



# **Farm Bill Webinar 2**

## **Changes to NRCS Financial Assistance Programs**



NRCS, Conservation Commission & Conservation Districts  
November 18, 2014

# Welcome & Logistics

- Ray Ledgerwood – Moderator
- Jeff Harlow, ASTC-Programs – NRCS
- Sherre Copeland, Partnership Liaison – NRCS
- Gina Kerzman, Public Affairs Officer - NRCS

Join the audio at:

- (702) 489-0001
- access code: 916-043-023
- Join on the web at:  
[www.joingotowebinar.com](http://www.joingotowebinar.com)
- webinar ID: 155-921-761

# Logistics

- ▶ All muted lines except presenters
- ▶ Questions
  - ▶ via web – use dashboard on your computer
- ▶ Will get to as many questions as we can
- ▶ Presentation recorded
- ▶ Feedback welcome – kudos, comments, etc – email [ray.ledgerwood@scc.wa.gov](mailto:ray.ledgerwood@scc.wa.gov)



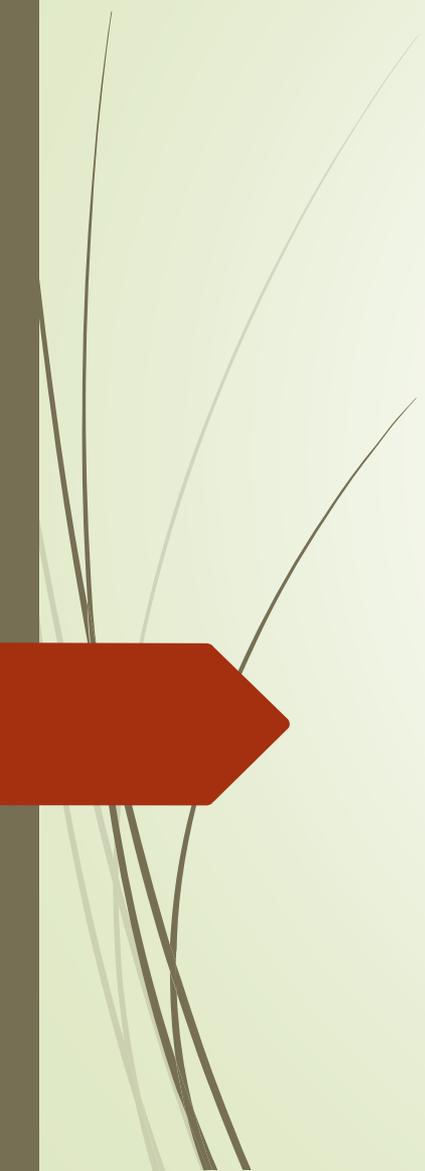
# Session Purpose

- ▶ NRCS will cover what's new and what's the same regarding their financial assistance programs. In addition, NRCS will outline information materials available to customers.
- 



# Topics of Discussion

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program**  
Jeff Harlow, ASTC-Program
  - **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**  
Sherre Copeland, Partnership Liaison
  - **Conservation Stewardship Program**  
Jeff Harlow, ASTC – Programs
  - **Web Tools & Public Information Materials**  
Gina Kerzman, Public Affairs Officer
  - **Question and Answer**
- 



# Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Presented by Jeff Harlow



United States Department of Agriculture

2014

# Farm Bill

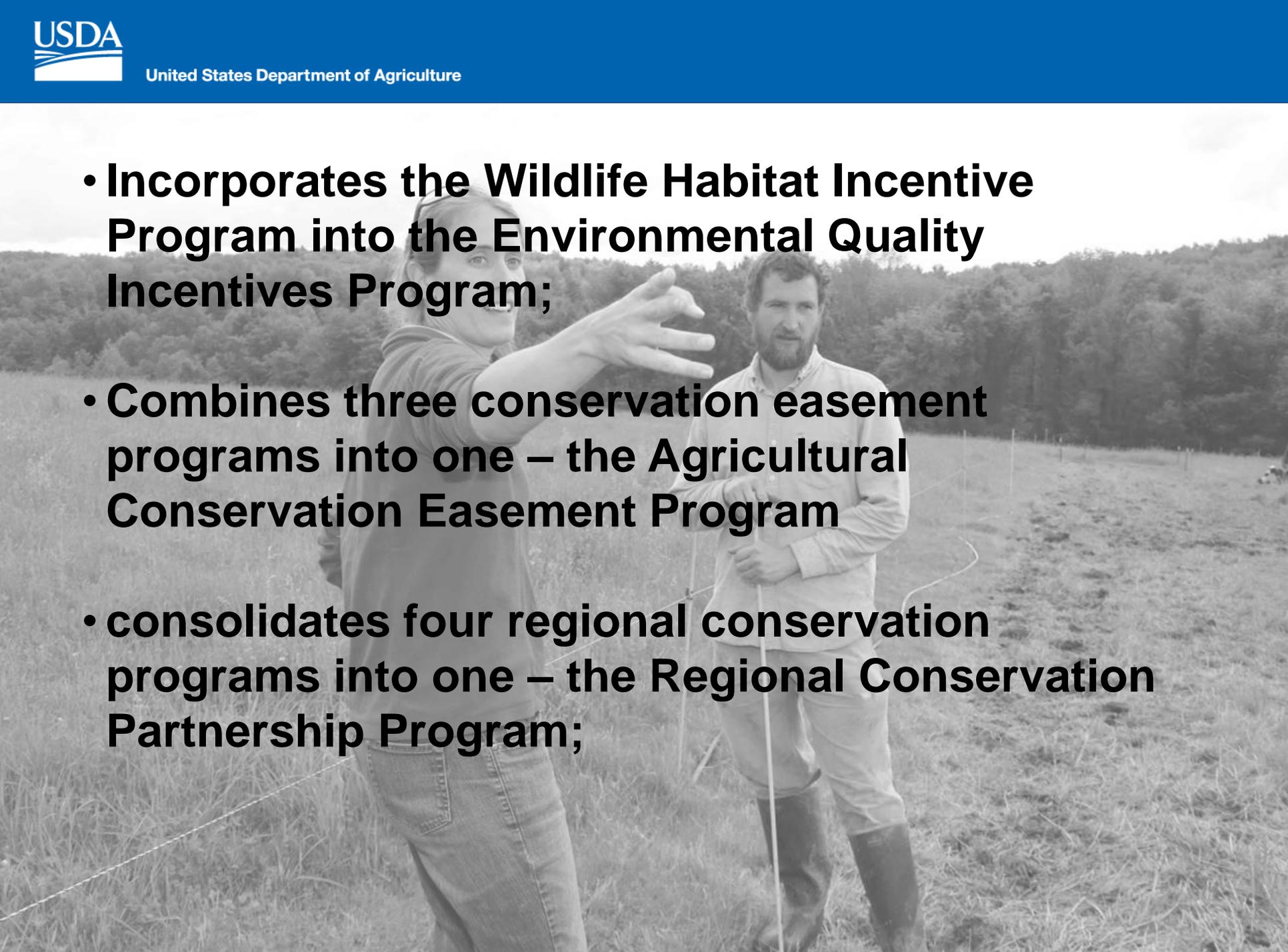
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Jeff Harlow

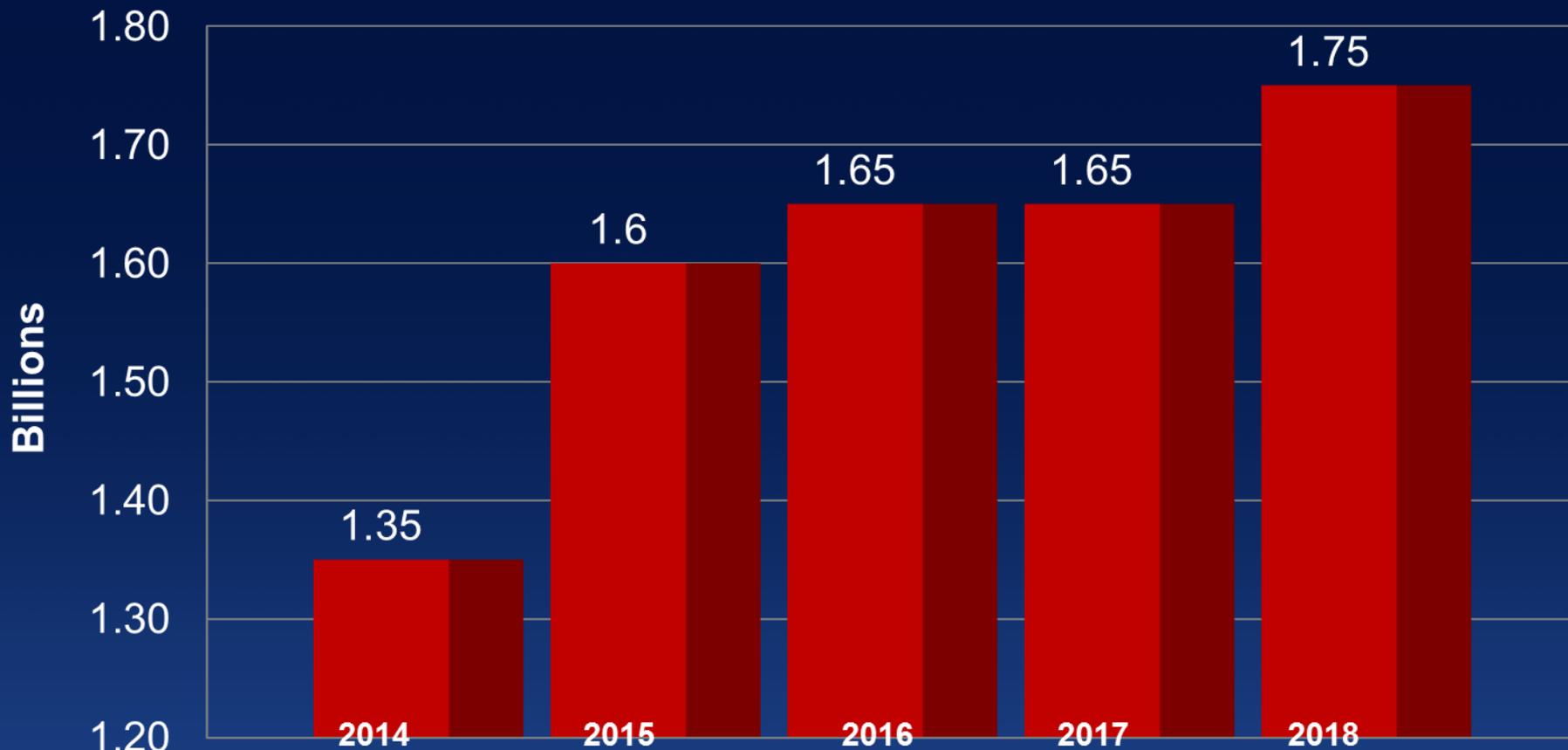
Assistant State Conservationist

- The 2014 Farm Bill streamlines and simplifies NRCS conservation programs and allows better targeting of conservation and priority resource concerns.

A focus on regional initiatives enables NRCS to maintain and strengthen existing regional initiatives while developing new priorities with partnership involvement

- 
- A grayscale photograph of a woman and a man in a field. The woman, on the left, is wearing a dark hoodie and jeans, and is pointing her right hand towards the man. The man, on the right, is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, light-colored pants, and dark boots. He is holding a long, thin object, possibly a tool or a stick. The background shows a grassy field with a line of trees in the distance under a cloudy sky.
- **Incorporates the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program;**
  - **Combines three conservation easement programs into one – the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**
  - **consolidates four regional conservation programs into one – the Regional Conservation Partnership Program;**

## EQIP Funding Authority



- EQIP will continue to receive high levels of funding
- There will be less funding for easements and less funding for CStP



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program Changes

- The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is folded into EQIP, but WHIP's objectives are still included in EQIP
- At least 5 percent of funding will be for practices benefitting wildlife habitat
- Establishes priority for veterans who are beginning farmers or ranchers, or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers
- Eliminates requirement for contract to remain in place for 1 year after last practice implemented; retains requirement that contract term may not exceed 10 yrs



## **A few more details about EQIP:**

- Provides flexibility for repayment of advance payment if not expended within 90 days; veterans are eligible for such advance payments
- Replaces rolling 6-year payment limitation for FY 2014–2018
- EQIP Program payments will be limited to \$450,000 for all contracts entered into during FY 2014-2018. This change removes the payment limitation waivers by simply lifting the limitation to the maximum level.
- EQIP sign-up is continuous, but for 2015 funding the cut off date is November 21, 2015



# 2015 EQIP Sign-up

- NRCS-WA Sign-up cut-off date:
  - November 21, 2014

## Requirements:

- Farm Tract Records
- 1200
- Duns/Sam if an entity



# SAM/DUNS Fact Sheet



## Applicants using Employer Identification Number

### Introduction

If your business or organization plans to apply for conservation program or grant funding through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and you use an **Employer Identification Number (EIN)**, also referred to as a Tax Identification Number (TIN), you will need to obtain a **Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)** number and be registered with the **System for Award Management (SAM)**. The DUNS number is required for any federal contract application and applicants must register with SAM to receive payments. If you apply as an individual and use your social security number as your EIN, you **DO NOT** need to obtain a DUNS number or SAM.

### About the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), a provider of business information reports. The information required to obtain a DUNS number includes the business/organization name, type, location, number of employees, and contact information. The federal government uses the DUNS number to maintain consistent name and address data about organizations/businesses. This helps maintain and organize applications and contracts across federal agencies.

### Who needs a DUNS Number & SAM

Business Type Code	Business Type	Tax ID Type	DUNS/SAM Required
0	Individual	SSN	No
2	General Partnership	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	SSN	No
4	Corporation or Limited Liability Company	EIN	Yes
4	Limited Liability Company	SSN	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes
6	Estate	EIN	Yes
7	Trust-Revocable	SSN	No
7	Trust-Revocable	EIN	Yes
10	Churches, Charities, & Non-Profit Organizations	EIN	Yes
17	Trust-Irrevocable	EIN	Yes



# 1200 Form

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS-CPA-1200  
10/2014

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
Address:	Application Date:
	County and State:
Email:	
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

1. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> EQIP</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CSP</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ACEP- (WRE)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)</li> </ul>

2.  Yes  No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

*If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.*



# 2015 Annual EQIP Funding:

- **EQIP Local Working Group Pools(10)**
  - Approximately 6.5 million
- **Organic Initiative**
  - Approximately \$500,000
- **EQIP High Tunnel Initiative**
  - Approximately \$500,000



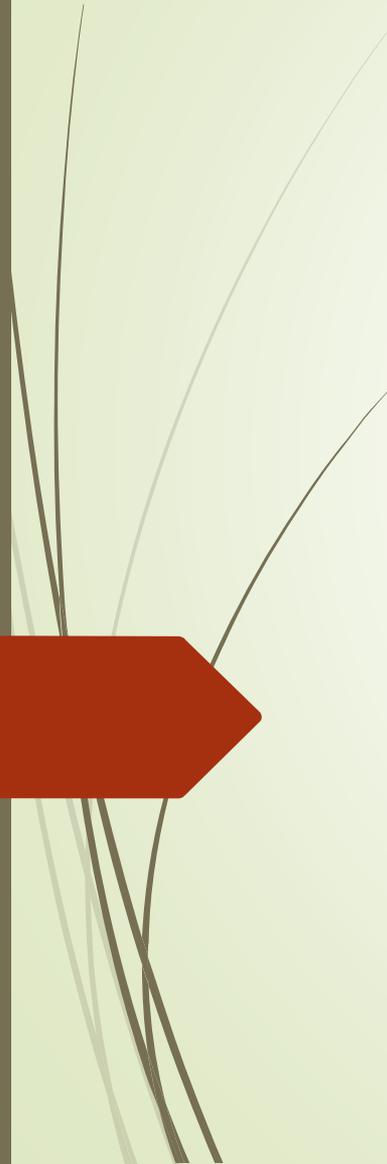
# 2015 EQIP Annual Funding cont.:

- **EQIP Energy Initiative**
  - Approximately 1.5 mil
  - Two step process
    - CAP first then
    - Installation of practices
- **EQIP Sage Grouse Initiative**
  - Approximately \$800,000



<b>Program</b>	<b>1st Application Batch Date (Appl. Cutoff)</b>	<b>Ranking and cost estimates completed</b>	<b>2nd Application Batch Date (Appl. Cutoff) If needed</b>	<b>100% Obligation Deadline</b>
<b>General EQIP (LWG)</b>	November 21, 2014	Set by LWG	Set by LWG	June 1, 2015
<b>BF, SD General State Pool</b>	November 21, 2014	December 19, 2014	January 16, 2015	June 1, 2015
<b>EQIP Tribal</b>	November 21, 2014	December 19, 2014	January 16, 2015	June 1, 2015
<b>EQIP CAPS - 102/104/106/108/110/114/118 /126/130/142/146</b>	November 21, 2014	December 19, 2014	January 16, 2015	June 1, 2015
<b>High Tunnels, Organic, Energy, Energy CAPS - 122/124/138</b>	November 21, 2014	December 19, 2014	January 16, 2015	June 1, 2015
<b>National Air Quality Initiative Benton, King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Yakima counties only</b>	November 21, 2014	December 19, 2014	January 16, 2015	June 1, 2015





# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Presented by Sherre Copeland



**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Regional Conservation  
Partnership Program**

**2014 Farm Bill**

**November 2014**

**Sherre Copeland, Partnership Liaison**

# RCPP Overview

- Program Purposes and Priorities
- Sources of Funding and Funding Categories
- How Funding Can Be Used
- Partner Activities and Contributions
- Mechanics of the Program
- Project Proposals - Agreements
- Current Status of the Program



# Program Purposes and Priorities

- Authorized in the Farm Bill, delegated to NRCS
- Enhance regional cooperation and coordination
- Increase conservation on regional or watershed scales
- Derive project ideas and innovation from local partners
- Effectively implement and maintain conservation
- Leverage federal funding with partner contributions
- Monitor outcomes and report on the benefits



# Sources of Funding

## Direct Funding:

\$100 million per year

- HFRP
- PL-566

## Set Aside from Financial Assistance Authorizations:

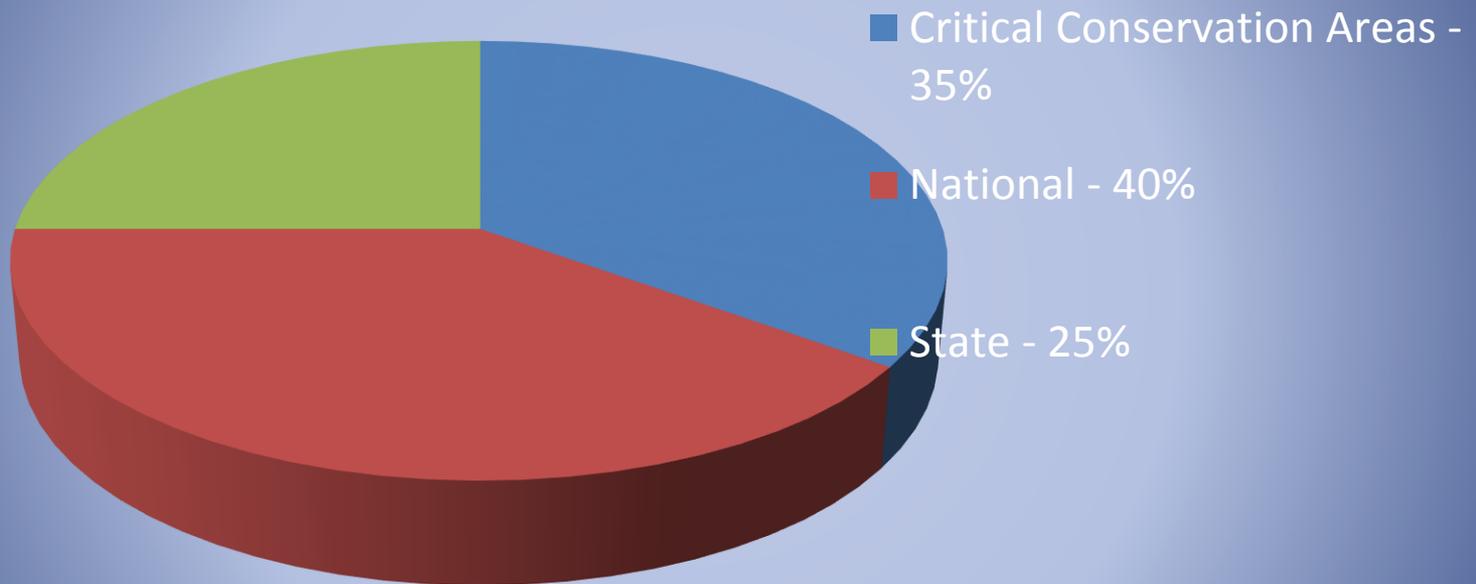
7% of Core Programs

- ACEP, CSP, EQIP
- (AWEP, CCPI, and national landscape initiatives are replaced)

- FY 2014 and FY 2015 funding was combined in a single Announcement for Program Funding
- Total available 14/15 is about \$400 million nationwide (Future years could be about \$200 million per annum)



# Funding Categories



# National Category

- 40% of overall funding
- National Resource Concerns
  - Water Quantity
  - Water Quality
  - Soil Health
  - At risk species habitat
  - Air Quality



# Critical Conservation Areas

- 8 designations by the Secretary of Ag
- Partnership agreements in CCAs will be eligible for 35% of the total funding
- Each area has an overall goal and priority resource concerns pervasive throughout the designated area
- In addition to the core programs, CCAs can also use the PL 566 (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act), but not the dam rehab section

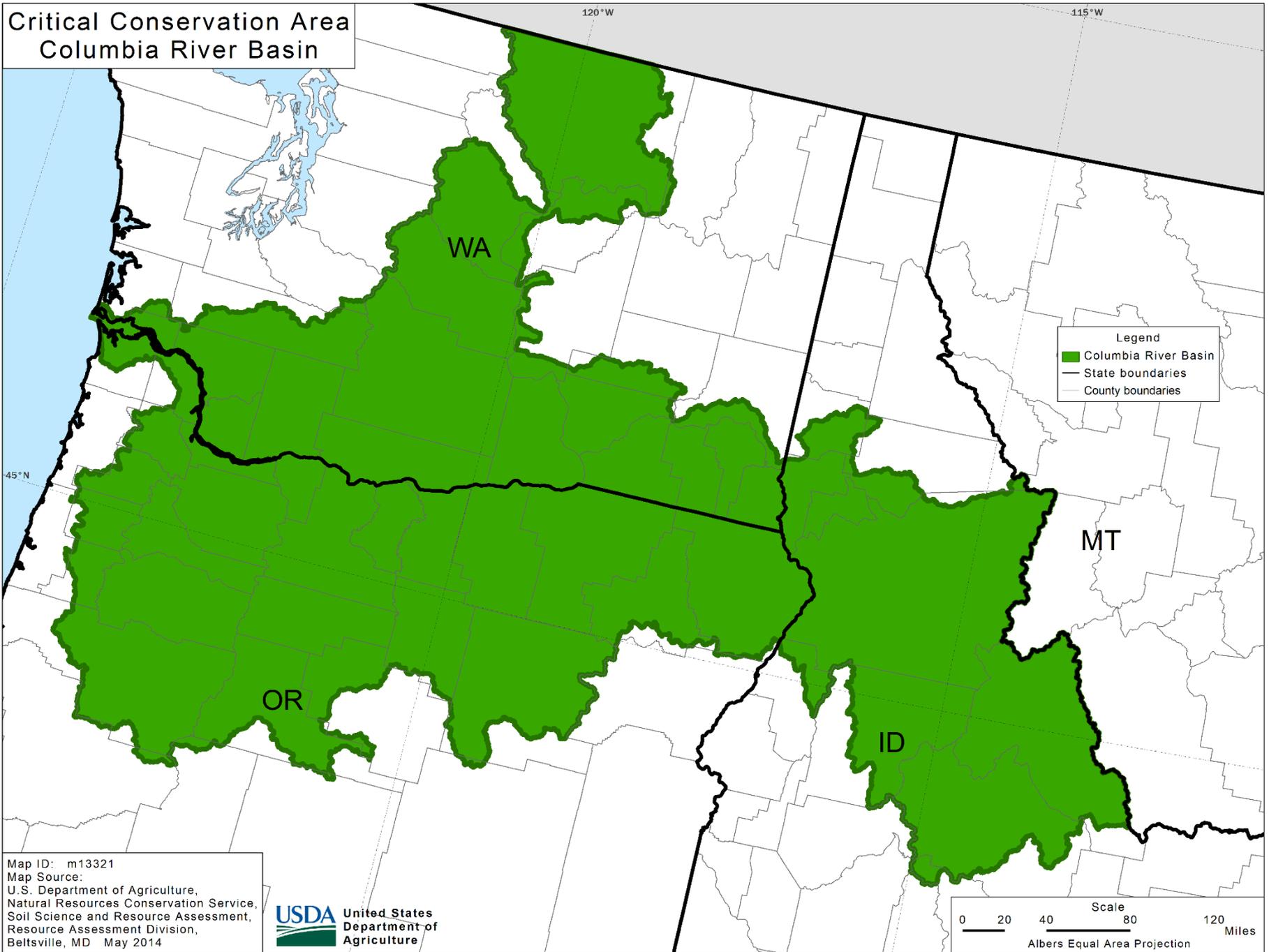


# Columbia River Basin CCA

- **Overall Goal:** Promote water quality and management of water quantity to benefit recovery of salmon populations.
- **Resource Concern Priorities:**
  - **Insufficient Water:** Inefficient use of irrigation water
  - **Water Quality Degradation:** Excessive sediment in surface waters; excess nutrients and pesticides in surface and ground waters
  - **Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife:** Habitat degradation



# Critical Conservation Area Columbia River Basin



Map ID: m13321  
Map Source:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Soil Science and Resource Assessment,  
Resource Assessment Division,  
Beltsville, MD May 2014



# State Category

- 25% of overall funding
- Should be located entirely within the state
- Should address at least one of the state-identified priorities or one or more national priorities



# State Category

- WA developed priority resource concerns
  - Air Quality
  - Degraded Plant Condition
  - Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
  - Soil Degradation
  - Water Quality Degradation
- WA ranked applications in the state category **AFTER** they had gone to national
  - Both national and state ranking questions applied
- WA received an allocation from national to support state agreements



# How Funding Can Be Used

- Not a grant program – It is based on contribution agreements and landowner contracts/agreements
- Uses both Technical and Financial Assistance
- Maximum award amount for a project agreement is \$20 million (total project cost can be double or more)



# How Funding Can Be Used

- TA can be used to support:
  - NRCS personnel in accepted project areas
  - A partner in accepted project areas
  - Combination of partners and NRCS personnel in project areas

# How Funding Can Be Used

- TA can be used for (examples)
  - Resource assessment
  - Conservation and watershed planning
  - Conservation practice survey and design
  - Conservation practice implementation and follow up
  - Resource monitoring
- TA cannot be used for indirect or overhead costs of the partner entities

# How Funding Can Be Used

- Financial Assistance is delivered through traditional NRCS programs:
  - Producers or landowners through program contracts or easement agreements
  - Entities through agreements for purchase of Ag Land Easements
  - Partners through alternative funding arrangements with multi-state water resource agencies or authorities

# Partner Contributions

- Partners can contribute both financial and technical assistance
- Partners can contribute both in-kind (services) and cash

# Mechanics of the Program (Eligibility)

- **Eligible Partners**

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations
- Farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers
- State or local governments
- American Indian tribes
- Municipal water treatment entities
- Water and irrigation districts
- Conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations
- Institutions of higher education



# Mechanics of Program (Eligibility)

- **Eligible Participants and Eligible Land** - Under RCPP, eligible producers and landowners and eligible land are the same as for applicable programs (ACEP, CSP, EQIP, HFRP, PL-566)



# Mechanics of the Program (Eligibility)

- **Eligible Activities –**
  - Water quality restoration or enhancement
  - Water quantity conservation, restoration or enhancement
  - Drought mitigation
  - Flood prevention
  - Water retention
  - Air quality improvement
  - Habitat conservation, restoration or enhancement
  - Erosion control and sediment reduction
  - Forest restoration
  - Other activities that NRCS determines will help achieve conservation benefits



# Project Proposals and Agreements

- Applicants define what they want to do
- Applicants determine the cost of the project
  - Total partner contributions and benefits
  - Amounts needed from RCPP and Programs (TA and FA)
- Applicants collaborate with partners and define contributions



# Project Proposals and Agreements

- Applicants submit a pre-proposal
- National/states review, rate, rank
- Some applicants are invited to submit full proposals
- National/states review, rate, rank
- Some applicants are invited to negotiate an agreement

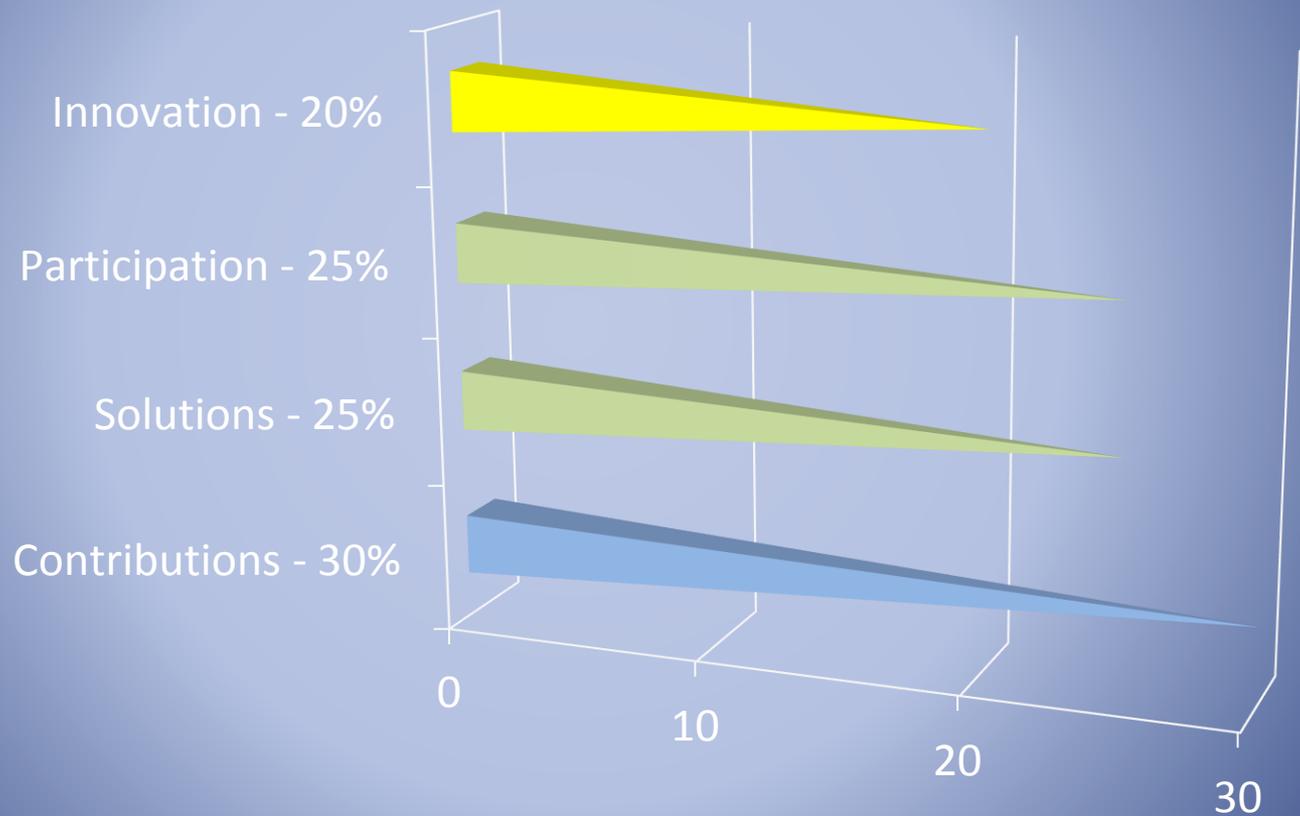


# Project Proposals and Agreements

- USDA and partners enter into negotiated agreements
- Cannot exceed \$20 million contribution by NRCS
- Can be up to five-year project
- Once agreement is signed, partners and NRCS can begin execution of work in the agreement
  - Landowners/operators in the project area/scope apply for NRCS programs
  - Applicants in project areas get priority for RCPP contracts



# Proposal Evaluation Factors



# Current Status

## National

Funding Pool	Eligible pre-proposals submitted	Invited for full proposal	% of overall funding
State	314	93 (~30%)	25%
*Critical Conservation Area	202	84 (~42%)	35%
National	60	52 (~87%)	40%
Total	576	229 (~40%)	100%

\*Columbia River Basin had 21 pre-proposals, of which 11 were invited for full proposal.

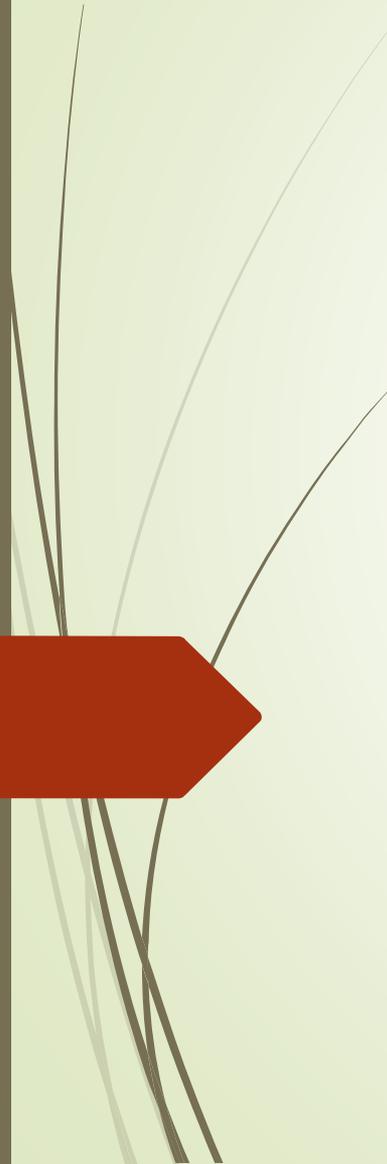
# Current Status WA

	Pre-proposals submitted	Invited for full proposal	% of overall funding
State	14	2 (~14%)	25%
*Critical Conservation Area	6	3 (50%)	35%
National	4	4 (100%)	40%
Total	24 (4% of total)	9 (~38%)	100%

\*Note there was at least one CCA application submitted by partners in OR that includes work to be done in WA. That project was invited to submit a full proposal.

# Sources of Information

- 2014/2015 Availability of Program Funding: USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-14-01  
<http://www.grants.gov/search-grants.html?agencies%3DUSDA%7CDepartment%20of%20Agriculture>
- National Website:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farbill/rcpp/>
- Columbia River Basin CCA Website:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1254131>



# Conservation Stewardship Program

Presented by Jeff Harlow



# Conservation Stewardship Program Changes:

- CSP reauthorized - 10 million acres annually
- 5-year contracts with option to renew
  - New- 2 additional priority resource concerns



# Conservation Stewardship Program Changes:

- At least 2 priority resource concerns
  - Meet or exceed 1 additional by end of contract
- At least 5 priority resource concerns identified for each area or watershed



# Conservation Stewardship Program Changes:

- CSP enrollment level <2008 Farm Bill
- Remains a substantial contributor
- 50 million acres enrolled nationwide



# Conservation Stewardship Program Changes:

- Eligible land limited to land in production
  - 4 - 6 years preceding October 1, 2014
- Lands protected by ACEP allowed to enroll
- Requires prorating of payments
- Eliminates 10% acreage limitation
  - Forestland



# 2015 Conservation Stewardship(CSP) Sign-up

## Requirements:

- Farm Tract Records must be up to date
  - \*Stewardship program land eligibility includes the whole farm – cropland, rangeland, headquarters, etc., all of it
- 1200
- Duns/Sam if an entity



# 1200 Form

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS-CPA-1200  
10/2014

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
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	County and State:
Email:	
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

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4	Limited Liability Company	SSN	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes
6	Estate	EIN	Yes
7	Trust-Revocable	SSN	No
7	Trust-Revocable	EIN	Yes
10	Churches, Charities, & Non-Profit Organizations	EIN	Yes
17	Trust-Irrevocable	EIN	Yes

# 2015 CStP renewal Process

- 2010-1 Eligible applications were given opportunity to reenroll for another 5 years in August, 2014
- Must treat:
  - At least 2 priority resource concerns
  - Meet or exceed 1 additional by end of contract period
  - Contracts obligated by 12/31/14



# 2015 Stewardship Program

- 2015-1 Year round signup
- Batching cutoff date not determined yet probably in next couple of months
- Must treat
  - At least 2 priority resource concerns
  - Meet or exceed 1 additional resource concern by end of contract period
  - Activities are either- practice implementation or enhancements



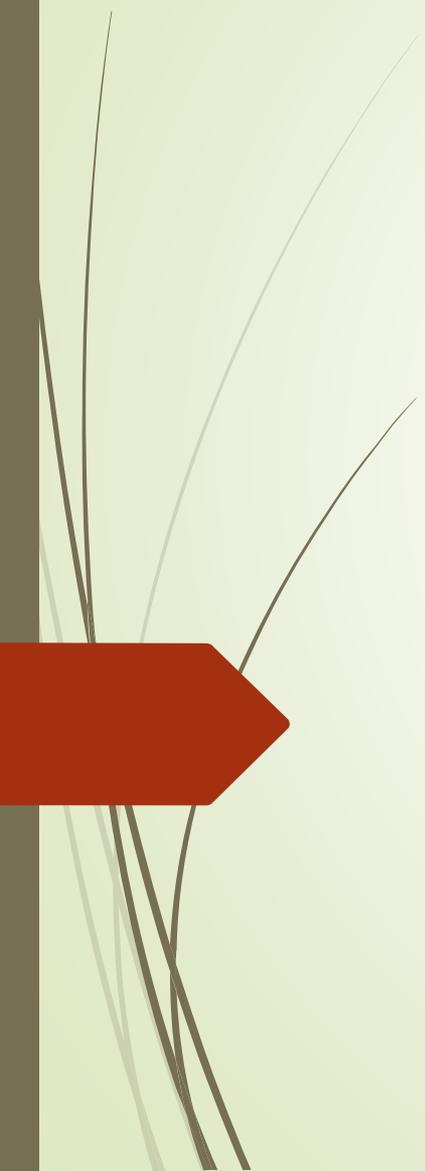
# 2014 Annual CSP Funding:

- **Funds are obligated annually to contracts**  
(versus EQIP entire amt is obligated at time of signing)
  - **57 contracts**
  - **2.5 million obligated approximately same in previous years**
  - **125,716 acres contracted (approx. \$18/acre)**
- **Excess of 12.5 million annual payments annually**



United States Department of Agriculture

Learn more  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill)



# Web Tools & Public Information Materials

Presented by Gina Kerzman

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington  
United States Department of Agriculture

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### 2014 Farm Bill

The 2014 Farm Bill was enacted on February 7, 2014. NRCS offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

#### Popular Topics

- > Financial Assistance
- > Technical Resources
- > Soil Services
- > Civil Rights
- > En Español

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#### In the News

- Application sign-up cut-off date for EQIP statewide initiatives
- UPDATE: Financial Assistance Available for Wildfire-Impacted Farmers and Ranchers
- Financial Assistance Available for

#### Events & Deadlines

#### Helping People Help the Land

- Federal Register
- Find Your Local NRCS Office
- Earth Team Volunteers
- NRCS Employees
- Employee Directory
- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

#### Conservation Compliance

#### Soil Health

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/enespanol/>

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/home/?cid=NRCS144P2\\_036141](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/home/?cid=NRCS144P2_036141)

Help  
Free Hotmail

## Washington NRCS Farm Bill Programs and Services



# 2014 Farm Bill

The 2014 Farm Bill was enacted on February 7, 2014. NRCS offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Some programs will be available immediately, while others will require limited time to be set up within the agency. Details are on each program page and at your local [USDA Service Center](#).

Current Farm Bill contracts remain in effect; new sign-up information will be announced here as it becomes available.

 <p><b>Financial Assistance</b></p> <p>NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to help agricultural</p>	 <p><b>Easements</b></p> <p>NRCS offers easement programs to eligible landowners to conserve</p>	 <p><b>Partnership</b></p> <p>NRCS works with partners to leverage additional conservation</p>
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National NRCS Twitter account:  
@USDA\_NRCS

[https://twitter.com/usda\\_nrcs](https://twitter.com/usda_nrcs)

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USDA Natural Resources ... Free Hotmail

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**USDA NRCS**  
@USDA\_NRCS  
USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service: issues & news related to conservation, ag, & the environ., by Spencer & others. Following/RTs don't=endorsement.  
Washington, D.C.  
[nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov)  
Joined June 2009  
594 Photos and videos

TWEETS 5,753 FOLLOWING 339 FOLLOWERS 12.2K FAVORITES 38 LISTS 1

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Pinned Tweet  
**USDA NRCS** @USDA\_NRCS · Aug 6  
Healthy soil holds on to its water.  
[go.usa.gov/k563](http://go.usa.gov/k563)

healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.  
Every 1% increase in organic matter results in as much as 25,000 gal of available soil water per acre.  
Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy e-Updates, Number 357, July 6, 2012

Don't miss any updates from **USDA NRCS**  
Full name  
Email  
Password  
Sign up for Twitter

Worldwide Trends · Change  
#MTVStars  
#BBMNaik  
#1DTODAY  
#الكويت\_الإمارات  
#ZDRSEDK4

Washington NRCS Twitter account: @NRCS\_WA  
[https://twitter.com/search?q=NRCS\\_WA](https://twitter.com/search?q=NRCS_WA)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/home/?cid=STELPRDB1259629>

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Washington**  
United States Department of Agriculture

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### Washington State Wildfires

Wildfire is not only devastating to the land, but also to homes and lives. USDA has resources to help you with the recovery.

**After the Fire: Recovery Resources**

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#### Popular Topics

- > Financial Assistance
- > Technical Resources
- > Soil Services
- > Civil Rights
- > En Español

Sign up for email updates:

#### In the News

- Application sign-up cut-off date for EQIP statewide initiatives
- UPDATE: Financial Assistance Available for Wildfire-Impacted Farmers and Ranchers
- Financial Assistance Available for

#### Events & Deadlines

#### Helping People Help the Land

- Federal Register
- Find Your Local NRCS Office
- Earth Team Volunteers
- NRCS Employees
- Employee Directory
- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

#### Conservation Compliance

#### Soil Health

unlock the

150%

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "da.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/". The page features a header with the slogan "Coming together for Conservation" and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr. A navigation menu includes "In the News" and "Events & Deadlines". The main content area is divided into several sections: "Helping People Help the Land" with links to the Federal Register, local NRCS offices, Earth Team Volunteers, NRCS Employees, Employee Directory, and Electronic Field Office Technical Guide; "Conservation Compliance" with a video thumbnail; "Soil Health" with a "unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL" graphic; "Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council" with a "tribal CONNECTIONS" graphic; and "State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)" with a photo of two men in a field. A large video player titled "Step-by-Step How to Get Assistance" is prominently displayed, with a play button and the text "Watch How to Get Started with NRCS". A "Free Hotmail" icon is visible in the top left corner, and a "Sign up for email updates" form is in the top right. The footer contains the text "NRCS Websites & Additional Assistance".

da.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/ Home | NRCS

ols Help

Free Hotmail

Coming together for Conservation

2 / 4

Sign up for email updates: Go

**In the News** **Events & Deadlines**

- Application sign-up cut-off date for EQIP statewide initiatives
- UPDATE: Financial Assistance Available for Wildfire-Impacted Farmers and Ranchers
- Financial Assistance Available for Wildfire-Impacted Farmers and Ranchers
- USDA awards funds to improve conservation on agricultural lands
- USDA provides \$1.8 million for agricultural and wetland easements in Washington State
- USDA Receives About 600 Pre-Proposals for New Program to Provide Support for On-the-Ground Conservation Efforts

>>> **More...**

**Helping People Help the Land**

- Federal Register
- Find Your Local NRCS Office
- Earth Team Volunteers
- NRCS Employees
- Employee Directory
- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

**Conservation Compliance**

**Soil Health**

**Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**

**State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

**Step-by-Step How to Get Assistance**

Watch How to Get Started with NRCS

**NRCS Websites & Additional Assistance**

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>. The browser tabs include "Home | NRCS" and "Soil Health Awareness | NRCS". The page features a navigation bar with "Tools" and "Help" links, and a "Free Hotmail" link. A search bar for email updates is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- In the News**: A list of news items including application sign-up cut-off dates for EQIP, updates on financial assistance for wildfire-impacted farmers, and USDA awards for conservation.
- Events & Deadlines**: A section for upcoming events and deadlines.
- Helping People Help the Land**: A central section with links to the Federal Register, local NRCS offices, Earth Team Volunteers, NRCS Employees, Employee Directory, and Electronic Field Office Technical Guide.
- Conservation Compliance**: A section with a video thumbnail showing a field.
- Soil Health**: A section with a video thumbnail titled "unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL".
- Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**: A section with a video thumbnail titled "tribal CONNECTIONS".
- State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**: A section with a video thumbnail showing two people in a field.

A large video player is featured in the center, titled "Step-by-Step How to Get Assistance" with the subtitle "Watch How to Get Started with NRCS".

The footer contains a blue bar with the text "NRCS Websites & Additional Assistance" and two columns of links: "NRCS State Websites" and "Web Applications & Tools".

# Soil Health Website

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/r

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

USDA Natural Resources ... Free Hotmail

Soil Health Awareness

## Soil Health Awareness

### Unlock the Secrets in the Soil

Sign up for E-mail updates on Soil Health Awareness

Soil is a living and life-giving natural resource.

As world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is of paramount importance. So much so that we believe improvement of our Nation's soil is one of the most important conservation endeavors of our time.

The resources on this soil health section of our site are designed to help visitors understand the basics and benefits of soil health—and to learn about Soil Health Management Systems from farmers who are using those systems.

### Soil Health Across the Nation

A growing number of America's farmers are using conservation management systems to improve the health and productivity of their soil—and we're working hand-in-hand with these producers through our technical and financial assistance programs to help ensure their success. [Click here](#) to view our interactive map and find out what's happening in your state regarding soil health and learn more about some of the farmers who are unlocking the secrets in the soil.

soil health THEATER

Watch Our Videos

dig a little LEARN A LOT

Learning Resources

unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL

150%

# National Website – link from WA

ools Help  
Free Hotmail

**USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Washington**  
United States Department of Agriculture

About Us | National Centers | State Websites

Topics | Programs | Newsroom | Contact Us

Browse By Audience | A-Z Index | Advanced Search | Help

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program**  
Mobilizing partnerships to multiply investments and reach common conservation goals.

**Coming together for Conservation**

2 / 4

**Popular Topics**

- > Financial Assistance
- > Technical Resources
- > Soil Services
- > Civil Rights
- > En Español

Sign up for email updates:

**In the News** **Events & Deadlines**

- Application sign-up cut-off date for EQIP statewide initiatives
- UPDATE: Financial Assistance Available for Wildfire-Impacted Farmers and Ranchers
- Financial Assistance Available for

**Helping People Help the Land**

- Federal Register
- Find Your Local NRCS Office
- Earth Team Volunteers
- NRCS Employees
- Employee Directory
- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide

**Conservation Compliance**

**unlock the Soil Health**

# National NRCS Website

The screenshot shows the National NRCS website homepage. At the top left is the USDA logo and the text "Natural Resources Conservation Service" and "United States Department of Agriculture". Navigation links include "About NRCS", "Careers", "National Centers", and "State Websites". A search bar is on the right. Below the header are tabs for "Topics", "Programs", "Newsroom", and "Contact Us". A main banner features a yellow flower with a bee and the text "Helping Honey Bees". To the left of the banner is a news snippet titled "NRCS helps farmers help honey bees". To the right is a "Popular Topics" sidebar with links to "Financial Assistance", "Technical Assistance", "Field Office Technical Guide", "Soils", and "Plants & Animals". Below the banner are three columns: "In the News" with a list of updates, "Top Views This Week" with a list of popular content, and "Get Started with NRCS" with a "2014 Farm Bill" link.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

About NRCS | Careers | National Centers | State Websites

Topics | Programs | Newsroom | Contact Us

Browse By Audience | A-Z Index | Advanced Search | Help

**NRCS helps farmers help honey bees**

The agency has launched an effort to provide food and habitat for these crucial pollinators in the Midwest.

**Helping Honey Bees**

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**Popular Topics**

- > Financial Assistance
- > Technical Assistance
- > Field Office Technical Guide
- > Soils
- > Plants & Animals

Sign up for email updates:  Go

**In the News** | **Events & Deadlines**

- USDA and partners complete first -of-its-kind sale of carbon credits from working ranch grasslands
- USDA seeks comments on new Conservation Stewardship rule
- USDA to provide \$4 million for

**Top Views This Week**

- Conservation Innovation Grants
- NRCS Funding Opportunities
- Soil Surveys by State
- Soil Survey
- NRCS Publications
- NRCS Conservation Practices

**Get Started with NRCS**

2014 Farm Bill | 2014 Farm Bill

# Get Started and Small Farms

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `s.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about`. The browser tabs include "Citrix Online", "About NRCS | NRCS", and "Soil Health Awareness | NRCS". The browser interface shows "Tools Help" and "Free Hotmail" in the address bar area.

**About NRCS**

- NRCS Leadership
  - History of NRCS
  - Organization
- Accountability
  - Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)
  - Civil Rights
- Legislative Affairs
  - Public Affairs

**Related Topics**

- Outreach & Advocacy
- Careers
- People
- Photos & Multimedia

**Step-by-Step How to Get Assistance**

**About NRCS**

**WELCOME**

NRCS provides America's farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground, not only helping the environment but agricultural operations, too.

**Get Started**

**GET STARTED**

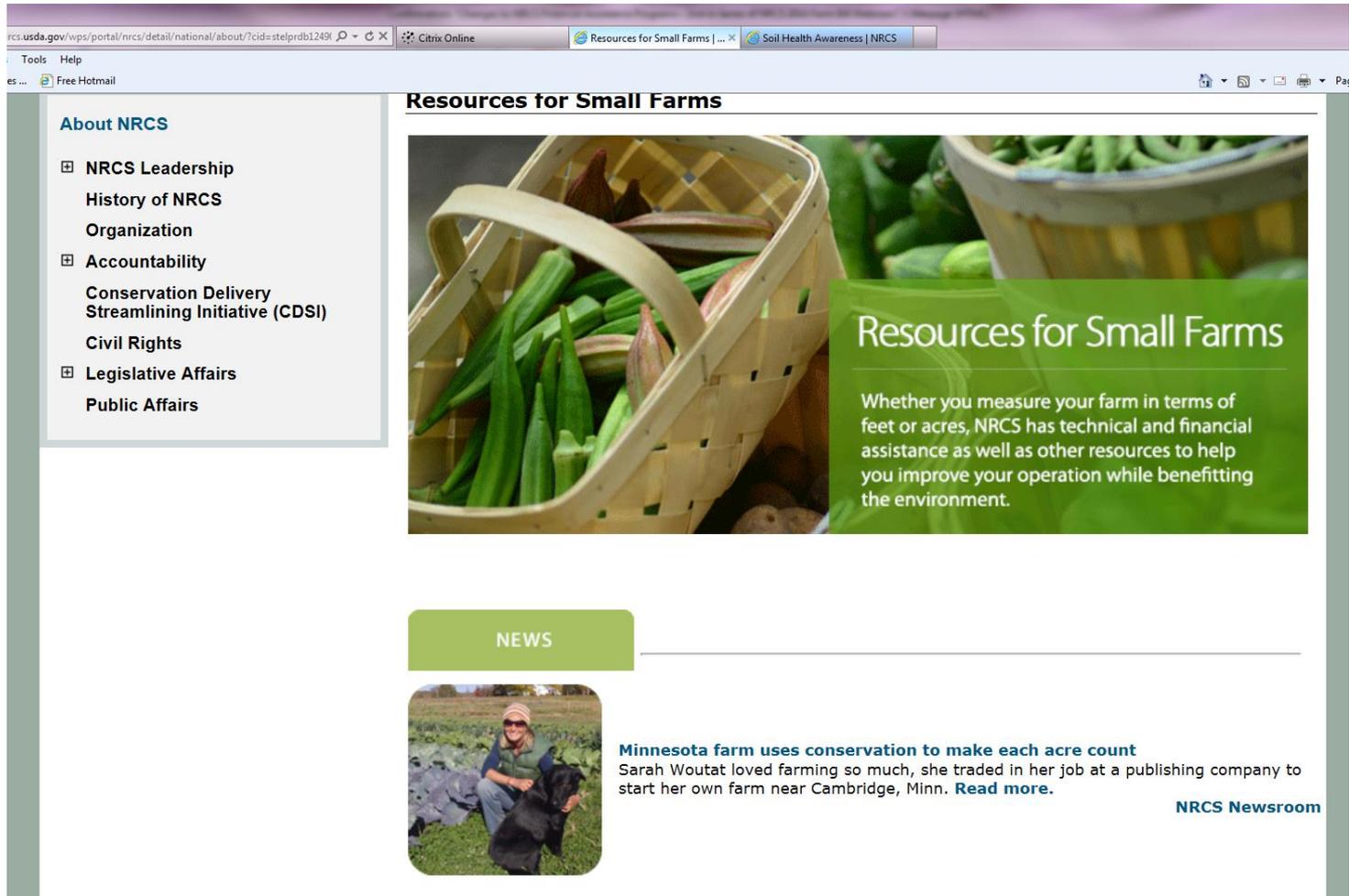
This **step-by-step guide** explains the process of getting started with NRCS conservation assistance.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners can receive financial assistance from NRCS to make improvements to their land.

- > [Farm Bill conservation programs](#)
- > [Landscape Conservation Initiatives](#)
- > [Solutions for small-scale farms \(fact sheets\)](#)
- > [Drought resources](#)
- > [Resources for Small Farms](#)

# Resources for Small Farms



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `rcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about?cid=stelprdb1249`. The browser tabs include "Resources for Small Farms" and "Soil Health Awareness | NRCS". The page title is "Resources for Small Farms".

**About NRCS**

- NRCS Leadership
  - History of NRCS
  - Organization
- Accountability
  - Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)
  - Civil Rights
- Legislative Affairs
- Public Affairs

**Resources for Small Farms**

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, NRCS has technical and financial assistance as well as other resources to help you improve your operation while benefitting the environment.

**NEWS**

 **Minnesota farm uses conservation to make each acre count**  
Sarah Woutat loved farming so much, she traded in her job at a publishing company to start her own farm near Cambridge, Minn. [Read more.](#)

**NRCS Newsroom**

# Practices for small farms

[Home](#) / [About NRCS](#) / [Small scale solutions for your farm](#)

[Browse By Audience](#) | [A-Z Index](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Help](#)

**Topics** | **Programs** | **Newsroom** | **Contact Us**

Stay Connected



You are Here: [Home](#) / [About NRCS](#) / [Small scale solutions for your farm](#)

**About NRCS**

- ▣ **NRCS Leadership**
  - History of NRCS
  - Organization
- ▣ **Accountability**
  - Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)
  - Civil Rights
- ▣ **Legislative Affairs**
  - Public Affairs

## Small scale solutions for your farm



NRCS provides assistance to design, layout and install conservation practices that fit both the resource needs and the producer's objectives for the land. Practices may range from simple management activities such as planting cover crops to complex structural practices such as animal waste management systems or innovative irrigation devices.

[Crops](#) | [Livestock](#) | [Soil](#) | [Trees](#) | [Water](#) | [Wildlife Habitat](#) | [En Español](#)

Ag Chemical Handling Facility  
Small Scale Solutions for your farm

Do you have problems with:

- Crop and vegetation damage from spilled pesticides
- Polluted soil
- Polluted ground water
- Chemical spills when refilling and grow
- Unusually chemical storage

An Ag Chemical Handling Facility Can Help

Farm chemicals can affect you or your family's health and safety if not handled properly. A farm chemical spill or handling area is a place where a spill happens. If the chemicals are spilled so that they spill out onto the ground.

Purposes and Benefits of Ag Chemical Handling Facility

- Collect chemical spills so they can be used for safe use or disposal
- Keep farm chemicals from getting into soil or ground water
- Keep farm chemicals out of streams or ponds that may spill out for harmful water or wildlife
- Provide a clean, dry, safe work surface
- May provide a safe place to store farm chemicals

Consider

This cover for an ag chemical handling facility will be different depending on the size and materials you use. Some of the things you need to think about are:

- Coverage up with reflective sheet
- Earth berm around the pad to collect spills
- Pits and drains that can respond to overflows
- Pumps and sump pumps

Alley Cropping  
Small Scale Solutions for your farm

Do you have problems with:

- Lack of annual income after long-term timber stands or fuel and nut trees are thinning
- Lack of crop diversity
- Income risk in your farming operation
- Sun or wind damage on sensitive crops
- Lack of wildlife

Alley Cropping Can Help These Problems

Purposes and Benefits of Alley Cropping

- Alley cropping means the production of trees, and other crops on the same acreage at the same time
- Trees provide long-term income, while other crops generate an annual income
- Economic risk is reduced because the system produces multiple products (wood, fuel, and nuts), forage and nut crops, which have an extended market
- Trees provide shade and protection from wind for sensitive crops
- Tree thinning, weeding and a more open canopy results in higher fuel wood timber
- Plant diversity increases wildlife habitat and increases conservation opportunities
- Produces annual income while long-term timber stands or fuel and nut trees are maturing

Steps to Establish Alley Cropping

- Cool off trees
- 20% irrigation
- Planting cost
- Weeds control (weed control plans)
- Fertilizer cost may include providing of fertilizers

- Cost of trees
- 20% irrigation
- Planting cost
- Weeds control (weed control plans)
- Fertilizer cost may include providing of fertilizers

Biological Pest Management  
Small Scale Solutions for your farm

Do you have problems with:

Insects or Disease in your crop, pasture or hay fields?

Insects or Rodents around the house and food handling

How much does it cost?

Using biological systems for insects, disease and rodents on your farm means many options instead of any options for you with support materials that only cost those pests. Chemicals and traps are not always the best choice. They are also made of natural products, weeds, soil, and small insects.

Check your industry

- Crop rotation and annual rotation
- Levels of regulated areas
- Reduced time through farm areas and no longer cropped
- Protection or construction of past and bar
- Fences

Potential benefits and purposes of Biological Pest Management

- Reduced need for chemical pesticide use
- Change pesticide uses
- Reduced risk of chemical residues on farm products
- Reduced on- and off-farm environmental risks
- Increased fuel and manure use
- Increased plant and animal diversity
- Distribution of additional resources (farm income, land, water, infrastructure, etc.)

The challenge is in finding ways to control



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# Questions



## Team USDA will also be presenting at the following venues:

- Small Farms Conference, November 1, Spokane, WA
- Washington Tilth Conference, November 7-9, Vancouver, WA
- Washington Dairy Federation Conference, November 10-11, Vancouver, WA
- Washington Cattlemen's Conference, November 12-14, Spokane, WA
- Tri-State Grain Growers Conference, November 12-15, Stevenson, WA
- Farm Bureau Conference, November 17-20, Yakima, WA
- Washington Association of Conservation Districts, December 1-3, Cle Elum, WA
- Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, January 20-22, Kennewick, WA
- Ag Expo/Farm Forum, February 3-5, Spokane, WA