



United States Department of Agriculture



Best Management Practices for Water Quality

Kyle Wright
USDA-NRCS Texas
State Water Quality Specialist



Natural
Resources
Conservation
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Who We Are

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, provides voluntary assistance on private, nonfederal lands to help people protect:

- soil
- water
- related natural resources

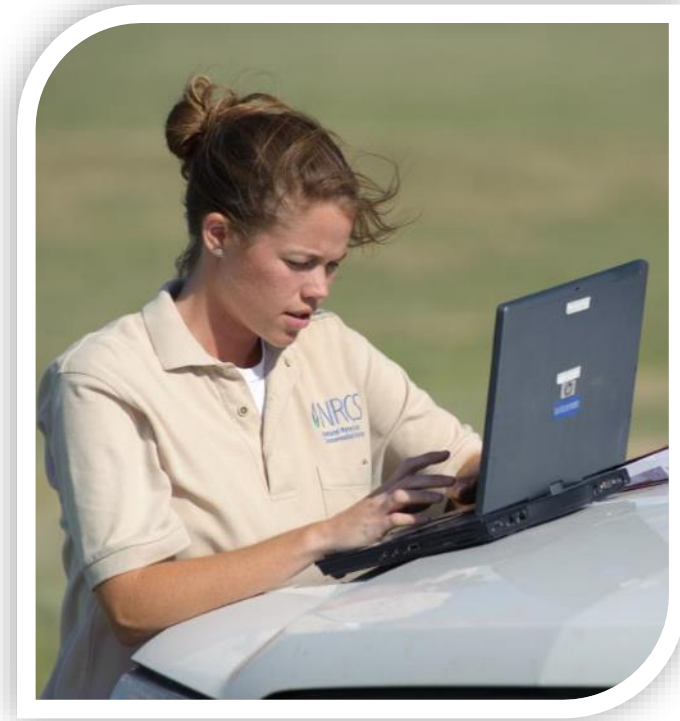


Our Employees



NRCS has offices across the state:

- conservationists
- biologists
- engineers
- soil scientists
- grazing specialists
- and others



Our Approach



NRCS professionals:

- serve local people who request assistance
- promote partnership efforts
- deliver science-based information and technology



What We Do



We work one-on-one with landowners to develop conservation plans. These plans provide a roadmap of resource development opportunities for the landowner over a period of 5 to 10 years.



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All NRCS Activity Starts with a Conservation Plan

- Site Evaluation or Inventory including identifying resource concerns
- Environmental Compliance Review
- Plan map, Soils map and Soils descriptions
- List of the landowner's conservation decisions
- Plan describing conservation practices and systems, location and schedule for implementation
- Maintenance information for installed practices



Practices Utilized in Riparian Area Conservation Work

- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Buffer
- Fencing
- Alternative Water Sources
- Filter Strips
- Grassed Waterways
- Prescribed Grazing
- Livestock Exclusions
- Brush Control
- Others as needed



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Conservation Buffer Practices

- Contour Buffer strips
- Field Borders
- Filter Strips
- Grassed Waterways
- Riparian Forest Buffers





Residue Management Practices

- No Till
- Reduced Till



Cropland Practices



- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Terraces
- Contour Farming
- Grassed Waterway
- Residue Management
- Conservation Buffers
- Irrigation Water Management



Grazing Lands Practices



- Prescribed Grazing
- Water Source
- Conservation Buffers
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management



Healthy Soils are the Foundation of Healthy Ecosystems

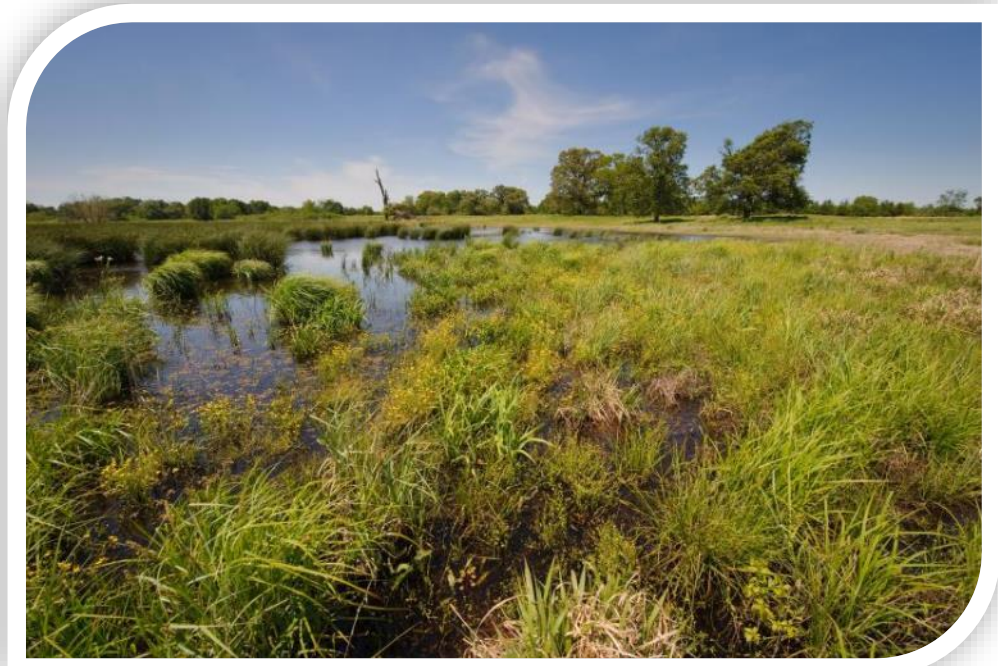


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Our Programs

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Financial assistance through programs





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**2018
FARM
BILL**

A green L-shaped icon representing the EQIP program.

EQIP

Environmental
Quality Incentives
Program

A green L-shaped icon representing the CSP program.

CSP

Conservation
Stewardship
Program

A yellow L-shaped icon representing the ACEP program.

ACEP

Agricultural
Conservation
Easement Program

A yellow L-shaped icon representing the HFRP program.

HFRP

Healthy Forests
Reserve Program

A green L-shaped icon representing the RCPP program.

RCPP

Regional Conservation
Partnership Program

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP

- a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers
- an opportunity to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resource concerns
- Sign-up is continuous, but applicants must meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for funding



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EQIP Eligibility

- Be an agricultural producer
- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) < \$900,000
- Comply with the Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations that addresses at least one natural resource concern



EQIP Contracts

- Practices will be planned and certified to meet NRCS standards and specifications
- Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis after practice completion and certification



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Questions?

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Kyle Wright
State Water Quality Specialist
USDA NRCS
101 S. Main
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 742-9865
kyle.wright@usda.gov