



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance in Pennsylvania

**Paul Shaffer, Soil Conservationist
(W 5- Westmoreland, Indiana)**



**Thank you for your service, sacrifice
and securing our way of life!**



Key talking points:

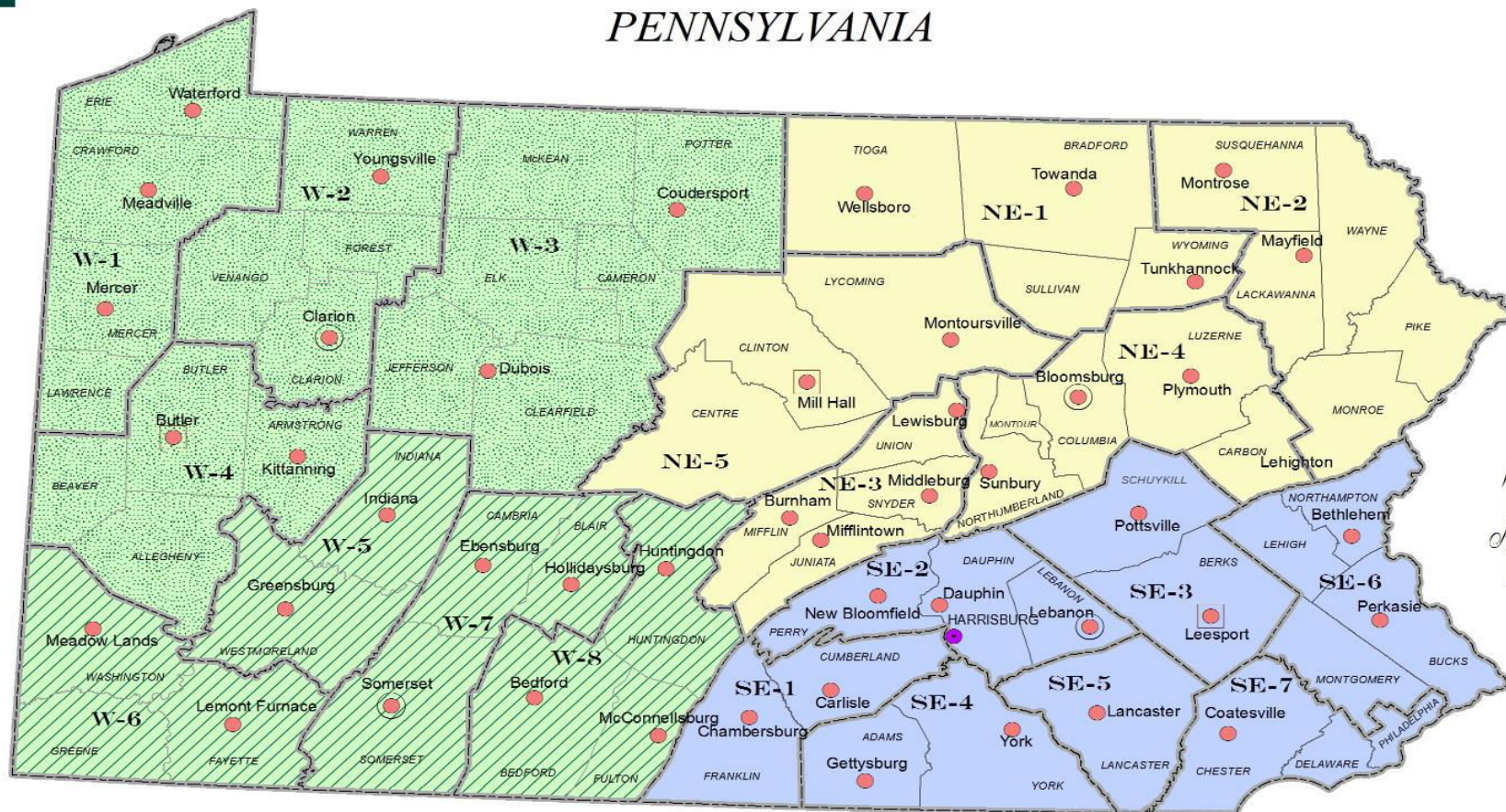
- **USDA Service Center Office Locations**
- **2018 Farm Bill**
- **NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance**
 - Technical Assistance – conservation planning
 - Financial Assistance – programs
- **Examples of conservation practices**
- **How to sign up for USDA programs**
 - Military Veteran Farmer
- **Helpful links and additional information**
- **PA Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)**



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NRCS SERVICE CENTERS PENNSYLVANIA





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2018 Farm Bill :

- Ensure strong support for America's farmers and landowners.
- Fulfill the Secretary of Agriculture's goal of improving customer service.
- Streamline, target and simplify programs.
- Continue to offer the types of assistance producers have come to expect and even improve upon them.



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NRCS Programs and Tools

- **Conservation Technical Assistance –**
 - conservation planning
- **Financial Assistance –**
 - implementation of plans with funding through contracts, designs and various programs.

Conservation Programs

Agricultural Management Assistance AMA
Conservation Stewardship Program CSP
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
EQIP

Easement Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
ACEP
Agricultural Lands
Wetland Restoration
Healthy Forest Reserve Program

Regional Conservation Partnership Program RCPP

Conservation Easements
Conservation Practices
Conservation Practice Enhancements



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Conservation Planning



NRCS
NATIONAL RURAL
COUNTY SERVICE CENTER
210 30TH STREET, SUITE 100
AMBLER, PA 19002-1010
215-261-1100 ext. 2

Year	Month	Day	Project	Amount	Total
1974	1	1	1	1	1
1974	1	2	1	1	2
1974	1	3	1	1	3
1974	1	4	1	1	4
1974	1	5	1	1	5
1974	1	6	1	1	6
1974	1	7	1	1	7
1974	1	8	1	1	8
1974	1	9	1	1	9
1974	1	10	1	1	10
1974	1	11	1	1	11
1974	1	12	1	1	12
1974	2	1	1	1	13
1974	2	2	1	1	14
1974	2	3	1	1	15
1974	2	4	1	1	16
1974	2	5	1	1	17
1974	2	6	1	1	18
1974	2	7	1	1	19
1974	2	8	1	1	20
1974	2	9	1	1	21
1974	2	10	1	1	22
1974	2	11	1	1	23
1974	2	12	1	1	24
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1974	3	2	1	1	26
1974	3	3	1	1	27
1974	3	4	1	1	28
1974	3	5	1	1	29
1974	3	6	1	1	30
1974	3	7	1	1	31
1974	3	8	1	1	32
1974	3	9	1	1	33
1974	3	10	1	1	34
1974	3	11	1	1	35
1974	3	12	1	1	36
1974	4	1	1	1	37
1974	4	2	1	1	38
1974	4	3	1	1	39
1974	4	4	1	1	40
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1974	4	11	1	1	47
1974	4	12	1	1	48
1974	5	1	1	1	49
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1974	5	6	1	1	54
1974	5	7	1	1	55
1974	5	8	1	1	56
1974	5	9	1	1	57
1974	5	10	1	1	58
1974	5	11	1	1	59
1974	5	12	1	1	60
1974	6	1	1	1	61
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1974	6	3	1	1	63
1974	6	4	1	1	64
1974	6	5	1	1	65
1974	6	6	1	1	66
1974	6	7	1	1	67
1974	6	8	1	1	68
1974	6	9	1	1	69
1974	6	10	1	1	70
1974	6	11	1	1	71
1974	6	12	1	1	72
1974	7	1	1	1	73
1974	7	2	1	1	74
1974	7	3	1	1	75
1974	7	4	1	1	76

[illegible]



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“There is no virtue in planning merely for the sake of planning. Unless plans can be translated into action, planning becomes a profitless mental exercise.”

**Hugh Hammond Bennett,
1881-1960, Father of Soil
Conservation**



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In others words; conservation plans are only as good as the paper they are written on unless they are actually being implemented....



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Financial Assistance through: Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP



Provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns and delivers environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.



PA EQIP options could include:

Livestock & Grazing Improvements

Cropland Management, including erosion control

Pasture Management & Prescribed Grazing

Forestry Practices/Forest Mgt Plan

Organic Farming & Organic Transition

Seasonal High Tunnels

Historically Underserved

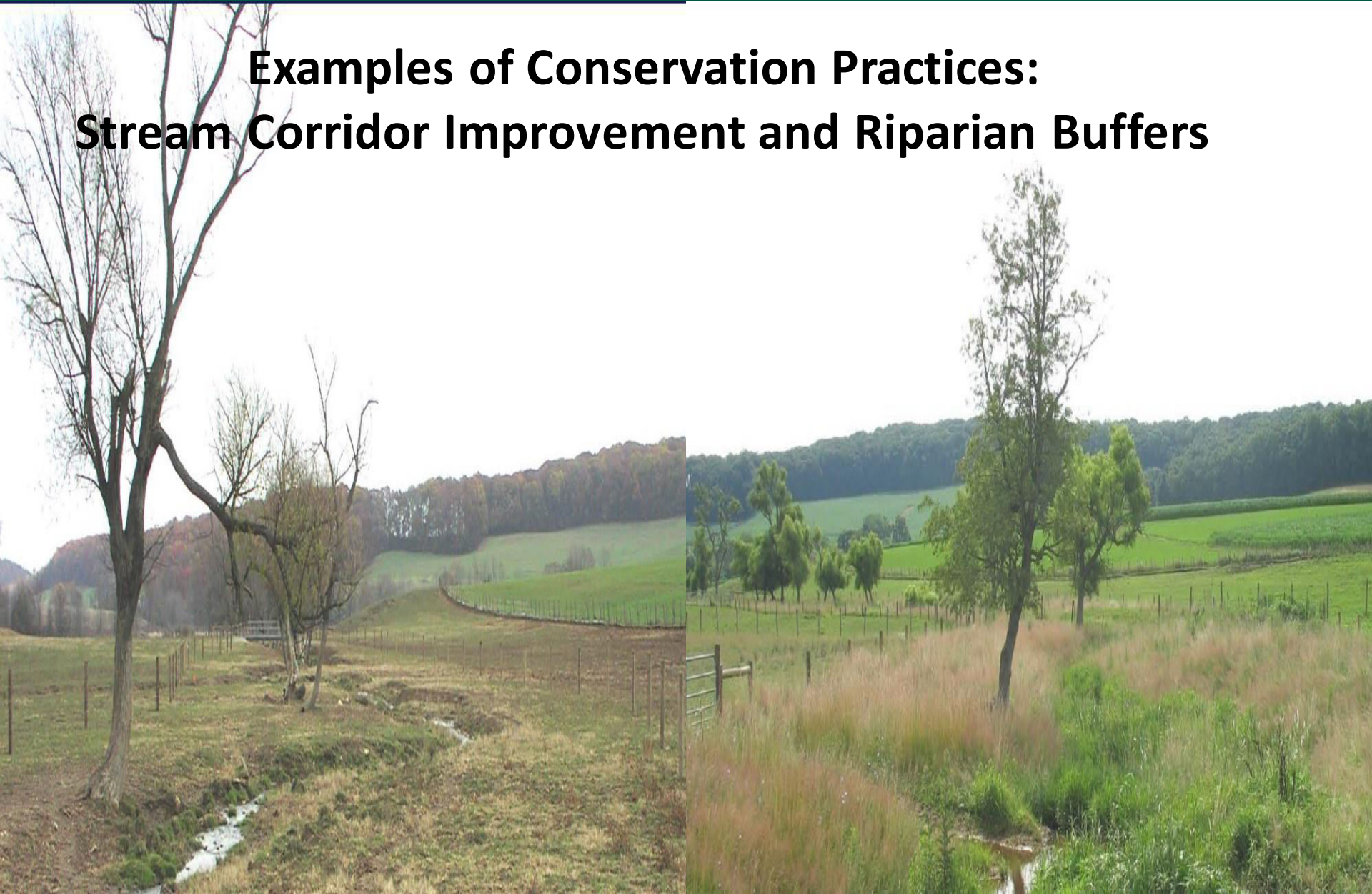
On-Farm Energy Conservation

Conservation Innovation Grants



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Examples of Conservation Practices: Stream Corridor Improvement and Riparian Buffers





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Barnyard and Livestock Improvements





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Soil Health





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Cover Crops





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Improved Pasture Management





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Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP


A photograph of two men standing in a green field. The man on the left is older, with grey hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket over a blue shirt. The man on the right is younger, with short brown hair, wearing a red polo shirt. They are both looking down at a large green plant that the younger man is holding. The background shows a vast green field under a clear sky.

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.



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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-ACEP

A photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, a body of water reflects the surrounding greenery. A white egret stands in the shallow water, its reflection visible. The background is filled with tall grasses and a dense line of trees.

Helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program - RCPP

A photograph of two men standing in a grassy field. The man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt, a tan cap, and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a small green logo and a tan cap. They are both looking at each other. In the background, there is a dirt path, trees, and a cloudy sky. A red tractor is partially visible on the right side of the image.

Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. Under partnership agreements, NRCS and its partners leverage and target their respective resources to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners to address priority natural resource concerns.



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How to sign up for USDA programs

- Establish farm and producer records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).**
- Eligibility - conservation compliance, Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)...**
- Submit a Conservation Program application with NRCS.**



CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS-CPA-1200
03/2019

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
Address:	Application Date:
	County and State:
Email:	
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

1. ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

2. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) <input type="checkbox"/> CSP Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> EQIP <input type="checkbox"/> CSP	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> ACEP- (WRE) <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

☐ Individual

- a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

Name: Tax Number:

☐ Entity (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

- a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

Name: Tax Number:

- b) ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

☐ Joint Operation (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

- a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

Name: Tax Number:

- b) ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?



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The 2018 Farm Bill provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and services to specific categories:

- Limited Resource Farmer**
- Beginning Farmer**
- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer**
- Veteran Farmer**



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Military Veteran Farmers



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Military Veteran Farmers

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Overview

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services receive preference and higher payment rates for certain NRCS conservation programs offered in the 2018 Farm Bill. These voluntary conservation programs benefit both agricultural producers and the environment and include financial and technical assistance.

Who Is Eligible?

An eligible Veteran Farmer or Rancher:

- Became a veteran during the last ten years; or
- Has not operated a farm or ranch; or hasn't operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years;

For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a Veteran Farmer or Rancher entity, all members must meet the above definition. A Veteran Farmer or Rancher may also qualify as a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher by meeting additional criteria.

How It Works

Preference will be given to eligible Veteran Farmers or Ranchers applying for several types of conservation financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, conserved surface and ground water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat. As a veteran you are eligible to receive a higher payment rate and "advance payment," or getting some funds up front, for projects funded through EQIP.

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance — the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

For more information, visit nres.usda.gov/veterans or farmers.gov.



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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

July 2019 nres.usda.gov



Military Veteran Farmer

Overview

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services receive preference and higher payment rates for certain NRCS conservation programs offered in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Who is Eligible?

An eligible Veteran Farmer

- Became a veteran during the last ten years; or
- Has not operated a farm; or hasn't operated a farm for more than 10 consecutive years...schedule F of 1040 would verify this.



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Helpful links and additional information

For Help go to www.farmers.gov

[HOME](#) | [FUND](#) | [MANAGE](#) | [CONSERVE](#) | [RECOVER](#) | [CONNECT](#)

A banner with the word "CONSERVE" in large white letters over a background of sunflowers.

Conserve

USDA recognizes that conservation by farmers, ranchers, and forest owners today means thriving and sustainable agriculture for our future.

Seventy percent of the nation's land is privately owned. Conservation of our nation's private lands not only results in healthy soil, water, air, plants, animals, and ecosystems but also provides productive and sustainable working lands.

Whether you are small-scale vegetable grower, a cattle rancher on 10,000 acres of range, a multi-tract timber manager, or someone who owns agricultural land, USDA has tools and resources to help you learn about conservation and what you can do, voluntarily, to improve the natural resource conditions on your land.

Visit our [Soil Health](#) page to learn about best practices to improve the health of your land.

Manage Your Natural Resources
+

Get Technical Assistance
+

Explore Financial Assistance Options
+



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For More Technical Information:

NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

Section I - General References

Section II - Information about soil, water, air, plant, and animal natural resources.

Section III - Conservation Management Systems

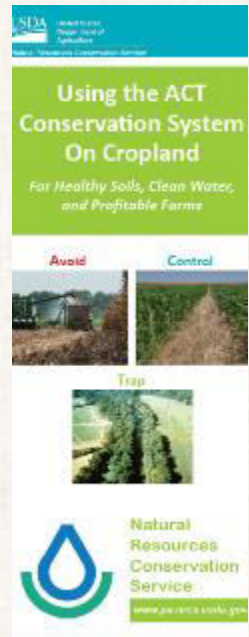
Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications

Section V - Conservation Effects

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>

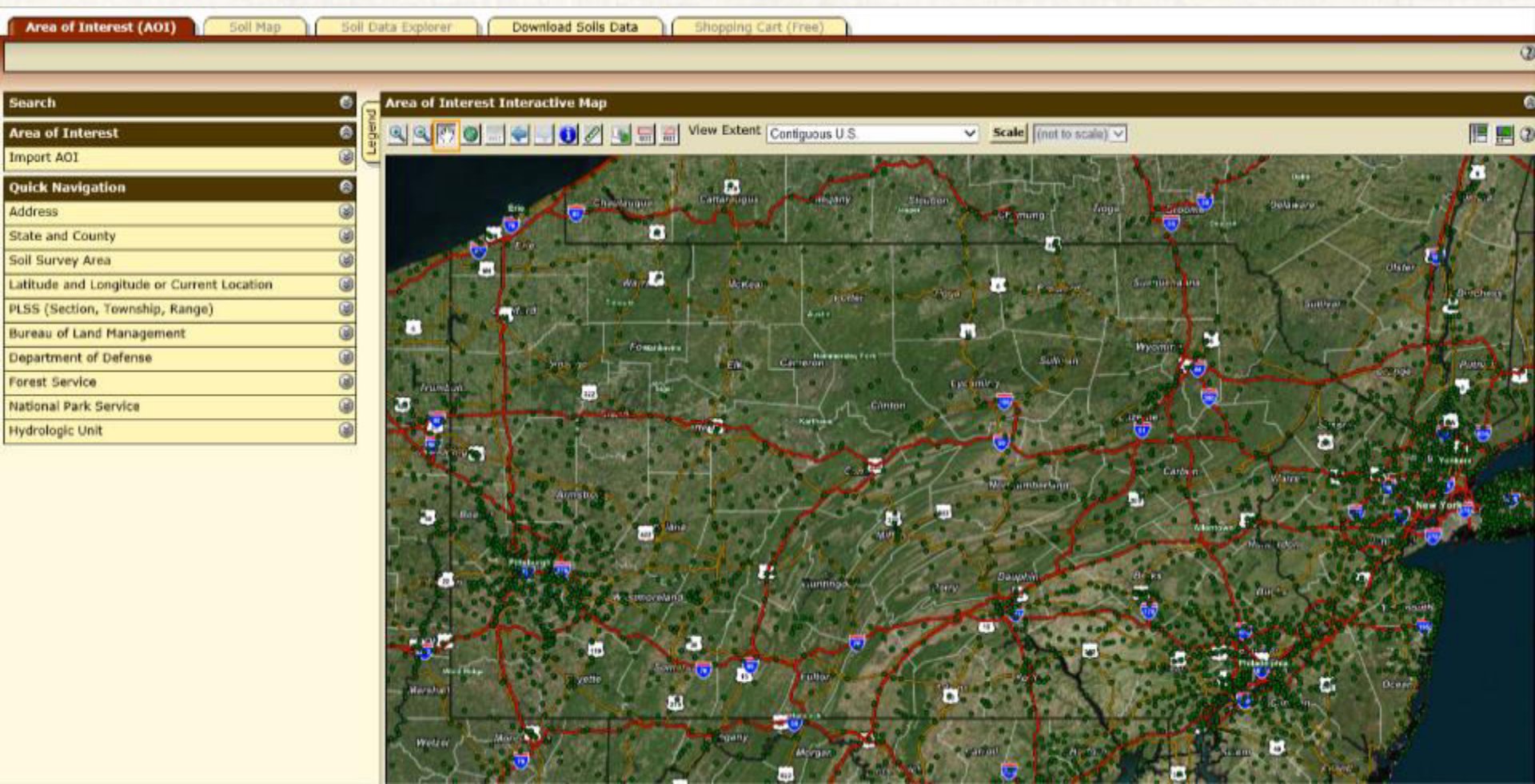
Engineering Field Tools:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/ndcsmc/?cid=stelprdb1042198>





<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>





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NRCS Conservation Webinars

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/>

LIVE WEBINARS

ON-DEMAND WEBINARS



ABOUT

FAQ

CALENDAR



CONSERVATION
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WEBINAR PORTAL



Welcome to The Conservation Webinar Portal

The NRCS Science & Technology Training Library

"Live" This Week



Jan 15, 2020 1:00
pm US/Eastern



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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/newsroom/>

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Pennsylvania
United States Department of Agriculture

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Pennsylvania Media Contact

Molly Rose
molly.rose@usda.gov
717-237-2208

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[Features](#)

The Features page showcases the Pennsylvania Conservation Catalog. Check it out.

[Photos and Videos](#)

The Photos and Videos page provides a link to the NRCS Photo



PA Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)

- REAP is administered by PA State Conservation Commission.**
- REAP allows farmers and sponsor to earn PA tax credits for installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations that enhance farm production and protect natural resources.**
- REAP is first--come, first--served—no rankings.**
- Applications are still being accepted.**



REAP (cont.)

- **Eligible applicants receive 50% (for equipment and most BMPs) or 75% (for some high--priority BMPs) of—pocket project costs.**
- **The credits can be used incrementally for up to 15 years to pay PA state income taxes or they can be sold.**
- **\$250,000 limit per ag operation in any 7-year timeframe.**



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For more info, program guidelines and applications about REAP:

Contact:

Joel Semke, REAP Coordinator, at:

717.705.4032

jsemke@pa.gov

<https://www.agriculture.pa.gov>



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Questions ?





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Contact Info:

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