



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# NRCS Financial Programs

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION  
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

# Farmbill Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Easement Programs: Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)

# Financial Programs are designed to solve identified Resource concerns with conservation practices.

- Financial Assistance Agreements (Contracts) are based on resource concerns found during the site visits.
- Individual practices in the agreement help to resolve those resource concern issues.



# Resource Concerns SWAPA

- Soil: Erosion, compaction, fertility, organic matter.
- Water: Quality –nutrient, pathogen, pesticide, sediment runoff. Quantity – too much and too little.
- Animals: Aquatic and Terrestrial health, food, shelter. Domestic – food, adequate water.
- Plants: Health and vigor, invasives and other pests, plant suitability.
- Air: Particulates, green house gas, O<sub>3</sub>.



# Land uses

- Cropland - permanent hay land and annual crops.
- Pasture – grazed land
- Specialty crop land - vegetables, fruits, agro-forestry
- Forest
- Farmsteads -
- Associated Ag Land - Land not in agricultural use and not forested, Riparian Areas



# Five Steps to Assistance

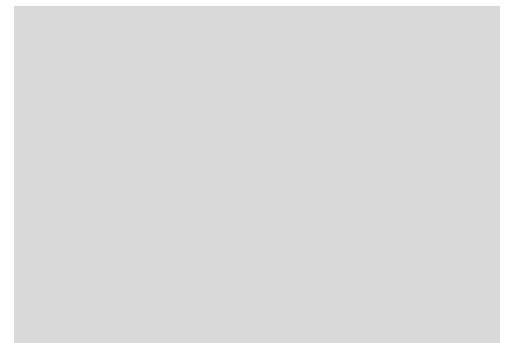
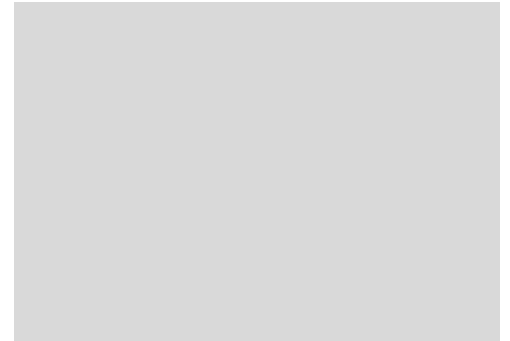
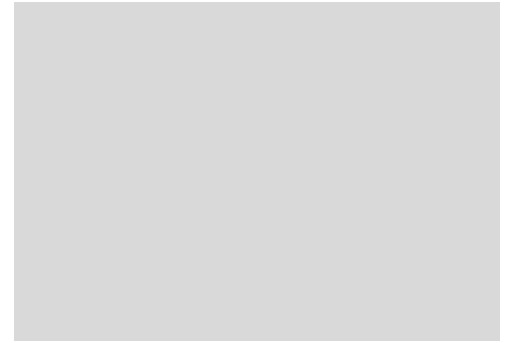
## Step 1: Planning.

- Landowner or Participant contacts NRCS to request assistance.
- Planner visits site, discusses participants goals and objectives for there land
- Planner completes a resource assessment on the land to identify concerns and if NRCS programs are applicable.



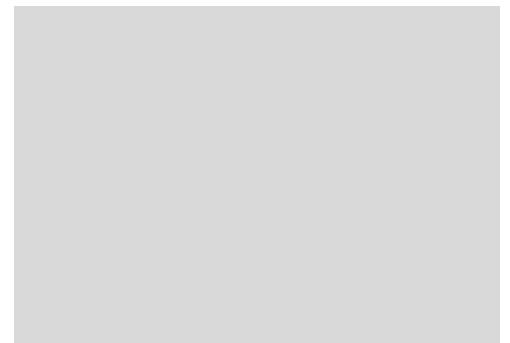
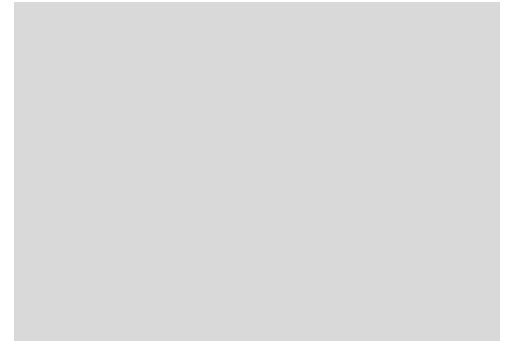
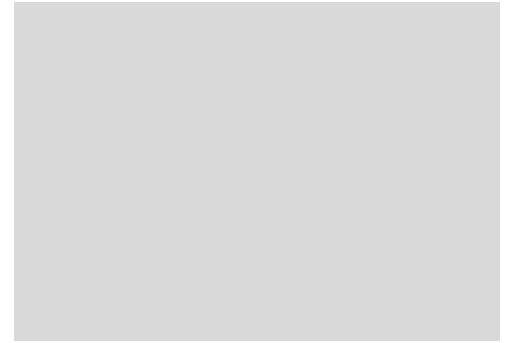
## Step 2 Application

- Participant fills out a program application form (CCC-1200)
- NRCS and FSA will walk the participant through the process of establishing farm records and completing eligibility forms.



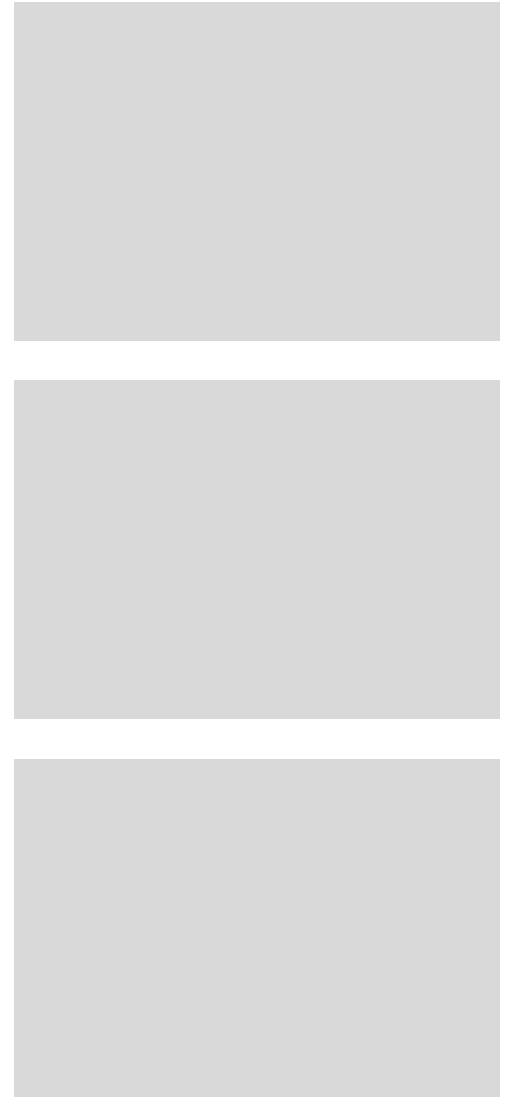
## Step 3 Eligibility

- FSA establishes farm records that include Farm, Tract field numbers digitized on a geospatial layer (CLU). The Planner will need this to plan practices.
- FSA establishes a Tax ID in the system to allow for payments.
- Participant completes a form describing the Farm business structure. (individual, Joint venture, LLC, ETC)
- Participant complete an adjusted gross income (AGI) form. AGI needs to be less than \$900,000.



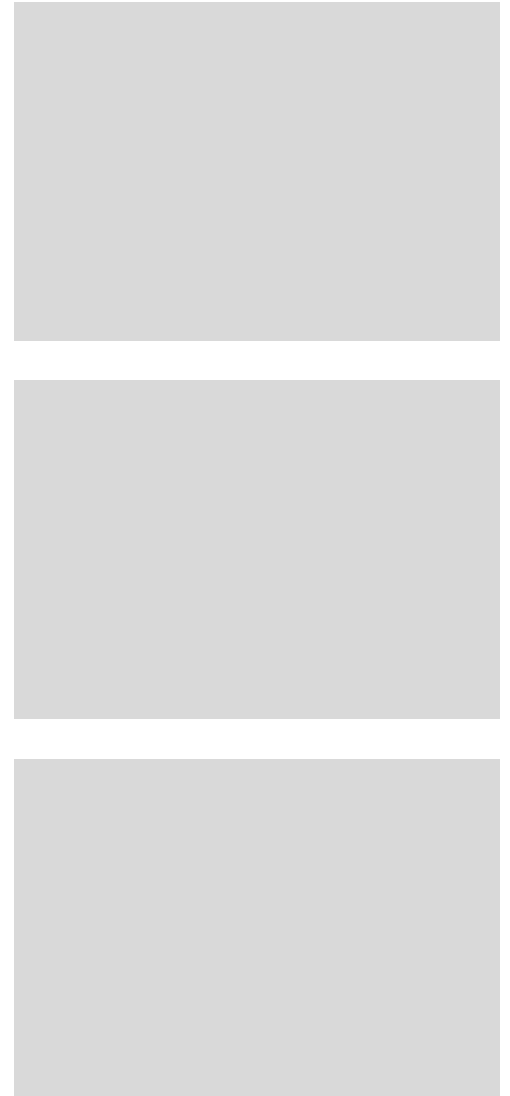
# Step 4 Ranking

- Once a Conservation Plan is complete and the practices and extent are known, the planner will complete an online assessment that includes the resource concerns, Resource questions, past practices and proposed practices.
- Once the online assessment is completed, the planner will rank in all available pools identified by the assessment. The result is a ranking score and estimated cost.
- Applications are approved based on the Ranking score.



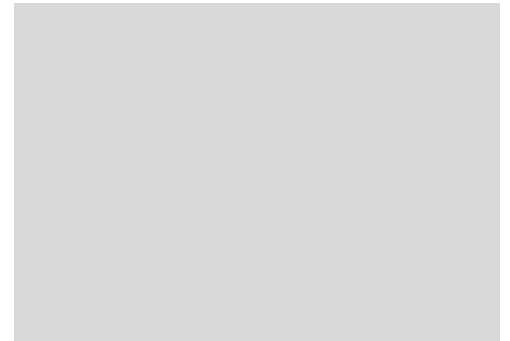
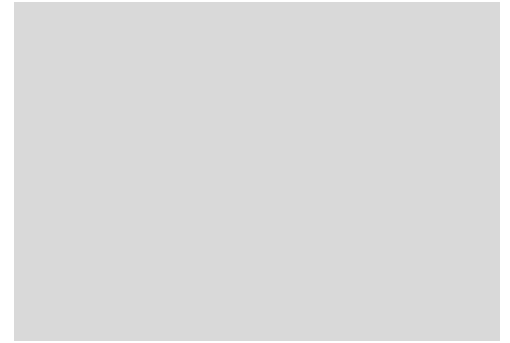
# Step 5 Implementing

- Once an application is approved for funding, the Planner will develop a contract agreement.
- A contract includes the conservation plan and map, a schedule of operations showing each practice, the amount of the practice, the payment amount and the month and year scheduled.
- If the Participant decides to sign the agreement, Planners will assist in implementation of the practice(s).
- NRCS payment amounts are not designed or intended to cover the entire actual cost. The intention is to provide an incentive to complete practices in the plan.
- Other fund sources may be obtained to add to the NRCS payments.



# History of Financial Assistance

Fiscal Year	Number Applications	Obligated Contracts	Total FA Dollars
2022	60	24	\$943,000.00
2023	95	39	\$2,754,000.00
2024	85	24	\$4,445,000.00
2025	114	TBD	TBD



# 2022 Obligations

2022 Contract Obligations Orleans County EQIP							
Fund Pool	# Applications	#Contracts	Obligation	% of Obligation	Land use	Resource Concern	Practices
Farmstead		1	\$420,000.00	45%	Farmstead, Production Area	Water Quality	Waste Storage, Waste Transfer, Access Road, Pumps, Drainage, Heavy Use Area
Forestry		8	\$89,000.00	9%	Forested Land	Plant Productivity, Plant Pest, Soil Erosion	Brush Management Herbaceous Weed Control, Forest Stand Improvement Forest trails and Landings, Early Seasonal and upland habitat.
Specialty Crop		10	\$112,000.00	12%	Small acre cropland.	Plant Productivity, Plant pests, Soil Erosion and Soil Health, Water Quality	High tunnel Systems, Cover Crop, Mulching, tree and shrub planting, Conservation cover, Hedgerow planting.
Pasture		4	\$300,000.00	32%	Grazed Land	Plant productivity, Soil Health, Inadequate Livestock Water	Livestock exclusion Fence, Livestock Pipeline, Watering facility, Prescribed Grazing Animal Trials and Walkways.
Cropland		1	\$22,000.00	2%	Annual or Hay Land	Soil Health, Soil Erosion, Water	Pasture and Hayland Planting
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>\$943,000.00</b>	<b>100%</b>			

# 2023 Obligations

## 2023 Contract Obligations Orleans County EQIP

Fund Pool	# Applications	#Contracts	Obligation	% of Obligation	Landuse	Resource Concern	Practices
Farmstead		4	\$1,860,000.00	68%	Farmstead, Production Area	Water Quality	Waste Storage, Waste Transfer, Access Road, Pumps, Drainage, Heavy Use Area
Forestry		12	\$200,000.00	7%	Forested Land	Plant Productivity, Plant Pest, Soil Erosion	Brush Management Herbaceous Weed Control, Forest Stand Improvement Forest trails and Landings, Early Sessional and upland habitat.
Emergency (2023 Flood)		12	\$314,000.00	11%	Cropland	Plant Productivity	Feed Management, Cover Crop, Permanent Hayland Seeding.
Speciality Crop		7	\$190,000.00	7%	Small acre cropland.	Plant Productivity, Plant pests, Soil Erosion and Soil Health, Water Quality	High tunnel Systems, Cover Crop, Mulching, tree and shrub planting, Conservation cover, Hedgerow planting.
Local Fund Pool (Invasives)		3	\$140,000.00	5%	Mainly associated Ag Land (not farmed or forest)	Plant Pests	Brush Management, Herbacious Weed Control. Delayed mowing and Brush hogging
Pasture		1	\$50,000.00	2%	Grazed Land	Plant productivity, Soil Health, Inadequate Livestock Water	Livestock exclusion Fence, Livestock Pipeline, Watering facility, Prescribed Grazing Animal Trials and Walkways.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>\$2,754,000.00</b>	<b>100%</b>			

# 2024 Obligations

2024 Contract Obligations Orleans County EQIP							
Fund Pool	# Applications	#Contracts	Obligation	% of Obligation	Land use	Resource Concern	Practices
Farmstead		6	\$2,789,000.00	63%	Farmstead, Production Area	Water Quality	Waste Storage, Waste Transfer, Access Road, Pumps, Drainage, Heavy Use Area
Forestry		13	\$127,000.00	3%	Forested Land	Productivity, Plant Pest, Soil Erosion	Control, Forest Stand Improvement Forest trails and Landings, Early Seasonal and upland habitat.
Emergency (2023 Flood)		4	\$377,000.00	8%	Small acre cropland.	Productivity, Plant pests, Soil Erosion and Soil	High tunnel Systems, Cover Crop, Mulching, tree and shrub planting, Conservation cover, Hedgerow planting.
Pasture		4	\$513,000.00	12%	Grazed Land	productivity, Soil Health, Inadequate	Livestock exclusion Fence, Livestock Pipeline, Watering facility, Prescribed Grazing Animal Trials and Walkways.
Cropland		3	\$611,000.00	13%	Annual Crop or Hoyland	Soil Erosion, Soil Health, Water Quality	Nutrient Management, Reduced Till, No-Till, Cover Crop, Pasture and Hoyland Planting
Local Fund Pool		2	\$21,000.00	1%	Land. Open but not cropped	Pant Productivity. Plant Pests	Bruch Management, Herbaceous weed Control
CEMA Soil Testing		2	\$1,000.00	1%	Cropland	Soil Health	Soil Testing
Energy /assessment		1	\$6,000.00	1%	All Land	Energy	Energy Plan
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>\$4,445,000.00</b>	<b>100%</b>			

