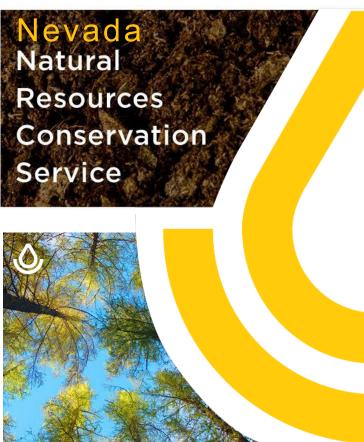


United States Department of Agriculture





CRC – Agricultural Producers Working Group

January 31, 2024 | Jessica Gwerder

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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



Natural Resources Conservation Service



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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

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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



Natural Resources Conservation Service



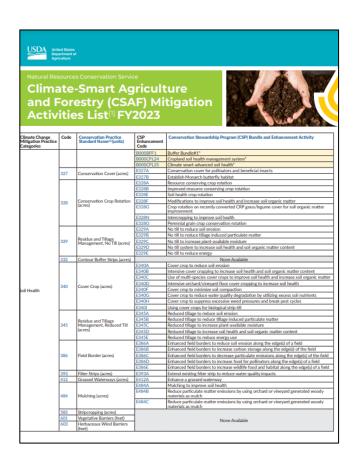
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service



The IRA Focuses on Mitigation



- 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
- NRCS is continually evaluating mitigation activities and IRA implementation approach and will update them as appropriate.
 - Federal Register notice (Nov. 21, 2022)

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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.



Natural Resources Conservation Service





your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

apprication for financial assistance programs.

NRCS vanety of financial assistance programs.

according to local resource concerns

Natural Resources Conservation Service



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