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Farm Bill

Private Forest Landowner Assistance Through NRCS

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Who Is NRCS?

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
  - Created As A Result of the Dust Bowl
- Only Work With Private Landowners
- Address Resource Concerns Associated With
  - Water Quality
  - Wildlife Habitat
  - Soil Erosion
  - Forest Health
- Work in Cooperation With Local Partners
  - Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
  - MN-DNR
  - Many Other Groups
- Have Programs Available that Can Help You Implement Forestry Practices On Your Property
NRCS Helps Private Landowners Make Good Conservation Decisions and Put Plans into Action
What Types of Projects can EQIP Help With?

- Tree and Shrub Establishment
- Site Preparation (For Tree Planting)
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Stand Diversification (Prepare for Upcoming Forest Threats)
- Natural Regeneration
- Trails/Landings
- Fuel Reduction
- Deer Browse Protection
How Do I get Started?

5 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.
How Do These Programs Work

• NRCS Financial Assistance Programs Provide Assistance at A Flat Rate Based on 50%-90% of The Regional Average Cost
• Landowners Are Responsible for Implementing the Practice or Hiring a Qualified Contractor To Implement The Practice
• Staff and Partners Are Available To Help With Project Layout and Inspection Along The Way (We’re Here To Help Make Sure Your Project Is A Success).
• You Get Paid Once The Work Has Been Completed
How Do These Programs Work

• All Our Programs Are Voluntary
• You Must Be Able To Demonstrate That You Have Control for The Land Where The Project Will Be Implemented
• Our Programs Do Not Open Your Land To Public Access
• Your Long Term Commitment Consists of Operation and Maintence To Make Sure Your Project Meets Identified Goals/Objectives
What Type of Plan Do I Need?

• Forest Stewardship Plans
  • Comprehensive Plans Available on For Sites That Have At Least 20 Forested Acres
  • May or May Not Contain Detailed Project Plans for Implementation, But Will Have Recommendations for Practices that Could Be Implemented

• Practice Plans/Project Plans
  • Contain Enough Detail for Project Implementation at A Specific Site/Location On Your Property (You Need To Have One Of These To Apply For Funding)
Plans convey:

What
Where
When
How
How much
How Do I get a Plan?

- NRCS/Forest Service Field Staff
- MN-DNR Forestry
- Soil and Water District (SWCD) Forester
- Consulting Forester
When Can I Apply

• You Can Apply for Financial Assistance From NRCS At Anytime
• Starting Early In The Process Is a Good Idea So That You Make Sure You’re Eligible
• Applications Are Usually Funded In The Spring Each Year
• The Application Deadline for 2017 is August 1st!
Learn more
www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill

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