

Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

# Financial Assistance Programs: Addressing Contaminates

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# Goals of NRCS

- Helping People Help the Land
- Voluntary Conservation Implementation
- Conserve Natural Resources with Customers
  - Soil
  - Water
  - Plants
  - Animals
  - Air
  - Energy
  - Human (Management)



# Types of Programs

- Financial Assistance
- Easements
- Partnership



All NRCS Conservation Programs are voluntary



# Financial Assistance Programs

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

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Agriculture Management Assistance Program (AMA)

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NEW: EQIP- Conservation Incentives Contracts (EQIP-CIC)

## Voluntary Financial Assistance Programs

- EQIP- Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns
- RCPP- coordination between NRCS and partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements.
- CSP- Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities
- AMA- helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices.

## Voluntary Financial Assistance Programs

- Delivers environmental benefits such as:
  - Improved surface and ground water quality
  - Conserved ground and surface water
  - Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation
  - Improved or created wildlife habitat
  - Timely and reduced nutrient applications



## Conservation activities address numerous resource concerns

- Conservation Practices Reducing Nutrients and Pesticides Offered Through Various Programs
  - Cover Crops
  - Nutrient Management
  - Conservation Crop Rotation
  - Pest Management Conservation System
  - Prescribed Grazing
- Some practices address pest and nutrient resource concerns to varying degrees





## Conservation activities address numerous resource concerns

- Enhancements Reducing Nutrients and Pesticides Offered Through Some Programs
- Enhancements are changes in management that result in improvements to resource(s).  
Enhancements to:
  - Ensures sustainability for the agricultural operation
  - Increased crop yields
  - Decreased inputs
  - Improve wildlife population
  - Increase resilience to weather extremes
- Enhancements can target a specific resource issue





## What is EQIP-CIC?

- EQIP-CIC is a new enrollment authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill that provides payments for adopting practices, and enhancement payments for managing, maintaining, and improving practices to address resource concerns.
- EQIP-CIC blends elements of EQIP classic and CSP to serve as a steppingstone for producers between EQIP classic and CSP
- It allows producers to apply incentive practices and enhancements on a portion of their operation, which can be a gateway to CSP enrollment and achieve a conservation stewardship.

## Contracting EQIP-CIC

- Contracts may have either enhancements only, or a combination of practices and enhancements
  - Contracts can not have practices only
- Practices may be scheduled in any year of the contract
- EQIP-CIC contracts are for a term of 5 years
- State selected high priority practices may receive the higher payment rate (at 90%) in EQIP-CIC contracts
- Another tool to help get conservation on the ground.
- Opportunity for targeted conservation



# Customer Opportunities

- Increase landscape enrollment and implementation with reduced costs
- Establish long-term management changes through conservation program enrollment
- Multiple options/ alternatives for pest, nutrient, and sediment control
  - Technical Assistance
  - Program Assistance
  - Partnership Opportunities
- Address multiple to targeted resource concerns





Any  
Questions