



NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Annual Meeting
Indiana Association of Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
January 12, 2010

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Helping People Help the Land



Program Types

- Working Lands Programs
- Easement Programs
- Technical Assistance Programs



Working Lands Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP
- Conservation Stewardship Program – CSP
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program – WHIP





Easement Programs

- Wetlands Reserve Program – WRP
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program – HFRP
- Grasslands Reserve Program – GRP

Technical Assistance Program

- Conservation Technical Assistance – CTA



Working Lands: Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP

- Promotes Ag production and environmental quality as compatible goals
- Offers financial and technical assistance to implement structural & management conservation activities
- Two Special Initiatives:
 - Air Quality (in targeted areas)
 - Organic & Transition to Organic



Working Lands: Agricultural Water Enhancement Program AWEP (in EQIP)

- Financial & technical help for Ag water conservation & water quality enhancement
- EQIP contracts with producers in areas identified through partnership agreements
 - LaPorte County
 - Southeast Lake Michigan Watershed, NE Indiana





Working Lands: Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

- Re-names Conservation **Security** Program to Conservation **Stewardship** Program
- Promotes new conservation & rewards stewardship
- Applications competitively ranked based on:
 - Existing and proposed conservation activities
 - Resource concerns addressed
 - Cost effectiveness of expected environmental benefits
- Allows for enrollment in every watershed, every year



Working Lands: Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program WHIP

- Establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat on Ag & non-industrial private forest land
- Allows a priority for projects that further national, state or regional habitat goals





Working Lands:

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) (in EQIP, WHIP & CSP)

Currently 4 Indiana projects:

- DNR Forestry, targeted practices for land enrolled in Classified Forest & Wildlands program (through EQIP)
- TNC Two-stage ditches in targeted areas in northern Indiana (through EQIP)
- DNR Wildlife, Regeneration Openings - 8 Southern IN counties (through WHIP)
- DNR Wildlife, Woody Cover in Quail and Pheasant Habitat Priority Areas (through WHIP)



Easement Programs: Wetland Reserve Program WRP

- Helps private landowners and farmers restore wetlands on their property
- Restores wetland conditions on marginal farm land with emphasis on :
 - Restoring, protecting, enhancing wetland wildlife habitat
 - Reducing flood water flow
 - Improving water quality
- Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) used for land valuation – set values by county



Easement Programs: Healthy Forest Reserve Program HFRP

- Restores and enhances forest ecosystems to:
 - Promote recovery of threatened & endangered species
 - Reduce the risk of catastrophic fires
 - Improve biodiversity
 - Enhance carbon sequestration
- Landowners in funded project areas only can apply
- One funded Indiana project in the *St Joseph River watershed*, (restore habitat of Copper-belly water snake, along with other species)



Easement Programs: Grasslands Reserve Program GRP

- Protects grazing land from conversion to other uses
- Restores and protects eligible grassland, land containing forbs, or shrub land where grazing is predominant use
- Operates by purchasing easements, entering into long-term rental agreements, and providing technical and financial assistance to participants





Technical Assistance

Technical Services

- Service provided directly to farmers and other eligible entities (Farm Bill & non-Farm Bill)
- Includes conservation planning, technical consultation, design and implementation of conservation practices



What NRCS Offers the Partnership

Technical Infrastructure

- CITs, DC support in every county, conservation planning & engineering for state and local projects

Science Based Technical Standards

- FOTG, Soil Survey, NRI, RWA, etc.

Technical Training

Farm Bill Funds

RC&D



What NRCS Needs From the Partnership

- Outreach Assistance
 - Promoting TA & Federal Programs
- Technical Partners
 - Assist with planning and implementing conservation practices
- Advocate for Conservation Issues
- Identify Local & State Resource Concerns



**For more information about NRCS
programs you can go to our website
below:**

**[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/
2008/index.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/index.html)**



**Thanks for your interest in
conservation**

