



United States Department of Agriculture



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Resources  
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Service



# CRC – Agricultural Producers Working Group

January 31, 2024 | Jessica Gwerder

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[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- NRCS' flagship financial aid program for helping producers apply conservation practices on their land
- Provides financial assistance to address natural resource concerns
- Must be a landowner or operator
- Can do cooperative contracts between 2 or more participants to solve problems that cross boundaries



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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Applicable Fund Pools	Application Deadline
Batch 1 Classic & EQIP-IRA	November 17, 2023 <b>(passed)</b>
EQIP Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)	February 29, 2024
Batch 2 Classic, EQIP-IRA, Cheatgrass Challenge	March 29, 2024



# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Nation's largest conservation program in terms of numbers of acres
- Helps producers take their conservation activities to the next level. Rewards good stewardship of the land.
- NRCS accepts applications year-round



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# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Applicable Fund Pools	Application Deadline
Batch 1 Classic & CSP-IRA	April 5, 2024

# The IRA Focuses on Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name <sup>(1)</sup> (units)	CSP Enhancement Code	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Bundle and Enhancement Activity
Soil Health	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	0000FF1	Buffer Bundles <sup>1</sup>
			0000CP124	Cropland soil health management system <sup>2</sup>
			0000CP125	Climate smart advanced soil health <sup>3</sup>
			E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects
			E327B	Establish monarch butterfly habitat
			E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation
			E328B	Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			E328E	Soil health crop rotation
			E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E328G	Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	E328H	Intercropping to improve soil health
			E328I	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
			E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion
			E329B	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	E329D	No till systems to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E329E	No till to reduce energy
				None Available
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)		None Available
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			E340B	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			E340H	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			E340I	Using cover crops for biological strip till
E345A			Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion	
E345B			Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter	
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres)	E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture	
		E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content	
		E345E	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use	
		E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field	
386	Field Border (acres)	E386B	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field	
		E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field	
E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field			
E386E	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field			
393	Filter Strips (acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts	
412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	E412A	Enhance a grassed waterway	
		E484A	Mulching to improve soil health	
484	Mulching (acres)	E484B	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch	
		E484C	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch	
585	Stripcropping (acres)		None Available	
601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)			
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)			

- The IRA directs NRCS to use the additional funds specifically for **climate change mitigation**.
- Mitigation activities **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage**.
- FY24 list of NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities: [nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf](https://nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf)
- NRCS is continually evaluating mitigation activities and IRA implementation approach and will update them as appropriate.
  - [Federal Register notice](#) (Nov. 21, 2022)

# Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation

## **Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)**

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)  
Access Control (472)

## **Conservation Crop Rotation (328)**

Cover Crops (340)  
Irrigation Water Management (449)  
Pest Management Conservation System  
(595)

## **Waste Separation Facility (632)**

Waste Transfer (634)  
Roofs and Covers (367)

## **Prescribed Grazing (528)**

Watering Facility (614)  
Stream Crossing (578)  
Fence (382)  
Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to ***facilitate a mitigation practice***.
- Here are some examples of conservation systems that include mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.





# 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.

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