



# NRCS- Technical & Financial Assistance Programs (2008 Farm Bill)

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
*Helping People Help the Land*

# Programs Available to Producers

- Provide financial and technical assistance to producers
- All programs are voluntary
- Eligible Landowners
- Eligible Land
- Conservation planning and implementation to address resource concerns on agricultural and non-industrial private forestland

# Resource Concerns

- Energy Conservation
- Soil
- Water
- Plants
- Air
- Animals

# Eligibility

- Be engaged in agricultural production
- Have control of the land
- Be within appropriate payment limitation
- Compliant with HEL/WC Provisions

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Provides financial assistance to address resources on agricultural and non-industrial private forestland
  - Animal Waste
  - Nutrient Management
  - Fencing
  - Grazing
  - Energy Conservation
  - Seasonal High Tunnels
  - Wildlife
  - Conservation Activity Plans

# EQIP- Continued

- Producers may hire a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop conservation plans,
- EQIP payment limitation: \$300,000/ 6 year period
- Historically Underserved Participants may be eligible for payments up to 90%
  - Limited Resource Producers
  - Beginning Famers
  - Socially Disadvantaged
  - Tribes

# National EQIP Initiatives

- On-Farm Energy Initiative
- Organic Initiative (Certified or transitioning)
- Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
- National Water Quality Initiative
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

# Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

- Addresses Water Management/New Irrigation
- Minimize Risk
- Diversification



# Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Voluntary program to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land and non industrial private forestland
- **Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)**

Partnership between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NRCS to promote, and develop habitat to benefit at-risk species such as:

- New England Cottontail
- Bog turtle

# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Rewards producers to install additional conservation activities.
  - Annual payments for installing and adapting additional activities
  - Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource conserving crops

# Easements

- Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)
  - Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
  - Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

# Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)

- Helps purchase development rights to keep productive farm land in agricultural and conservation uses.
- Need an entity sponsor (state, local, or non-profit entity)
- Easements only – no outright purchases
- USDA provides 50% of the fair market value of the conservation easement

# Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)

- Landowner Eligibility
  - Private Land Ownership
  - Adjusted Gross Income Limits
- Land Eligibility
  - 50% of property needs prime, important, and locally important soils
  - No more than 2/3 of the parcel can be forested

# Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

- Support for working grazing and hayland operations
- Grazing plan required on pastureland
- Provides \$ to purchase easements on grasslands
- Landowner can apply to NRCS directly, OR Entity can partner with landowner to apply for 50% of cost
- Program co-administered with Farm Service Agency

# Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

- Easement Value based on the lowest of:
  - the appraised value, geographic rate cap or landowner offer
- NRCS pays for survey , title work, closing fees

# Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

- Protects, restores, and enhances farmed wetlands
  - Eligible lands include: forest, woodland, and land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored, farmed wetlands and wetland pastures: prior converted croplands, haylands, and pastures: land flooded significantly by other off-site activities, and riparian areas which link protected wetlands
- Easement value plus 75% of restoration costs
- Enrollment options:
  - Permanent
  - 30 year easement



# For More Information

## **LITCHFIELD & COUNTY**

**Torrington Service Center**

(860) 626-8258

Kathleen Johnson

District Conservationist

kathleen.johnson@ct.usda.gov

## **NEW HAVEN & FAIRFIELD COUNTIES**

**Hamden Service Center**

(203) 287-8038

Diane Blais

District Conservationist

diane.blais@ct.usda.gov

## **WINDHAM COUNTY**

**Danielson Service Center**

(860) 779-0557

Raymond Covino

District Conservationist

raymond.covino@ct.usda.gov

## **HARTFORD & TOLLAND COUNTIES**

**Windsor Service Center**

(860) 688-7725

Vivian Felten

District Conservationist

vivian.felten@ct.usda.gov

## **NEW LONDON & MIDDLESEX COUNTIES**

**Norwich Service Center**

(860) 887-3604

Javier Cruz

District Conservationist

javier.cruz@ct.usda.gov



Questions???

For more information, visit

[www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov)