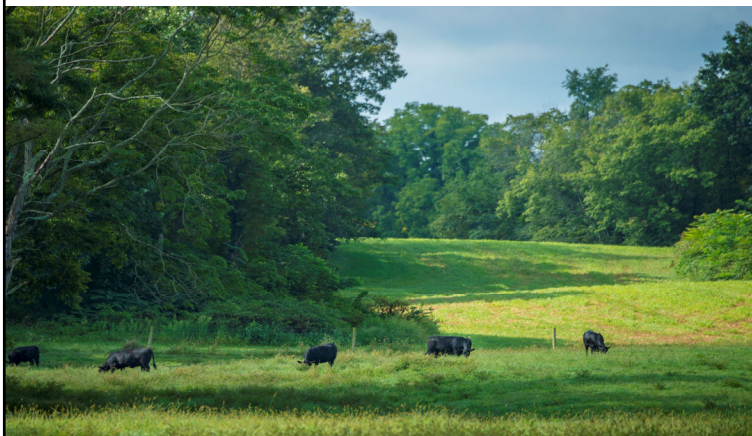


Before using this template, download and install the Montserrat font:

- <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Montserrat>



Beginning Farmer/Grower Opportunities



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Who and How NRCS operates**
- **What is Beginning Farmer & Small Scale/Urban/Specialty**
- **Funding Programs**
- **Inflation Reduction Act & Farm Bill status**
- **Partners / your team**
- **Other items?**



3



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Darrel DuVall

Husband

Father

Foster Parent

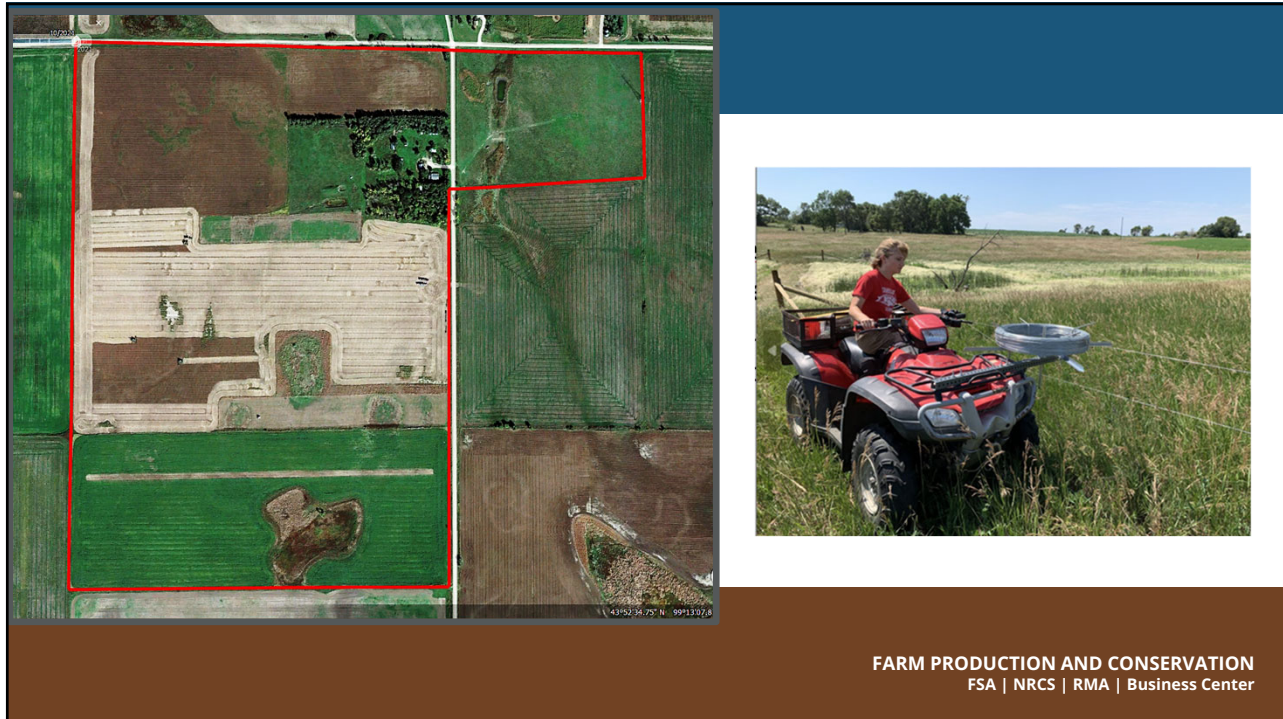
NRCS Outreach Coordinator

30 yrs with NRCS

Farmer...

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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4



5



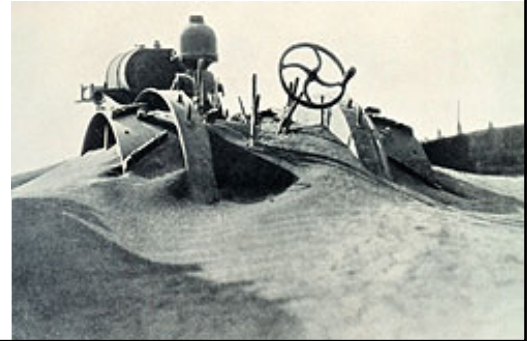
6



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

1933 Soil Erosion Service > '85 Farm Bill >
1994 Natural Resources Conservation Service



7



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Why are you here?

What are you interested in?

What did you hear that USDA can help with?

What is a need of yours? Goals?

Who told you to come?

Are you considering new small scale/urban/specialty...

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USDA Farm Production and Conservation
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

page 18 of...

FARMERS.GOV



Get Started!

A Guide to USDA Resources for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers:

- Minority,
- Women,
- Veteran,
- Beginning, and
- Limited Resource Producers

JULY 2022
Farmers.gov



Visiting Your Farm and Developing Your Conservation Plan

Once you have scheduled your first visit with an NRCS representative and started the conversation about your conservation goals, an NRCS staff member will visit your operation to learn more about your goals and objectives.

Conservation Planning Process

HOW CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKS A NINE-STEP PROCESS



Steps 1-4: Assessing Resources, Concerns, and Opportunities on Your Operation

- Staff will work with you to discuss the natural resources of the site and identify your areas of concern, which can be thought of as opportunities to improve land condition or reduce the environmental impacts of your operation. NRCS conservationists can help you assess underlying causes of your resource concerns to be sure you are addressing the problem rather than the symptom.
 - What is a **resource concern**? A resource concern is defined as an expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource base to an extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired. NRCS will work with you to evaluate the state of these resources. See Conservation Concerns above for examples of resource concern areas.
- Be prepared for detailed questions about your land and operation. Questions may include types of crops grown, equipment and methods used, and nutrient or pesticide applications. See "Worksheet to Prepare for Your First Visit with USDA" at the end of this guide for other information you may want to have prepared. Much of NRCS planning is carried out by technicians, and they may be surveying, taking soil samples, measuring, and getting to know your preferences so they can tailor a plan to meet your needs. NRCS has state-of-the-art conservation software programs that are tied to assessment tools to help make decisions about the best conservation activities for your operation.
 - All work done with NRCS is **voluntary, free, and confidential**. NRCS is not a regulatory agency, and all information provided to NRCS for conservation planning purposes is strictly confidential. NRCS will not share information about environmental risks if observed at your operation without your permission but rather advise on opportunities or requirements.

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Conservation Planning process

- **Assessing Natural Resources, Concerns & Opportunities**
- **Developing Your Conservation Plan**
- **Implementing Conservation Practices**



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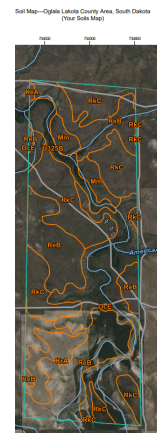
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Conservation Plan includes:

- Objectives and Goals
- Aerial photo
- Soil map and descriptions
- Inventory data, forage potential
- Chosen Treatment decisions
- Location and schedule of practices
- Operation and maintenance



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What is a Beginning Farmer/Rancher (grower) and Why Care?

May include specialty growers, new small acreage business... or legacy farmers

Less than 10 consecutive years

• NRCS, FSA 10 total, RMA 5

- Increased payment rates
- Dedicated funding pools
- Advance payment
- In 2024 SD > 173 BFR contracts = >\$16M

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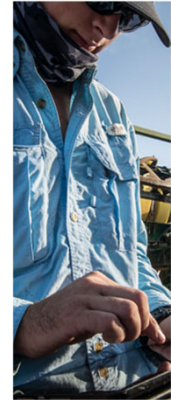
12



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What is Small Scale/Urban/Specialty Growers and Why Care?

- Includes specialty growers
- Includes small acreage business
- May include 'stacked' enterprise
- Reserved funding pools
- Minimum payments (\$4500, EQIP adjusted payment scenarios)
- In SD (in 2024 > 47 High Tunnels obligated in 2024.
 - Plus supporting practices such as micro irrigation....



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South Dakota CONSERVATION CHOICES
Urban/Small Farm Practices

Conservation practices help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and provide other natural resource benefits.

USDA's NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - South Dakota
April 2023

No matter the size of your farm, having the knowledge you need to conserve, maintain and restore the natural resources on your farm is a powerful tool. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help urban and small farmers create a conservation plan that can serve as a road map towards improving the health and resiliency of your operation.

A conservation plan can enable you to make educated decisions for your farm, keep you from making costly management mistakes, and possibly help qualify you for financial programs.

The way we manage our soil resource has a greater impact on its ability to function than any other factor. Productive and resilient land can be obtained by using a soil health management system that incorporates these four simple principles:

- Minimizing disturbance from tillage and over-grazing.
- Maximizing soil cover with residues and living plants.
- Maximizing diversity with crop rotations and cover crops.
- Maximizing living roots year-round with crops, forages and cover crops.

Benefits can include increased soil organic matter, improved resilience to drought and floods, improved nutrient cycling, and overall increased profits.

This fact sheet lists common conservation practices that will help address natural resource concerns on your urban/small farm. To learn more about the assistance available for your farm and how to get started, visit your local USDA NRCS Office. We can help you make the right choices to protect and improve your land and other natural resources.

SD-FS-120

Practice	Description	Benefits
High Tunnel	 A covered structure used to protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold.	• Improves plant growing conditions • Extends the growing season • Improve plant quality
Low Tunnel	 A low-profile temporary covered structure that protects plants.	• Protects plants from cold, sun and wind • Extends the growing season • Excludes pests from crops
Cover Crops	 Grasses, legumes, and/or broadleaves planted for seasonal cover.	• Reduces erosion • Maintains or increases soil organic matter • Traps and cycles nutrients • Improves water infiltration and water-holding capacity • Reduces compaction
Mulching	 Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the land surface.	• Improves soil moisture management • Reduces weed pressure and erosion • Builds or maintains soil organic matter
Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitat	 Planting wildlife friendly grasses and wildflowers to support pollinators and beneficial insects.	• Increases pollination of crops • Increases predation and parasitism of pests • Reduces soil erosion, runoff and improves water quality
Raised Beds	 An enclosed, above ground growing environment.	• Improves growing conditions where soils are unsuitable for production • Can reduce erosion, runoff and improves water quality • Improves accessibility when farming
Microirrigation	 Managing the volume, frequency, and rate of irrigation water.	• Improves irrigation water use efficiency • Minimize irrigation-induced soil erosion • Improves plant growing conditions • Reduces energy use

For more information visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/SouthDakota

Helping People Help the Land.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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Financial Assistance Programs

page 20-21, 23 of 'Get Started...'

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- installing infrastructure or
- initiating management practice.
- Advance Payment and Assignment of Payment
- Higher payment rates



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Examples:

- Crossfence, pipeline & tank to manage grazing on grass or cropland.
- Grass or shrub plantings to benefit soil, livestock, wildlife ...and more.
- Adding small grain or cover crops to rotation
- Transitioning to organic
- High tunnels with water catchment and ...



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Examples:

- Managing invading cedar trees onto grazingland
- Soil testing for fertilizer plans
- Reducing tillage
- Dealing with top soil loss
- Adding forage



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Financial Assistance Programs

page 20-21 of 'Get Started...'

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

maintain and adopt management:

- shorter grazing periods or grazing cover crop,
- enhanced cropland rotations
- pesticide management
- variable rate fertilizer

With 5-years of earnings



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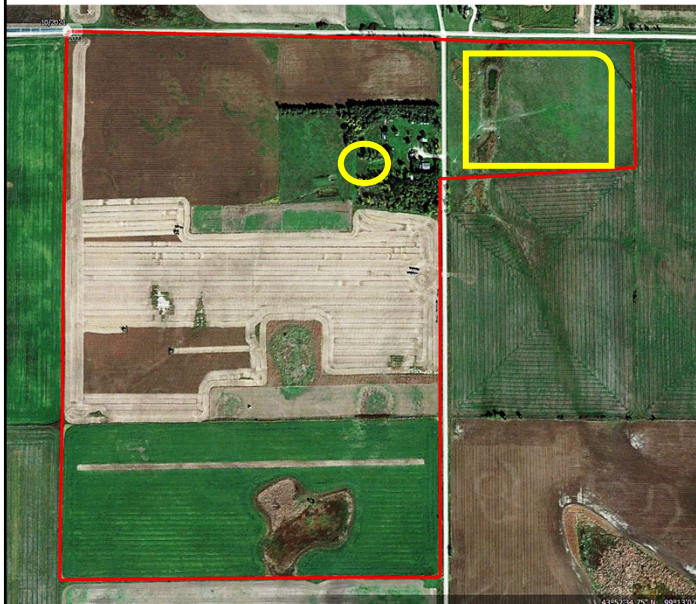
Inflation Reduction Act 2018 Farm Bill extension

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who is the
operator.....

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Financial Assistance Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) permanent or 30 year

- Ag Land Easement (ALE)
- Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)



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Financial Assistance Programs

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) > partner-driven solutions

- **RCPP Classic**: uses NRCS programs and easements in *collaboration* with lead partner.
- **RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA)** allows lead partner to work directly with agriculture customers to implement conservation efforts.

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Financial Assistance Programs

Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreement (CCCA)

- Leverage NRCS and partner's resources to help NRCS address mission and goals
- Increase technical capacity of NRCS



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Financial Assistance Programs

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

- Stimulate development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies.
- Lead to accepted approaches/practices.
- 1-3 years



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Other Programs to Consider

NRCS offers participation in several other conservation programs that tend to be targeted at larger scale than the individual farmer, rancher, or forest landowner, and work to foster community partnerships and innovation in agriculture. Ask your local Service Center if you would be a good candidate for any local projects under the following programs:

- **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)** are competitive grants that drive innovation and develop tools, strategies, and technologies for next-generation conservation efforts on working lands. These can be issued to State and local governments, Tribal entities, non-government organizations, and academic institutions, and some funding is specifically targeted to organizations implementing their innovative conservation projects with HUFIR. Participating landowners in these projects will often receive benefits that align with EQIP.
- The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is offered at the State and Federal level and works to promote coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance. Preference in project selection is given to those working with HUFIR, and landowners are only eligible to participate in an active RCPP project area if the land to be enrolled falls within that project boundary.
- The **Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)** provides State and Tribal governments with funding or incentives to expand or improve habitat in existing public access programs, and priority is given to public access programs that make special efforts to reach HUFIR landowners and operators.

Conservation Stewardship Program - Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)
• Purpose: Financial assistance to conserve grasslands. • Cropland for which base acres have been maintained under Farm Service Agency's Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage and were planted to grass or pasture	• Purpose: Technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. • Cropland • Rangeland • Grassland • Pastureland • Non-industrial private forestland • Other land determined by the Secretary of Agriculture	• Purpose: Restore, enhance, and protect forestland resources on private lands to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve plant and animal biodiversity, and enhance carbon sequestration. • Non-industrial private forestland • Tribal land • Land adjacent to eligible land if enrollment would contribute significantly to the practical administration of the easement area
• Advance payments available (see details in section on applying for assistance) • HUFIR may be eligible for increased financial assistance rates for implementing conservation practices and plans * • Separate ranking pool for SDP and BFR to increase odds of selection for landings • VPA may receive funding priority *	• Application selection criteria includes considerations to encourage participation by HUFIR landowners • States set aside a portion of their funds to target enrollment of HUFIR landowners *	

See pages 20 – 21 of 'Get Started; A Guide for USDA Resources...' for additional financial programs and information

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Fridays on the Farm: Conservation and Ranching

Create a Winning Combination in South Florida

By Cynthia Portalatin, NRCS, Florida · Jan 10, 2025

This Friday meet Matt Pearce, an eighth-generation cattle rancher and owner of Pearce Cattle Company in Okeechobee County, Florida. His family has lived in Florida for over 200 years and operated their family-owned cow/calf operation with locations throughout South Florida and Central Georgia. While the ranch keeps him busy, he's also training and preparing his children, Taylor, Aubrey, and Chandler, to take over as the ninth generation when the time comes.



Matt's advice for beginning farmers is to look for mentors in the industry.

"You also need to **lean on your government programs**, like the conservation programs at NRCS. The **Farm Service Agency** also has a program for beginning new farmers," he said. "The bank wants to see years of tax returns and profitability. And a first-time farmer doesn't have that. They have zero, but that's what the program is for, to **help those beginning farmers get financial assistance.**"

Matt Pearce, an eighth-generation cattle rancher and owner of Pearce Cattle Company in Okeechobee County, Florida. Photo courtesy of Matt Pearce.

• Partners / your team

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find your Network & Mentors & Partners

South Dakota
Grassland Coalition

South Dakota
Specialty
Producers

North Central
Regional Food
Business Hub

South Dakota Soil
Health Coalition

SD Association of
Conservation
Districts

Other USDA
agencies

Pheasants Forever
biologists

Conservation
Districts

Mentor
volunteers

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Receive South Dakota NRCS and FSA Updates via Email

You can sign up to receive timely Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) updates via farmers.gov. You can select specific USDA Service Centers (i.e., Ziebach County USDA Service Center, Beadle County USDA Service Center, etc.) or statewide and other USDA topics.

1. Scroll to the bottom of the farmers.gov website to where it says **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR UPDATES** with an input box for your email address.

LEGAL

Accessibility Statement

FOIA

Information Quality

Non-Discrimination Statement

Privacy Policy

RESOURCES

Program Deadlines

Tools

Disaster Resource Center

Farm Surveys and Statistics

Veterans

USDA.gov

What's new.gov

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR UPDATES

Stay updated on the latest news and stories from farmers.gov and other USDA topics.

Email Address

2. You will be asked to confirm your email address and will receive a welcome email.

[See reverse](#)

3. Upon confirming your email address, a list of selectable topics will appear. You can select from various USDA topics such as 'Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production,' 'Farm Loans,' 'SD-State FSA Newsletter and Updates' and county specific USDA Service Center Newsletters and Updates as you can see below.

Subscription Topics

☐ Community Price and Program Reports

☐ Connect with us

- ☐ USDA FSA on Twitter
- ☐ FSA Force Post
- ☐ Meetings and Events
- ☐ USDA NRCS on Twitter
- ☐ Conservation Blog Stories

☐ Conservation

- ☐ Conservation Outcomes
- ☐ Conservation Programs: News
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ HC Farm Bill News & Programs
- ☐ Water Quality and Conservation
- ☐ Water Updates
- ☐ Wildlife, Producers and Landscapes
- ☐ Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production
- ☐ Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance: News

☐ South Dakota

- ☐ SD - State FSA News Releases
- ☐ SD - State NRCS South Dakota NRCS News Public Newsletter
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Conservation Engineering
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Conservation Planning and Programs
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Cropland
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Easements
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Grassland Drought Condition Status
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Grasslands
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Nutrient Management
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Social Media
- ☐ SD - State NRCS South Dakota News Releases
- ☐ SD - State NRCS South Dakota Online Photo Gallery
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Water Quality Quarterly
- ☐ SD - State NRCS Wetlands
- ☐ SD - State FSA Newsletter and Updates

☐ SD USDA Service Centers

- ☐ SD - Aurora USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Beadle USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Bennett-Shannon USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Bon Homme USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Brookings USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Brown USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Brule-Butte USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Butte-Lawrence-Handing USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Charles Mix USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Clark USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates
- ☐ SD - Clay USDA Service Center Newsletter and Updates

For more information or assistance, contact SD-NRCS Outreach Coordinator Darrel DuVall at darrel.duvall@usda.gov or SD-FSA Outreach Coordinator Gail Gullickson at gail.gullickson@usda.gov.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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On-Site Technical assistance: partners

Add growing connections graphic with BFR numbers postcard

Growing connections book

How to sign up

HSAH

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- **Who and How NRCS operates**
- **What is Beginning Farmer & Small Scale/Urban/Specialty**
- **Funding Programs**
- **Inflation Reduction Act & Farm Bill status**
- **Partners / your team**
- **NEXT STEPS >**



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What does this mean for you?

- Visit your local NRCS office today!
- applications accepted year-round for future funding cycles.
- Come with your ideas for



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Conservation Plan includes:

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United States Department of Agriculture

AD-2047
(10-28-21)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Rural Development
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Risk Management Agency
Agricultural Marketing Service

CUSTOMER DATA WORKSHEET

NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is the Computer Security Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-235), OMB Circular A-123, Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982, and Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The information will be used to document a request by the producer for updating the business partner record. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notices for AMS-3, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), USDA/AFSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated), USDANRCS-1, Landowner, Operator, Producer, Cooperator, or Participant Files, and USDARD-1, Applicant, Borrower, Grantee, or Tenant File. Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility to request changes within the business partner record.

Public Burden Statement (Paperwork Reduction Act Statement): According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0560-0265. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 minutes (.05 hours) per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE.**

PART A - CUSTOMER INFORMATION

1. Reason for Request (Check appropriate box(es) below:)

☐ New Customer

☐ Update Existing Customer Record

2A. Customer's Full Name or Business Name and Address
(Including Zip Code)

2B. Customer Business Type (Example: Individual, Corporation, LLC, Estate, Trust, etc.)

2C. Home Telephone Number (Area Code)

2D. Business Telephone Number (Area Code)

2E. Mobile Telephone Number (Area Code)

2F. Email Address

2G. Does the customer want to receive sensitive (but non-PII) Producer or farm specific related emails?
☐ YES ☐ NO

3A. Taxpayer Identification Number (Complete TIN for new customer)

3B. Birthdate (Only required if the customer is a minor)



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nrcs.usda.gov/

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 Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			OMB Control Number: 0560-0297 Expiration Date: 10/31/2021 (See Page 4 for Privacy Act Statement)	
CCC-9021 (01-07-21)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation		1. County
				3. Program Year
FARM OPERATING PLAN FOR AN INDIVIDUAL				
For "actively engaged in farming" and other payment eligibility and limitation determinations.				
<i>This form is to be completed by, or on behalf of, an individual who is seeking benefits from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as an individual (and not as part of an entity) under one or more programs that are subject to the regulations at 7 CFR Part 1400. This form collects farming and other information about the individual who receives program benefits directly using the social security number identified in Part A. Payment eligibility for the individual is based upon the contribution level of certain inputs to a farming operation such as land, capital, equipment, labor, and management by the individual identified in Part A. The information on this form will be used by FSA to determine payment eligibility and limitation of payments by direct attribution.</i>				
PART A - BASIC INFORMATION				
1. Individual's Name and Address (Include Zip Code) 		2. Social Security Number (If the social security number or taxpayer ID number is on file, only the last 4 digits are required) 		
PART B - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION				
1. Is this individual a U.S. citizen? ☐ YES. Go to Item 4A ☐ NO. Go to Item 2		2. Is this individual an alien lawfully admitted into the U.S.? ☐ YES, must present a Resident Alien Card (I-551). ☐ NO		3. FOR COUNTY FSA USE ONLY (Was a Resident Alien Card, I-551 shown?) ☐ YES ☐ NO
4A. Is this individual under 18 years of age as of June 1 of the program year that is specified in Item 3? ☐ NO. Go to Part C ☐ YES, continue with Item 4B			4B. Enter Date of Birth (MM-DD-YYYY) 	
5. Enter the name, address, and social security number of parent or guardian:				
A. Parent's or Guardian's Name 		B. Parent's or Guardian's Address 		C. Social Security Number of Parent or Guardian (If the social security number or taxpayer ID number is on file, only the last 4 digits are required)

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 Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
This form is available electronically. (See Page 2 for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements)		
AD-1026 (10-30-14)		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FarmServiceAgency		
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION (HELC) AND WETLAND CONSERVATION (WC) CERTIFICATION		
Read attached AD-1026 Appendix before completing form.		
PART A - BASIC INFORMATION		
1. Name of Producer 	2. Tax Identification Number (Last 4 digits) 	3. Crop Year
4. Names of affiliated persons with farming interests. Enter "None," if applicable. 		
<i>Affiliated persons with farming interests must also file an AD-1026. See Item 7 in the Appendix for a definition of an affiliated person.</i>		
5. Check one of these boxes if the statement applies; otherwise continue to Part B.		
A. ☐ The producer in Part A does not have interest in land devoted to agriculture. Examples include bee keepers who place their hives on another person's land, producers of crops grown in greenhouses, and producers of aquaculture AND these producers do not own/lease any agricultural land themselves. Note: Do not check this box if the producer shares in a crop.		
B. ☐ The producer in Part A meets all three of the following: • does not participate in any USDA program that is subject to HELC and WC compliance except Federal Crop Insurance. • only has interest in land devoted to agriculture which is exclusively used for perennial crops, except sugarcane, and • has not converted a wetland after February 7, 2014. Perennial crops include, but are not limited to, tree fruit, tree nuts, grapes, olives, native pasture and perennial forage. A producer that produces alfalfa should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the nearest USDA Service Center to determine whether such production qualifies as production of a perennial crop.		
Note: If either box is checked, and the producer in Part A does not participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, the full tax identification number of the producer must be provided, but establishment of detailed farm records with FSA is not required. Go to Part D and sign and date.		
PART B - HELC/WC COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS		
Indicate YES or NO to each question. If you are unsure of whether a HELC determination, wetland determination, or NRCS evaluation has been completed, contact your local		
	YES	NO

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
This form is available electronically. (See Page 2 for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements)		
AD-1026 (10-30-14)		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FarmServiceAgency		
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION (HELIC) AND WETLAND CONSERVATION (WC) CERTIFICATION		
Read attached AD-1026 Appendix before completing form.		
PART A – BASIC INFORMATION		
1. Name of Producer	2. Tax Identification Number (Last 4 digits)	3. Crop Year
4. Names of affiliated persons with farming interests. Enter "None," if applicable.		
Affiliated persons with farming interests must also file an AD-1026. See Item 7 in the Appendix for a definition of an affiliated person.		
5. Check one of these boxes if the statement applies; otherwise continue to Part B.		
A. ☐ The producer in Part A does not have interest in land devoted to agriculture. Examples include bee keepers who place their hives on another person's land, producers of crops grown in greenhouses, and producers of aquaculture AND these producers do not own/lease any agricultural land themselves. Note: Do not check this box if the producer shares in a crop.		
B. ☐ The producer in Part A meets all three of the following: • does not participate in any USDA program that is subject to HELIC and WC compliance except Federal Crop Insurance. • only has interest in land devoted to agriculture which is exclusively used for perennial crops, except sugarcane, and • has not converted a wetland after February 7, 2014. Perennial crops include, but are not limited to, tree fruit, tree nuts, grapes, olives, native pasture and perennial forage. A producer that produces alfalfa should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the nearest USDA Service Center to determine whether such production qualifies as production of a perennial crop.		
Note: If either box is checked, and the producer in Part A does not participate in Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, the full tax identification number of the producer must be provided, but establishment of detailed farm records with FSA is not required. Go to Part D and sign and date.		
PART B - HELIC/WC COMPLIANCE QUESTIONS		
Indicate YES or NO to each question.		
If you are unsure of whether a HEL determination, wetland determination, or NRCS evaluation has been completed, contact your local		YES NO

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		OMB Control Number: 0560-0297 Expiration Date: 09/30/2024
CCC-941 (10-01-21)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation
AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION		1. Return completed form to: FAX Number: (Name, address and fax number of FSA county office or USDA Service Center)
NOTE: The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a - as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 1400, the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198), the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-78), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334). The information will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USD AFSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination of ineligibility for program benefits.		
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Statement: This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act as specified in 7 U.S.C. 9091(c)(2)(B).		
Public Burden Statement: For CFAP 2.0 and GLA only, public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, completing (providing the information), and reviewing the collection of information. You are not required to respond to the collection, or USDA may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The provisions of criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO FSA AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.		
2. Name and Address of Individual or Legal Entity (Including Zip Code)	3. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (Social Security Number for Individual; or Employer Identification Number for Legal Entity)	
(Use the same name and address as used for the tax return specified in Part B.)		
PART A – CERTIFICATION OF AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME		
4. The program year for payment eligibility		
Enter the year for which program benefits are requested. The period for calculation of the average AGI will be of the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete taxable year for which benefits are requested. For example, the 3-year period for the calculation of the average AGI for 2019 would be the taxable years of 2017, 2018 and 2015.		
5. I certify that the average adjusted gross income of the individual or legal entity in Item 2 (for the year included in Item 4) was:		
A. ☐ Less than (or equal to) \$900,000		
B. ☐ More than \$900,000		
PART B – CONSENT TO DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION		
Pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §6103, I hereby authorize the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to review the following items of "return information" (as defined in 26 U.S.C. §6103(b)(2)) from the returns (as specified below) of the individual or legal entity identified in Item 2 for the taxable years indicated in Item 4:		

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

CCC-860
(01-11-23)

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED, LIMITED RESOURCE, BEGINNING AND VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER CERTIFICATION

1A. County FSA Office Name and Address (Including Zip Code)

1B. Telephone Number (Area Code)

1C. Program Year

2. Applicant's Name and Address

INSTRUCTIONS:
Complete Parts A, B, C D, and/or E as applicable. Read the information relating to false certification in Part F. Return this form to the address in Item 1 above.

INFORMATION: If a legal entity requests to be considered a "socially disadvantaged," "limited resource," "beginning" or "veteran" farmer or rancher, the entity must meet the definition as provided on Page 2 of this form. Farmer or rancher includes: "owners", "operators" and "other producers".

PART A – CERTIFICATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER
3. I certify that I am a member of a group listed below, whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. (Check all that apply but note that if only "women" is checked without selecting the other category, the selection does not make the applicant socially disadvantaged for conservation programs.)

☐ Women.

☐ American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians or Asian Americans, Black or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics.

PART B – CERTIFICATION OF LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER OR RANCHER
Limited resource farmer or rancher status can be determined by using a web site available through the Limited Resource Farmer and Rancher Online Self-Determination Tool through Natural Resources Conservation Service at <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

☐ 4. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the box:

My/our direct or indirect gross farm sales (as individuals, if applicable for the entity or joint operation) do not exceed the amount identified in the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self-Determination Tool for the 2 calendar years that precede the complete taxable year before the relevant program year (see Table 1 on Page 2 of this form), adjusted upwards in later years for any general inflation.

My/our total household income (as individuals, if applicable for the entity or joint operation) was at or below the national poverty level for a family of four in each of the same 2 previous years (see Table 1 on Page 2 of this form) referenced above.

PART C – CERTIFICATION OF BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER
☐ 5. I certify that the following statements are true by checking the box and providing the date I began farming:
I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) have not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years.
I (or if applicable, the entity or joint operation) substantially participate in the operation.

Date (Month-Year-Day format)

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

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NRCS-CPA-1200 03/2019

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name: Application Number:

Address: Application Date:

County and State:

Email:

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:

☐ Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) ☒ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

☐ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) ☐ Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

☐ CSP Renewal ☐ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) ☐ ACEP - (WRE) ☐ 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?

4. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?
☐ Crop Production Crop Type:
☐ Livestock Production Livestock Type:

5. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):
☐ Private Land
☐ Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)
☐ Tribal, Allotted, Ceded or Indian Land

6. You certify that Certification of control of the land offered under the application is evidenced by:
☐ Deed or other evidence of land ownership (required for all ACEP-WRE applications)
☐ Written lease agreement
☐ Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):
Years of control are through or, Evidence of historical control of land since:

7. ☐ Yes ☐ No Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?

8. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply)
☐ Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
☒ Beginning Farmer or Rancher
☐ Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
☐ Veteran Farmer or Rancher
☐ Not Applicable

If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. Definitions are provided below. For more information please go to this website: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher – The term "Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher" means a participant:
• With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
• Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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