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Conservations Practices and Programs for Your Farm

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Program

**Lands Protection**

**Quality Incentives Program** (WHIP)
- *see program notes

**Grassland Reserve Program** (GRP)
- *see program notes

**Wetlands Reserve Program** (WRP)
- *see program notes

**Forest Land Enhancement Program** (FLEP)
- Each state will determine the minimum forestland ownership that is eligible, not to exceed 25 acres. Financial assistance is available on up to 1,000 acres per year, or up to 5,000 acres with a waiver.

**Program Notes:**
- CRP--Includes a general sign-up, continuous sign-up, the conversion of cropland to a less intensive use. Also, you may enroll land for a maximum of two years if you convert from 2001 or 2002 CRP enrollment.
- EQIP--Based on length of agreement.
- WRP--Most private wetlands converted to agricultural use prior to 1984 are eligible. Wetland must be restorable and suitable for wetland restoration.
- GRP--A minimum of 40 contiguous acres is required for enrollment; less than 40 acres requires a waiver. FLEP--Each state will determine the minimum forestland ownership that is eligible, not to exceed 25 acres. Financial assistance is available on up to 1,000 acres per year, or up to 5,000 acres with a waiver.

**What land is eligible?**

- Private non-industrial private forestland.
- All non-industrial private forestlands are eligible for FLEP with installation costs.

**Length of Agreement**

- 5-10 years
- 10 or more years
- 10-15 years
- Permanent

**Cost Share**

- 75% up to $75,000
- 75% up to $50,000
- 75% up to $25,000
- 75% up to $12,500

**Producer Obligations**

- Develop and follow a plan for the conversion of cropland to a less intensive use.
- Develop and comply with a plan for the conversion of cropland to a less intensive use.
- Develop and implement a management plan; assist with the cost of restoration.
- Develop and follow a management plan; assist with the cost of restoration.
- Develop and follow an EQIP plan that describes the conservation and economic purposes to be achieved; assist with installation costs.
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**What USDA Offers**

- up-front payment
- annual payment
- one-time payment

**What’s in it for you**

- Develop a management plan; assist with the cost of restoration.
- Assist with the cost of restoration.
- Develop an EQIP plan that describes the conservation and economic purposes to be achieved; assist with installation costs.
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- Develop and follow an EQIP plan that describes the conservation and economic purposes to be achieved; assist with installation costs.

**FAQ**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Will I be responsible for maintaining practices I install under a conservation program?
  - Most programs require you to maintain the practices. There are some differences in programs – check with your local USDA office.

- What type of wildlife will I attract if I enroll in a conservation program?
  - The type of wildlife attracted to your land depends greatly on the practices you install and the plants that are established. Practices can be designed and managed to attract specific species, such as pheasants, quail, and other wild species.

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**
**FARM BILL 2002: WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU?**

The 2002 Farm Bill offers America’s farmers and ranchers more incentives than ever before to voluntarily conserve natural resources on our nation’s privately owned farmland. Its conservation provisions help reduce erosion, guard streams and rivers, restore and establish fish and wildlife habitat, and improve air quality. Government and non-government organizations stand ready to help – this guide introduces the assistance available.

**WHAT’S NEW?**

New programs include the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP) and the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). More flexibility with new rules for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other programs.

**FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCENTIVES**

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of financial incentives to producers and landowners interested in conservation activities.**

Some programs offer annual payments for a conservation use, others offer one-time up-front payments for long-term easements for a conservation use, and most include government funds to share in the costs of installing conservation measures. Local USDA offices have information on these payments.

**Techniques include:**

1. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of USDA helps plan and use conservation practices on private lands. Technical assistance is provided on a day-to-day basis, and contributes to the value of the Farm Bill conservation programs. Local USDA offices have information on these payments.

2. Partnerships that add to USDA private lands programs: USDA works with many partners to deliver conservation services and programs. Local conservation districts, Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds), state fish and wildlife agencies, state forestry agencies, and conservation organizations each play a role in conservation efforts. Local USDA offices can provide additional information.

3. USDA programs:
   - CRP, EQIP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, FLEP
   - Forests and watersheds
   - Wildlife and habitat
   - Watershed improvement
   - Soil and water conservation
   - Resource management
   - Pest management
   - Nutrient management
   - Livestock exclusion
   - Streambank protection
   - Wetland restoration
   - Forest stand improvement
   - Prescribed grazing
   - Prescribed burning
   - Flood protection
   - Stream habitat improvement
   - Tree planting
   - Forest stand improvement, thinning
   - Prescribed burning
   - Controlling invasive plants

For more information contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS, Local conservation district, Extension Service, or the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for assistance, or find additional information on the web at http://www.farmers.gov/farmbill.

If you are specifically interested in forestry programs, contact the U.S. Forest Service or your state forestry agency. More information is provided at http://www.stateforesters.org

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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