Conservation Assistance for Philadelphia Farmers
United States Department of Agriculture
What is NRCS?
“The wastage of soil and moisture resources on farm, grazing, and forest lands . . . is a menace to the national welfare.”
Public Law 74-76
April 27, 1935
NRCS Assistance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural operators and landowners on any land producing food or fiber including:

- Fruit and Vegetable Farms
- Vineyards
- Organic Farms
- Livestock Operations
- Grain Farms
- Hay Farms
- Forests
- Other Agricultural Products
Can NRCS help me on my small farm?

Yes!

NRCS Offers Assistance with:

- Soil Health & Erosion
- Irrigation
- Composting
- Increase Pollinators
- Manage Pests
- High Tunnels
- Transition to Organic
- Energy Conservation
- Barnyard Improvement
- Nutrient Management
- Air Quality
- More!
NRCS Assistance is... Voluntary! Free!
What is a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan is the **record of decisions** and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land meeting planning criteria for one or more identified natural resource concerns as a result of the planning process. The plan describes the **schedule** of implementation for practices and activities needed to solve **identified natural resource concerns.**
Financial Assistance Programs

Financial Assistance Programs Include:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
How do I get assistance?

5 Steps to Assistance

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
   As part of applying, we’ll file paperwork to ensure you’re eligible for assistance.

4. Ranking
   NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5. Implementing
   Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.
First Time Participants

You will need to work with the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) Office, they will need 2 types of information:

1. Information about you:
   1. AD-2047

2. Information about the land:
   1. Location Information
   2. Documentation of Legal Control of the Property
Program Eligibility

If you choose to pursue Financial Assistance, you will need to complete additional eligibility documents. These documents may include:

- Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information (CCC-941)
- Farm Operating Plan (902I or 902E)
- Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification (AD-1026)
Increased Incentives Available

- Historically Underserved Farmers
- American Indians or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Beginning
- Black or African American
- Limited Resource
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Veteran
Urban Agriculture Toolkit

Contact your local NRCS Field Office

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