

# NRCS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs provide landowners/operators with financial and technical assistance to implement approved conservation practices on their land.

- Participation is completely voluntary.
- NRCS works with producers to identify resource concerns and develop a plan to address them.
- NRCS payments vary based on the selected practice and program.
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are two NRCS programs that provide financial assistance options.

## EQIP - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

**Great for:**

- **First-time adopters of conservation practices.**
- **Solving a specific problem on your land.**

EQIP is a “fix-it” program designed to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners/operators fix resource concerns by integrating conservation into working lands. Through financial and technical assistance, EQIP supports practices that improve soil, water, air, plants, animals, and other natural resources.

How do contracts work?

- Contract length is flexible but cannot exceed 10 years.
- There is no minimum acreage requirement for EQIP.

How do payments work?

- Participants pay the upfront costs, and the NRCS reimburses a percentage of the estimated costs once the practice has been approved by the agency.

YOUR RESOURCE CONCERN	NRCS PRACTICE(S)
<i>Erosion</i>	<i>Cover Crops Residue and Tillage Management No-Till Conservation Cover</i>
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Nutrient Management Filter Strips</i>
<i>Ephemeral Gully</i>	<i>Grass Waterway</i>
<i>Invasive Brush Species</i>	<i>Brush Management</i>
<i>Overgrazed Pastures</i>	<i>Prescribed Grazing Pasture and Hay Planting Fencing</i>



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## CSP - CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Great for:

- **Enhancing your existing conservation efforts.**
- **Expanding conservation efforts to more of your land.**
- **Combining conservation practices for a systems approach.**

CSP rewards agricultural producers for enhancements that maintain and improve their existing conservation system. Through CSP, landowners adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns across their whole operation.

### How do contracts work?

- Contract length is five years with flexible planning options.
- At the end of the five years, participants have the option to renew.

### How do payments work?

- Participants are paid annually and receive:
  - A baseline payment to maintain their current conservation activities.
  - Increased payments with each additional practice or enhancement.

### Practice vs. Enhancement:

NRCS PRACTICE	NRCS ENHANCEMENT
<i>Cover Crops</i>	<i>Multi-species cover crops Cover crops to minimize compaction Improved crop rotation to benefit pollinators</i>
<i>Nutrient Management</i>	<i>Improving nutrient uptake (inhibitors, slow-release fertilizer, split-rate applications) Utilizing precision agricultural technologies</i>
<i>Reduced Tillage</i>	<i>Reduced tillage to increase soil health</i>
<i>Field Border</i>	<i>Field border to increase food for pollinators Field border to increase wildlife habitat</i>

Many practices and enhancements have a one-year lifespan and can be implemented on cash-rented land without a landowner's signature.

**Find your local NRCS service center to learn more about financial assistance programs!**

SCAN  
HERE:



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE