and units of government to reduce erosion, improve water quality, reduce the impact of floods, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, promote good land use, improve pasture and woodland conditions, and conserve soil, water, and other natural resources.

We assist many individuals and partners by helping set conservation goals, working with people on conservation issues, and providing technical assistance. Partners include conservation districts, state and federal agencies, Earth Team volunteers, RC&D Councils, agricultural and environmental groups, Tribes, and professional societies.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, located in Alabama's 67 counties, are the heart of the conservation delivery system. These units of local government, organized by citizens under state law, operate on the premise that local people know about local needs. Districts work with NRCS and other partners to establish local soil and water conservation priorities.

Services and Programs Provided by NRCS

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs)

NRCS works with Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) to help AFO owners and operators achieve their production and natural resource conservation goals through development and implementation of CNMPs.

Conservation Opportunities for Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

The 2008 Farm Bill focuses on equal access to USDA programs and services and addresses the unique circumstances and concerns of Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives. Federally recognized Indian Tribes receive streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance, enhanced programs and services, and flexibility in decision making, with most decisions made at the Tribal level.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

CRP addresses soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on agricultural lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency, with NRCS providing technical assistance.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages producers on private and Tribal land to improve, manage, and maintain existing conservation activities as well as undertake additional conservation practices.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

EWP undertakes emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, to retard runoff and prevent soil erosion to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion whenever fire, flood, or other natural occurrence causes a sudden impairment of watersheds.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

FRPP is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program provides matching funds to state, Tribal, and local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farm and ranch land protection programs to purchase conservation easements.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP assists farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental concerns as goals to optimize environmental benefits, and help landowners meet environmental regulations.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

GRP emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion. The program assists landowners in protecting, restoring, and enhancing grassland.

National Cooperative Soil Survey Program (NCSS)

The NCSS is a partnership led by NRCS of Federal land management agencies, state agricultural experiment stations, and state and local units of government that provide soil survey information necessary for understanding, managing, conserving, and sustaining the nation's limited soil resources.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

The NRI provides statistically sound, numerical data on natural resources and environmental conditions and trends in both Alabama and the nation. The information is used to develop and implement effective agricultural and environmental policies, legislation, and conservation programs, as well as to enhance public understanding.