

# NRCS Conservation Programs

Voluntary Financial and Technical Assistance for Your Farm, Ranch, Forest & Wildlife Lands



Farm Bill 2008



The voluntary conservation programs of the 2008 Farm Bill can help you improve and protect natural resources—and enhance productivity—on your privately owned land.

If you are a private landowner, farmer or rancher who wants to enhance your land's sustainability and profitability, take a look at the new and improved conservation programs of the 2008 Farm Bill. These programs offer financial assistance and technical expertise to develop cropland conservation systems, reduce soil erosion, increase irrigation system efficiency, improve water quality, and enhance grazing land, forestland and wildlife habitat.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the Farm Bill's private land conservation programs. More information about the programs listed below can be found online at: [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov).

PROGRAM	PURPOSE	ELIGIBLE LAND	LENGTH OF AGREEMENT	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	PARTICIPANT OBLIGATIONS	NEW IN THE 2008 FARM BILL
<b>Conservation Stewardship Program</b>	To help producers maintain existing stewardship and adopt additional conservation.	Private ag land and non-industrial forests not enrolled in CRP, WRP, GRP or the Conservation Security Program.	5 years	Annual payment is based on land use and contract details and limited to \$40,000/year and \$200,000/contract	Develop and follow a plan which addresses at least one additional priority resource concern by the contract's end.	<b>-NEW PROGRAM-</b> Continuous nation-wide signup.
<b>EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program</b>	To help producers undertake structural, vegetative and management practices to conserve soil, water and other resources on working land.	Private working land, including cropland, grazing land, and non-industrial private forestland.	2 to 10 years	Set practice payment rates, generally 50-75% of average costs; limited to \$300,000 per contract or participant over 6 years	Develop and follow a conservation plan; confined livestock operations must prepare a comprehensive nutrient plan.	Enhanced program opportunities for organic operations and private forestland.
<b>FRPP Farm and Ranchland Protection Program</b>	To keep farm and ranchland in agricultural uses; directs matching funds to entities with farmland protection programs to purchase easements.	Private land including forestland and land serving as a buffer from development.	Permanent easements with an eligible entity	Easement payments based on the appraised value	Continue to use the land for agricultural purposes. Develop a conservation plan.	
<b>GRP Grassland Reserve Program</b>	To help landowners protect grazing uses and conserve natural resources on working grazing land.	Private grassland, shrub land and land containing forbs.	10, 15 or 20-year restoration agreements; permanent easements	Easement payments based on an appraised value or annual payments based on contract details	Develop and comply with an easement and/or restoration plan; assist with restoration costs.	Limits rental payments and cost share to \$50,000 per year.
<b>HFRP Healthy Forest Reserve Program</b>	To promote sustainable timber harvests while improving habitat for threatened and endangered species.	Private, working forestland capable of contributing to existing northern spotted owl habitat.	10-year restoration agreements and permanent easements	Easement payments are based on the appraised value; practice payments are 75-100% of average costs.	Prepare and follow a forest stewardship plan for sustainable timber harvests and spotted owl habitat.	Includes participation in a Safe Harbor agreement for the protection of spotted owl habitat.
<b>WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program</b>	To help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands.	Private ag and forestland not in CRP, WRP, HFRP or similar program.	2 to 10 years	Set practice payment rates, generally 50-75% of average practice costs	Prepare and follow a wildlife plan; assist with installation costs.	Limits payments to \$50,000 per individual annually.
<b>WRP Wetlands Reserve Program</b>	To restore, protect and enhance wetland functions and values on private property.	Privately owned land that is restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits.	10-year restoration agreements; 30-year and permanent easements	Payments of 75-100% of the easement value and/or 75-100% of restoration costs	Follow a restoration and maintenance plan; assist with restoration costs.	