
What other types of assistance does NRCS provide?

Soils Information

In addition to providing conservation technical and financial assistance, NRCS has extensive soils information. Soil survey maps are available for every Michigan county. You can obtain soils information from your local NRCS field office or by visiting the online Web Soil Survey at:
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.



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Easement Programs

NRCS easement programs help keep agricultural land in production and protect valuable wildlife and fish habitat.

The *Farmland Preservation Program* and *Grasslands Reserve Program* purchase permanent or long-term development rights from land owners to keep their property in agricultural use.

The *Wetlands Reserve Program* purchases long-term or permanent easements on land that was formerly wetlands. These acres are restored to wetlands to protect water quality and preserve valuable wildlife habitat.

NRCS has many other programs to develop and implement better conservation practices and to conserve and protect natural resources on a landowner, watershed and regional scale.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

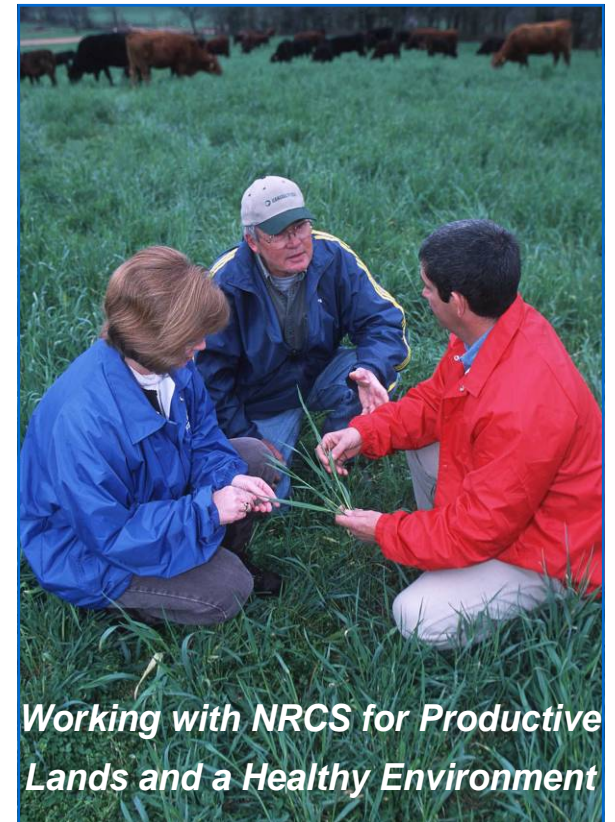
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Helping People Help the Land



*Working with NRCS for Productive
Lands and a Healthy Environment*



What is NRCS?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a technical agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Agency was established in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service to carry out continuing programs of soil and water conservation. In partnership with local Conservation Districts, NRCS is charged with promoting and supporting conservation on private lands. Working with NRCS is always a voluntary decision on the part of a landowner.

Why work with NRCS?

Conservation assistance from NRCS can benefit your operation in a number of ways.

Save Time and Money

Conservation practices promoted by NRCS can help you maintain the productivity of your land while using less fuel and chemicals. Practices like conservation tillage will reduce your fuel costs by reducing the number of passes you make over your fields.

Efficient pest management practices can reduce the amount of herbicides and pesticides you use while maintaining or improving your current yields. Nutrient management plans help farmers apply nutrients only where they are needed, reducing the need for costly fertilizers.

Peace of Mind

Sound conservation practices reduce your risk of litigation. Farmers in Michigan have some protections against legal action if they utilize Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices. Developing a conservation plan with NRCS will help you comply with GAAMPs.

Conserve Natural Resources

The ultimate goal of NRCS is to ensure that our natural resources will be preserved for future generations. By developing a conservation plan and implementing conservation measures on your farm, your land will continue to be productive for future generations of farmers. You will also help improve the quality of the air and water we all share.



Conservation measures like no-till are eligible for NRCS financial assistance.

How do I get started?

To get started working with NRCS, visit your local NRCS field office or Conservation District. NRCS is listed in your phone book's federal government section under the Department of Agriculture. You can also find a list of NRCS Michigan field offices online at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/.

A conservationist will work with you to develop a conservation plan for your operation. The conservation plan will address your conservation goals and environmental risks on your farm.

After developing a conservation plan, you and the conservationist will determine how to meet your

conservation goals. In many cases, NRCS can provide financial assistance to help you implement new conservation measures.

What kind of financial assistance does NRCS provide?

NRCS provides a portion of the cost of installing or implementing conservation measures through program payments. The producer receives payment after the practice has been installed or implemented. In some cases the producer may be able to receive a portion of the payment before the practice is installed.

What kind of conservation measures are eligible for financial assistance?

NRCS assists with conservation measures for all types of agricultural operations including row crops, livestock and dairy production, forest products and Christmas trees, organic production and specialty crops. Conservation measures eligible for financial assistance range from animal waste storage facilities, pest management, no-till and conservation tillage practices, windbreak planting and livestock stream crossings to name only a few.

Is every landowner eligible to receive financial assistance from NRCS?

To participate in any USDA financial assistance program, including commodity price supports and insurance programs, farmers must meet basic USDA eligibility requirements. These include having wetland and highly erodible land determinations on file with USDA and meeting income eligibility requirements. If you do not have HEL and Wetland determinations, NRCS can assist you with this process.
