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Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1

PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2

APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3

ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4

RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5

IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1

Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you develop a conservation plan for your land and help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

If you decide to apply for financial assistance with implementing your conservation plan, your conservation planner will help you with the application process.

2

Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for

financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To complete your application, or CPA-1200.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.
- To develop a cost estimate for implementing your conservation plan.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS office about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3

Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll sit down with you to discuss eligibility

requirements. To do this, you'll need to bring:

- A map of the land you are applying for, or
- Your farm tract number, if you know it.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.

4

Ranking

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them

according to local resource concerns, local, state and national priorities, the amount of conservation benefit the work will provide and the needs of applicants. Ranking is a competitive process and available funding varies by program and fiscal year.

5

Implementing

If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

Once you sign the contract, you'll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you'll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

**Advance payments may be available for historically underserved participants; availability varies by program.*

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted