



Programs and Assistance Available to
Landowners

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Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Resource Conservation Development Program (RC&D)

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

- **The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands.**
- **Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and**
- **NRCS agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices.**
- **Cost-sharing is available for 50 percent of the average cost of practice establishment.**
- **The cost-share agreement typically lasts a minimum of 5 years from the date that the contract is signed.**

Pheasant Habitat



Whitetail deer



Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.
- EQIP was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill).
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers EQIP.
- Funding for EQIP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Mechanical Brush Control



Root-plowing Mesquite



Gully Repaired Through EQIP



Grassed Waterway Constructed to Control Runoff in Cropland



Wetland Reserve Program

- A voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.
- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.

Created Wetland



Wetlands attract Waterfowl



Grassland Reserve Program

- The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands.
- Emphasis for enrollment into the program is on support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grasslands under the greatest threat of conversion.

Urban Encroachment Threatens Grasslands



Livestock Grazing Managed Grasslands



Conservation Security program

- **A voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands.**
- **Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.**
- **Available in 202 watersheds in every state and the Caribbean Area.**
- **The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.**

Resource Conservation & Development

Purpose:

- To accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas.
- To improve the capability of State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.
- To establish or improve coordination systems in rural areas.

Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources.

