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NRCS Programs

Claire Tachella, EQIP Program Manager | January 2023

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Agency within the United States Department of Agriculture
- Born from the Dust Bowl in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and eventually became the Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Provide technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners



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About NRCS

Our Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Our Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

We work voluntarily with producers and communities to find the best solutions to meet their unique conservation and business goals.



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How to find us?

Visit nrcs.usda.gov



Find Your Local Service Center

USDA Service Centers are locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees for your business needs. Enter your state and county below to find your local service center and agency offices. If this locator does not work in your browser, please visit offices.usda.gov.

- Please select -



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Multnomah

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SEARCH

Clackamas County Service Center Farm Service Agency (503) 655-3144 Ext. 2	Physical Address 22055 S. Beavercreek Rd. Suite 2 Beavercreek, OR 97004 Get Directions or	Mailing Address 22055 S Beavercreek Rd Beavercreek, OR 97004	Contact Darca Glasgow darca.glasgow@or.usda.gov
 Clackamas County Service Center Natural Resources Conservation Service (503) 210-6032	Physical Address 22055 S. Beavercreek Rd. Suite 2 Beavercreek, OR 97004 Get Directions or	Mailing Address 22055 S Beavercreek Rd, Suite 2 Beavercreek, OR 97004	Contact Kimberly Galland Kimberly.Galland@usda.gov
Rd State Office Rural Development (503) 414-3300	Physical Address 1220 Sw 3Rd Ave Suite 1801 Portland, OR 97204 Get Directions or	Mailing Address Mailing Address not available.	Contact Call The Rd State Office For



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How to Get Started with NRCS



- Call, email, or stop by your local service center
- Share with local employees about your operation
 - Crops, Livestock
 - Natural resource concerns for your operations
 - Current infrastructure
 - Goals for your operation
- Schedule a field visit!



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Financial Assistance Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
- **Regional Conservation Stewardship Program (RCPP)**
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
 - Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE)
 - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
- **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**
- **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**
- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)**
- **Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB)**
- **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO)**
- **Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)**



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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as:

- Improved water and air quality
- Conserved ground and surface water
- Increased soil health
- Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation
- Improved or created wildlife habitat
- Mitigation against drought

NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues.



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Irrigation Systems



- Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation
- Irrigation Pipeline
- Pumping Plant
- Structure for Water Control
- Irrigation Water Management



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Soil Health Systems



- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
- Cover Crop
- Conservation Crop Rotation



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Nutrient and Pest Management



- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management



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High Tunnel Systems



- High Tunnel Systems



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Grazing Management



- Fence
- Watering Facility
- Livestock Pipeline
- Well
- Pumping Plant
- Spring Development
- Prescribed Grazing
- Range Planting



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Forestry Management



- Forest Management Plan
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Woody Residue Treatment
- Forest Trails and Landings
- Fuel Breaks
- Brush Management
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation



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Things to Consider



- Must meet program eligibility requirements
- Fund pools in each state vary by resource concerns, land uses, practices, and geographic areas – **Consult your local office!**
- Applications are ranked in applicable fund pools
 - Competitive process that prioritizes best conservation
- Cost-share rates vary from 50% to 75% for non-historically underserved producers, and from 75 to 90% for historically underserved producers of the expected costs.
- Funding cycles are typically annual
 - If you need to get a practice installed quickly, this probably isn't the best program for you



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EQIP Eligibility

EQIP Eligibility is –

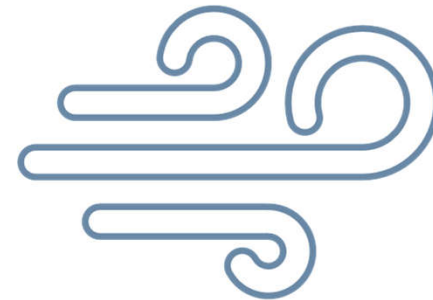
Applicant Eligibility



Land Eligibility



Resource Concern Eligibility



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Applicant Eligibility



- **Be an agricultural producer**

- A person, legal entity, Indian Tribe, Alaska Native corporation, or joint operation with signature authority
- Engaged in agricultural production or forestry management or have an interest in the agricultural or forestry operation associated with the land offered for enrollment. Interest in the agricultural operations means one of the following:
 - Owner or renter of the land in the agricultural operation
 - Have an interest in the agricultural products, commodities, or livestock produced by the agricultural operation
 - Be a member of a legal entity or joint operation that either owns or rents land in the agricultural operation or has an interest in the agricultural products, commodities, or livestock producers by the agricultural operation

- **Be within the applicable EQIP payment limitations**

- A person or legal entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, payments that, in the aggregate exceeds \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts or \$200,000 for all EQIP-CIC contracts entered into during FY2019-FY2023
- 2018 Farm Bill contracts under the National Organic Initiative may not exceed \$140,000



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Land Eligibility

- **Land included in the application must be agricultural or non-industrial private forest land and one of the following:**
 - Privately owned land
 - Publicly owned plan
 - Indian land
- **Irrigation History Requirements**
 - Land must have been irrigated for at least 2 out of the last 5 years to qualify for irrigation-related conservation practices that improve water conservation.



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Application Requirements



Applicants will establish farm records with FSA and must complete required certifications to complete the application process.

NRCS –

- CPA-1200: Conservation Program Application

FSA –

- AD-1026: Highly Erodible Land Compliance and Wetland Compliance Certification
- CCC-941: Adjusted Gross Income Certification
- CCC-902: Farm Operating Plan



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Conservation Program Application

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-1200
October 2021

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Clear Form

Applicant (Decision Maker):	Application Date:
Address:	Location where assistance is requested:
Email:	
Telephone:	Receive text messages (optional):
Assistance Requested:	

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

1. Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) | ☐ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) |
| ☐ Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) | ☐ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) |
| ☐ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | |

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

3. Applicant Information:
Select the business structure and enter the legal name, and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

Business Structure (Mark with an X)		Applicant Legal Name	Tax Number (last four digits)
Individual	Entity		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		

To add more applicants, complete [NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

- a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity or joint operation?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS-CPA-1200B
Natural Resources Conservation Service October 2021

Instructions for NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application

This form is used to apply for program assistance.

Field Name	Instruction
Applicant (Decision Maker)	Enter the name of the decision maker who is authorized to make decisions pertaining to the application and whose name will be displayed on the NRCS contract or agreement documents if selected for funding.
Application Date	Enter the date of application submission.
Address/Email	Enter mailing address and email address for communication with the decision maker.
Location where assistance is requested	Enter the location of the land where assistance is requested, which may include County and State, farm and tract numbers, etc.
Telephone	Enter the telephone number where decision maker may be contacted.
To receive text message(s)	Enter a primary and/or secondary mobile number if you would like to receive text messages. This is optional.
Assistance Requested	Describe the type of assistance needed. Provide details of what you seek to accomplish through this application.
Question 1	Mark 'Yes' if you have records established with FSA. If answering 'No', NRCS will assist you with determining which records must be established to continue processing your application. Note: All persons or legal entities listed in question 3 will also need records with FSA for NRCS to determine eligibility.
Question 2	Select the conservation program(s) you are applying to participate in. It may be necessary to sign a new application if you decide to change your program selection(s).
Question 2a (optional)	Enter the program enrollment type(s) applying to participate in. For example: • Enter CSP-Renewal if applying to renew a CSP contract. • Enter EQIP-CIC if applying for an EQIP conservation incentive contract • For ACEP-WRE, enter Permanent Easement, 30-Year Easement, or 30-Year Contract with Tribes • For RCPP, activity type includes: Land Management, Rental, US Held Easements. The RCPP project name may be entered if known. Note: Do not use this form for the following programs: ACEP-ALE or RCPP Entity Held Easements, Supplemental Agreements, or Watershed Activities. To apply for one of these programs, follow this link or contact NRCS for additional information.
Question 3	Provide the legal identity of each party seeking participation through this application. Indicate whether each applicant is an individual or an entity and enter the legal name and last four digits of tax identification number.
Question 3a	For each applicant that is a legal entity, documentation of sufficient signature authority is required for anyone signing on behalf of the entity.
Question 3b (optional)	If applicable, mark the appropriate box(s) for each applicant meeting one or more of the definitions for the historically underserved categories below. Applicants that mark Veteran Farmer or Rancher must also provide the date of discharge. 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://irftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/ Beginning Farmer or Rancher – The term Beginning Farmer or Rancher means a participant who: -Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and

Available in –

- English
- Spanish
- Hmong
- Korean

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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is intended for working lands and is the largest conservation program in the United States. Some of the benefits include:

- Enhanced resiliency to weather and market volatility
- Decreased need for agricultural inputs
- Improved wildlife habitat conditions

NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines and enhances existing efforts, using new conservation practices or activities, based on management objectives for the operation.

CSP contracts are for 5 years, with the opportunity to compete for a contract renewal (additional 5 years) to achieve additional conservation objectives.



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

- RCPP Classic – Projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners, and communities in collaboration with project partners
- RCPP Grants – The lead partner must work directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic

RCPP projects may include a range of on-the-ground conservation activities implemented by farmers, ranchers and forest landowners. These include:

- Land management/land improvement/restoration practices
- Land rentals
- Entity-held easements
- United States-held easements
- Public works/watersheds



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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect the agricultural viability and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses which negatively affect agricultural uses and conservation values, protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible grazing land, and protecting and restoring and enhancing wetlands on eligible land.

- Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) – helps private and tribal landowners, land trusts and other entities such as state and local governments protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.
- Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) – helps private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.



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Questions?



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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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