



Overview and Background of NRCS and Forestry

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Primary Federal agency
authorized to work on private
lands to help landowners
protect their soil, water and
other natural resources

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- ▶ Technical agency of USDA
- ▶ Field staff based in 88 USDA Service Centers serving Minnesota landowners
- ▶ Voluntary technical and program assistance for farmers and landowners



Farm Bill Legislation

Basis for most USDA and NRCS
conservation programs and policies
come from the Farm Bill

- ▶ 1985
- ▶ 1990
- ▶ 1996
- ▶ 2002
- ▶ 2008
- ▶ 2014
- ▶ 2018



Changes to NRCS Programs in 2018 Farm Bill



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- ▶ Adds Resource Concerns
- ▶ Raises cap for organic producers
- ▶ New enrollment option to address resource concerns
- ▶ Advance payments for Historically Underserved Producers
- ▶ Forest Stewardship and/or Forest Management Plan required (CAP 106)

M. 450 PART 401

Conservation Practice Standards



Forestry Conservation Practice Standards

- ▶ Access Control (472)
- ▶ Alley Cropping (311)
- ▶ Firebreak (394)
- ▶ Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- ▶ Forest Trails and Landings (655) Eng
- ▶ Prescribed Burning (338) *Graz land sp.
- ▶ Riparian Forest Buff (391) WQ/Eng./WBio
- ▶ Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Eng.
- ▶ Tree/Shrub Pruning (660)
- ▶ Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- ▶ Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- ▶ Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)
- ▶ Woody Residue Treatment (384)

New Practices:

- ▶ Fuel Break (383)
- ▶ Multistory Cropping (379)
- ▶ Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654) Eng
- ▶ Silvopasture (381)

Questions?

USDA/

and lender.