

# **USDA-NRCS Conservation Programs for Grazing Operations**

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## Who We Are

- Founded in 1935 in response to the Dust Bowl
- Rich history of 90 years working with farmers and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- We partner with landowners of private agriculture (cropland and rangeland) and non-industrial private forest lands to identify resource concerns and develop conservation plans to address those issues
- Funding is made available through Farm Bill Programs
- Participation is voluntary



### **Our assistance**

#### Technical assistance

Providing expert technical assistance is the core of our mission.
 NRCS staff have the training, expertise and knowledge to address natural resource challenges through science-based conservation planning

#### Financial assistance

- NRCS offers voluntary financial assistance programs through the Farm Bill
- Determining what is right for your operation starts with a visit to your local USDA Service Center.



### **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

- Boots on the ground
- No program requirements, no cost
- The NRCS is a technical agency here to assist agricultural producers. Programs are not required to receive assistance





# **Program - Eligibility**

- Registered with Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Agricultural producer
  - Individual, legal entity, Indian tribe, or joint operation
- SSN or EIN and entity documents
- Land control
  - Own or lease
- Compliant with Highly Erodible Land / Wetlands regulations: Food Security Act of 1985
- Determining if you are eligible starts with a visit to your local USDA Service Center.

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- EQIP supports producers by implementing structural, vegetative, and management practices
- Producers will work with a NRCS conservation planner to develop a conservation plan that addresses the identified resource concerns
- The length of an EQIP contract can vary.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Common Practices

- Rangeland
  - Brush Control
  - Fence
  - Range Planting
  - Livestock Water Development
  - Grazing Management
  - Wildlife Habitat Management
  - Many more
- Pastureland

- Pasture Planting
- Pest Management
- Nutrient Management
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Fence
- Livestock Water Development
- Many more
- Finding out which practices best address

the needs of your operation begin with a visit to your local USDA Service Center.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- CSP offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers take their conservation efforts to the next level
- Current level of conservation will be maintained as a baseline, while adopting additional enhancements to increase level of conservation
- The length of a CSP contract is 5 years
- Management driven program

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

- Easement program
- Agricultural Land Easements
  - Permanent
  - Requires an agreement with eligible partners
- Wetland Reserve Easements
  - Permanent and term
- Landowners retain private ownership but must follow certain land use requirements

## **Questions?**

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#### Find your local Service Center here!

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-technical-assistance



## **Questions?**

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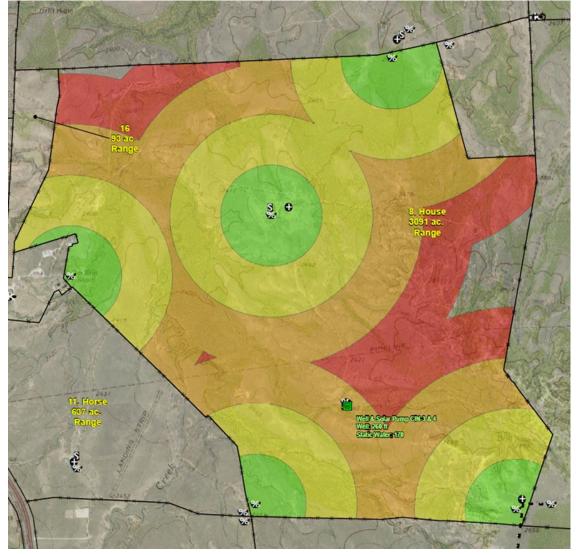




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