



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance available to landowners and producers to promote soil health



Information for Navigating Conservation Programs an NRCS perspective - September 9, 2021
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Key talking points:

- Soil Health Management, Principles and Practices
- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance
- How to sign up for USDA programs
- State Technical Committee
- Helpful links and additional information



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Soil Health:

Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.



5 Principles to Improving Soil Health



1. Increase Plant Diversity

2. Armor the Soil

3. Minimize Soil Disturbance

4. Continuous Living Root

5. Integrate Livestock / Manure

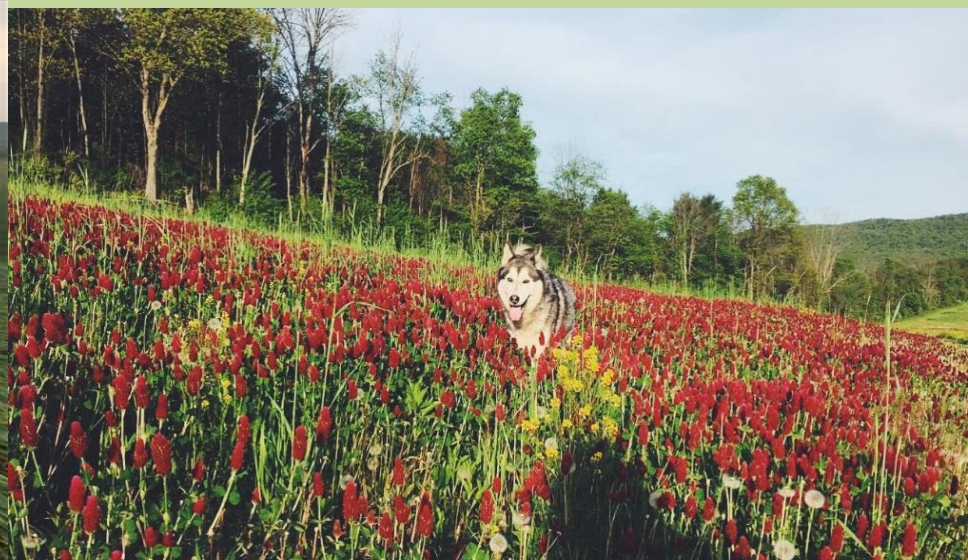


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Typical Soil Health Practices:

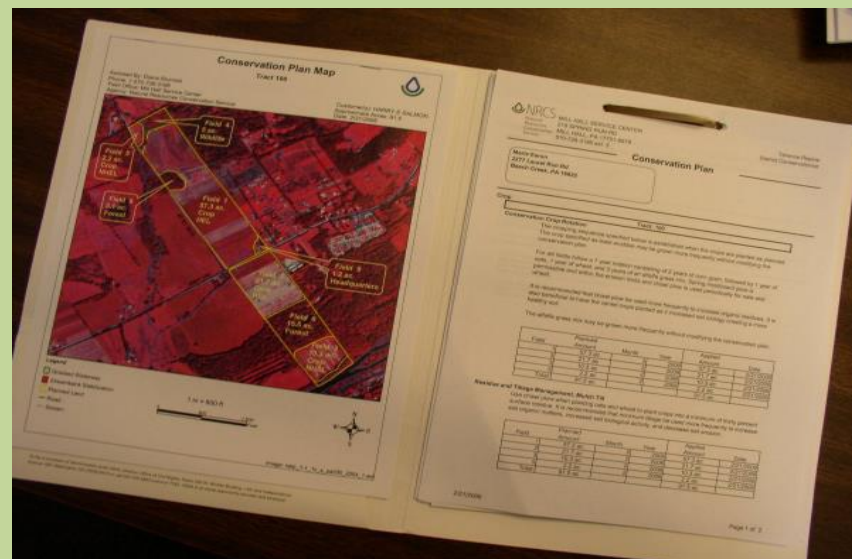
- 327 Conservation Cover (ac)
- 328 Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)
- 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (ac)
- 332 Contour Buffer Strips (ac)
- 340 Cover Crop (ac)
- 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (ac)
- 386 Field Border (ac)
- 393 Filter Strips (ac)





Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):

- CTA provides farmers and forestland owners with the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on their lands and improve the health of their operations for the future.
- NRCS offers this assistance at no cost to the producers. Our goal is to give customers personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to help them make informed decisions.
- If a producer chooses to take the next step towards improving their operations, NRCS can work with them to develop a conservation plan.





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FY 2022 Financial Assistance Programs:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP)



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How to sign up for USDA programs

- Establish farm and producer records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- Eligibility - conservation compliance, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).....
- Submit a Conservation Program application to the local NRCS Field Office.



CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS-CPA-1200
03/2019

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
Address:	Application Date:
Email:	County and State:
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

1. Yes No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

2. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) <input type="checkbox"/> CSP Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> EQIP <input type="checkbox"/> CSP	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> ACEP- (WRE) <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

Individual

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

Entity (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

b) Yes No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

Joint Operation (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

Name: _____ **Tax Number:** _____

b) Yes No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?



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State Technical Committee (STC)

Purpose and Structure:

- provide advice for technical considerations and technical guidelines necessary to implement conservation provisions of USDA legislation. The NRCS State Conservationist chairs the committee.
- STC provides recommendations on a number of issues within a variety of conservation programs. Although the STC has no implementation or enforcement authority, USDA gives strong consideration to the STCs recommendations.

STC dates for remainder of 2021 and 2022 are:

October 21, 2021

January 19, 2022

April 21, 2022

July 19, 2022

October 19, 2022



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Helpful links and additional information:

- PA NRCS Website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/pa/home/>

- Soil Health Info:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>

- Visit, email or call a local field office:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/>

Visit the following website for information on STC:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/pa/technical/stc/?cid=nrcs142p2_018203



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Questions

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