

## **Getting Started**

1. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office
  - Local phone directory
  - Alabama NRCS web-site at [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov)
2. Learn about services and programs
  - Local NRCS field office personnel
  - National NRCS web-site at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or Alabama NRCS web-site at [www.al.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov)
  - Outreach community meetings - can be scheduled through your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or NRCS office

## **Services**

1. Technical assistance
2. Information on electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), programs, etc. ([www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/))
3. Written materials on eFOTG, programs, etc., including handouts, brochures, etc.

## **Eligibility for Programs**

1. Producer eligibility
  - Be an agricultural producer engaged in production of livestock, agricultural, or silvicultural products
  - Have an interest in the farming operation
  - Have control of the land for the proposed term of the program/contract
  - Be in compliance with highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation compliance provisions in current Farm Bill, and be in compliance with laws and policies of other federal agencies such as US Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.
  - Be able to provide private information such as Tax ID numbers, Social Security numbers, and banking information, if producer is entering into a contract with NRCS

## 2. Land eligibility

- Provide proof of control of land
  - Deed, plat, lease, Control of Agricultural Land Agreement
- Obtain decision maker authority
  - Power of Attorney if someone other than owner or designated operator will make decisions
- Know physical location of land – be able to identify on map (aerial photo, plat map, etc.)
- Know short and long-term goals for land
- Be able to communicate resource concerns for land

## **Eligibility/Requirements for Specific Programs**

1. Obtain knowledge about individual programs from NRCS personnel or from website
2. Understand program purpose for each specific program
3. Understand minimum and/or maximum acreage requirements for each program
4. Understand payment rates and limitations for each program
5. Understand program requirements for complete conservation systems and/or individual practices

## **Forms**

- NRCS-CPA-1200 - Conservation Program Application
- SF-1199A - Direct Deposit Sign-up Form
- FSA 211 - Power of Attorney
- AD-1026 - HEL/Wetland Compliance
- CCC-901 - Member Information (only for entities)
- CPC-AL-1 - Control of Agricultural Land Agreement
- CCC-931 - Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information

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