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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# NRCS: Helping People Help The Land



# Conservation Program Options— *2012 & Beyond*



# Since 1<sup>st</sup> Farm Bill...

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- ◉ SCS/NRCS & Conservation have a history
- ◉ 2008 Farm Bill winding down
- ◉ 2012 Farm Bill on the horizon
- ◉ Our role has been stable
- ◉ Programs have expanded



## SCS/NRCS Historical Program Growth

Federal Programs 1980	1985	1990	1996	2000	2004	2008	2010	2011
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)	CTA	CTA	CTA	CTA	CTA	CTA	CTA	CTA
Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP)	GPCP	GPCP	GPCP					
Colorado River Salinity Program (CRSP)	CRSP	CRSP	CRSP					
Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations	Watershed Operations		
Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning		
Soil Survey, PMC, Snow Survey	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow	Soil Survey, PMC, Snow
Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)	RAMP	RAMP						
RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D	RC&D
Ag Conservation Program (ACP)	ACP	ACP						
NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI	NRI
1980 FA & TA Funding Levels	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance	Wetland Compliance
	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster	HEL Compliance/Sodbuster
	CRP	CRP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP	CRP/Continuous CRP/CREP
	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land	Tribal Land
1985 FA & TA Funding Levels	Hydrologic Unit Area Demos	Hydrologic Unit Area Demos	Hydrologic Unit Area Demos	Rapid Watershed Assessments	Rapid Watershed Assessments	Rapid Watershed Assessments	Rapid Watershed Assessments	Rapid Watershed Assessments
	WRP	WRP	WRP	WRP	WRP	WRP	WRP	WRP
	Grazing Lands Con. Initiative (GLCI)	GLCI	GLCI	GLCI	GLCI	GLCI	GLCI	GLCI
1990 FA & TA Funding Levels	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP	EQIP
	SWCA			Ground/Surface Water (GSWC)	AWEP	AWEP	AWEP	AWEP
					EQIP CIG	EQIP CIG	EQIP CIG	EQIP CIG
					EQIP Flood Prevention Ops	EQIP Flood Prevention Ops	EQIP Flood Prevention Ops	EQIP Flood Prevention Ops
					EQIP Air Quality	EQIP Air Quality	EQIP Air Quality	EQIP Air Quality
					EQIP CCI	EQIP CCI	EQIP CCI	EQIP CCI
					EQIP Organic	EQIP Organic	EQIP Organic	EQIP Organic
	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP	WHIP
	FarmLand Protection Program	FRPP	FRPP	FRPP	FRP	FRP	FRP	FRP
	EWP	EWP	EWP	EWP	EWP	EWP	EWP	EWP
	AFO/CAFO	AFO/CAFO	AFO/CAFO	AFO/CAFO	AFO/CAFO			
1996 FA & TA Funding Levels	Aging Dam Rehab							
	AMA	AMA	AMA	AMA	AMA	AMA	AMA	AMA
2000 FA & TA Funding Levels	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops	Flood Prevention Ops
	Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	GRP	GRP	GRP	GRP	GRP	GRP	GRP
	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning	Watershed Planning
	Watershed Rehab	Watershed Rehab						
		Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program	Healthy Forest Reserve Program
		Chesapeake Bay Watershed	ARRA	ARRA	ARRA	ARRA	ARRA	ARRA
		CSP Security (pilot year +)	CSP Stewardship	CSP Stewardship	CSP Stewardship	CSP Stewardship	CSP Stewardship	CSP Stewardship
2004 FA & TA Funding Levels	2008 FA & TA Funding Levels	CSP CCI	WHIP CCI	WHIP CCI	WHIP CCI	WHIP CCI	WHIP CCI	WHIP CCI
		WREP	WREP	WREP	WREP	WREP	WREP	WREP
		MRBI	MRBI	MRBI	MRBI	MRBI	MRBI	MRBI
		CEAP	CEAP	CEAP	CEAP	CEAP	CEAP	CEAP
			Rapid Carbon Assessment					
			Energy Initiative					
		Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families	Feds Farmers Feed Families
		Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food	Know Your Farmer, Food
		2010 FA & TA Funding Levels	2011 FA & TA Funding Levels					

- ⦿ 1986 - 2011
- ⦿ Shows Program Type
- ⦿ Resources Protected
- ⦿ Area of Responsibility Grows
- ⦿ Amount of Financial \$ Increases

**Sometimes  
it seems  
like our  
programs  
are a  
jumbled  
mess of  
Alphabet  
Soup gone  
MAD!!**



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● Will that trend  
continue?



cannot  
predict  
now

Ask the Magic 8 Ball!





hazy  
try  
again

Ask the Magic 8 Ball!

# NRCS Programs

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- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Wetland Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

*EQIP is NRCS' most popular,  
comprehensive and well-funded  
conservation solution program.*

*If you have a resource problem  
on your agricultural operation,  
EQIP can help you fix it.*

# EQIP

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- ⦿ Used for general conservation
- ⦿ Confined livestock operations
- ⦿ Grazing operations
- ⦿ 60-40 split
- ⦿ Forestry/woodland management
- ⦿ Organic operations

# EQIP

- Successful, effective program
- Rewards accomplished conservationists
- Adds even more practices to the land

# WRP

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- Ideal program across Illinois landscape
- Offers private & public benefits
- Long-term or permanent solutions
- GARC's streamline the process

# WRP

# WHIP

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- ◉ Works a lot like EQIP
- ◉ Targets wildlife and fisheries
- ◉ Has been in decline in recent years

# WHIP

# Conservation That Fits

- NRCs conservation programs work for small & large operations
- Special payment rates are available for beginning farmers & limited resource farmers
- NRCs conservation technical assistance is always available

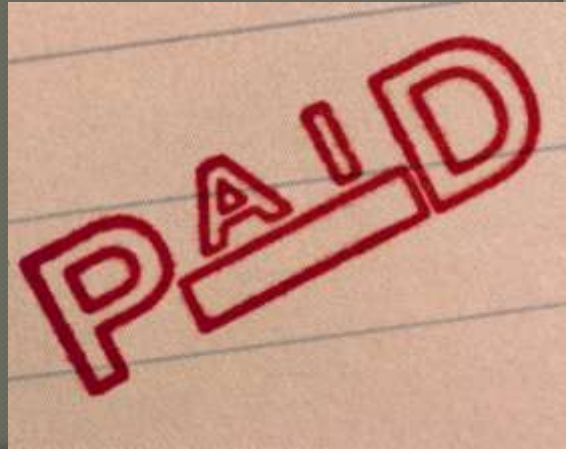




# Payment Schedules

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- No longer percentage-based
- Foregone income
- Streamlined process
- Faster payments
- Permits inflation increases within existing contracts
- Offers more consistency



## How you can direct program resources

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- Provide input to your local work group
- Seek partners with common goals
- Actively participate in a watershed/landscape planning initiative
- Talk to your organization's State Technical Committee representative
- Respond to an RFP (MRBI or CCPI)

# New Farm Bill...

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- ◉ Same Conservation programs?
- ◉ New programs?
- ◉ Same USDA agencies, responsibilities?

# Be Prepared

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- ◉ Grass roots support is a must
- ◉ Find partners; select a leader
- ◉ Do locally led planning with input on resource concerns and alternatives
- ◉ Seek funding sources for implementation



Outlook  
Good

Ask the Magic 8 Ball!

# Need To Know More?

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Visit your local USDA Service Center and ask to speak to your county NRCS District Conservationist.



***NRCS: Helping People Help The Land***  
***www.il.nrcs.usda.gov***



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