



Water Quality Funding Opportunities

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov



Who is NRCS?

- An agency of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Established in 1935 as the Soil Erosion Service
- Formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) (until 1994)
- Not a regulatory agency



What does NRCS do?

- **Provide technical and financial assistance to land users to protect their natural resources – soil, water, air, plants and animals**
- **More simply put – NRCS Helps People Help the Land**



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Technical Assistance

- Work with land users to develop conservation plans to utilize their land to its fullest potential while protecting the natural resources
- Provide engineering design assistance for conservation practices such as animal waste management facilities, grassed waterways, and livestock watering systems
- Provide technical assistance to communities to help with storm damage





Financial Assistance

- Provide financial assistance to land users to implement conservation practices
- Provide funds to communities when natural disasters strike
- Provide entities funds to help purchase conservation easements to protect farmland and restore wetlands



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How do we provide this assistance?

- Though the agency's voluntary conservation programs, and
- In partnership with other USDA agencies, Conservation Districts, universities, farmer groups, NGOs, environmental organizations and others.





Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- **Voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to land users to treat soil, water, air and related resources on their land**
- **Promotes ag production and environmental quality as compatible goals**
- **Works with private cropland, grazing land and forestland**





Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **CSP encourages land users to improve conservation performance on their land by: installing and adopting additional activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities.**





Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- **Voluntary program to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements**
- **Works with landowners, land trusts, American Indian tribes, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and other entities**



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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

As part of applying, we'll file paperwork to ensure you're eligible for assistance.

4

RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5

IMPLEMENTING

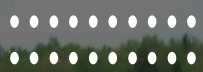
Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Obtaining Assistance

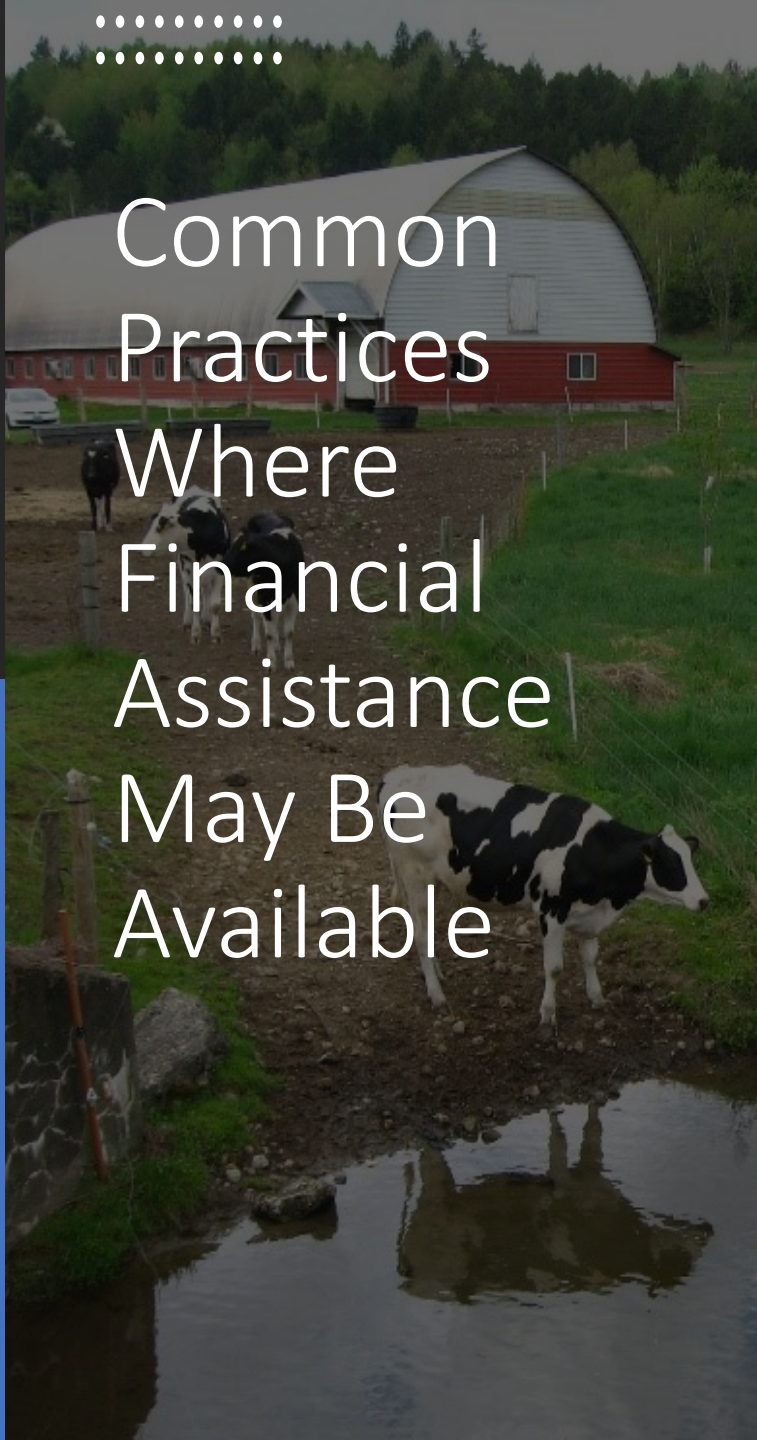
Landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center for assistance.

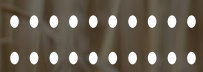
Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring.

A conservation planner will help determine if financial assistance is the right choice.



Common
Practices
Where
Financial
Assistance
May Be
Available





Cover Crops

Benefits:

- Retains soil moisture
- Can trap nutrients from leaving the field





Precision Pesticide Application

Benefits:

- Reduce risk of pesticides in surface water
- Reduces cost of farmer inputs





Fence

Benefits:

- Increased forage production through rotational grazing
- Improved water quality when used to exclude livestock from streams or waterbodies
- Increased woodland health when used to exclude livestock from woodland





Prescribed Grazing

Benefits:

- **Helps reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff**
- **Minimizes soil compaction**





Livestock Watering Facility and Pipelines

Benefits:

- Reduces sediment and erosion into waterways
- Improved livestock health



A photograph of a pine forest. The trees are tall and thin, with light-colored bark. The ground is covered in pine needles and some small green plants. A ruler is placed vertically against a tree trunk, and a piece of pink tape is attached to it. The ruler has markings in centimeters and millimeters. The background shows a dense stand of trees receding into the distance.

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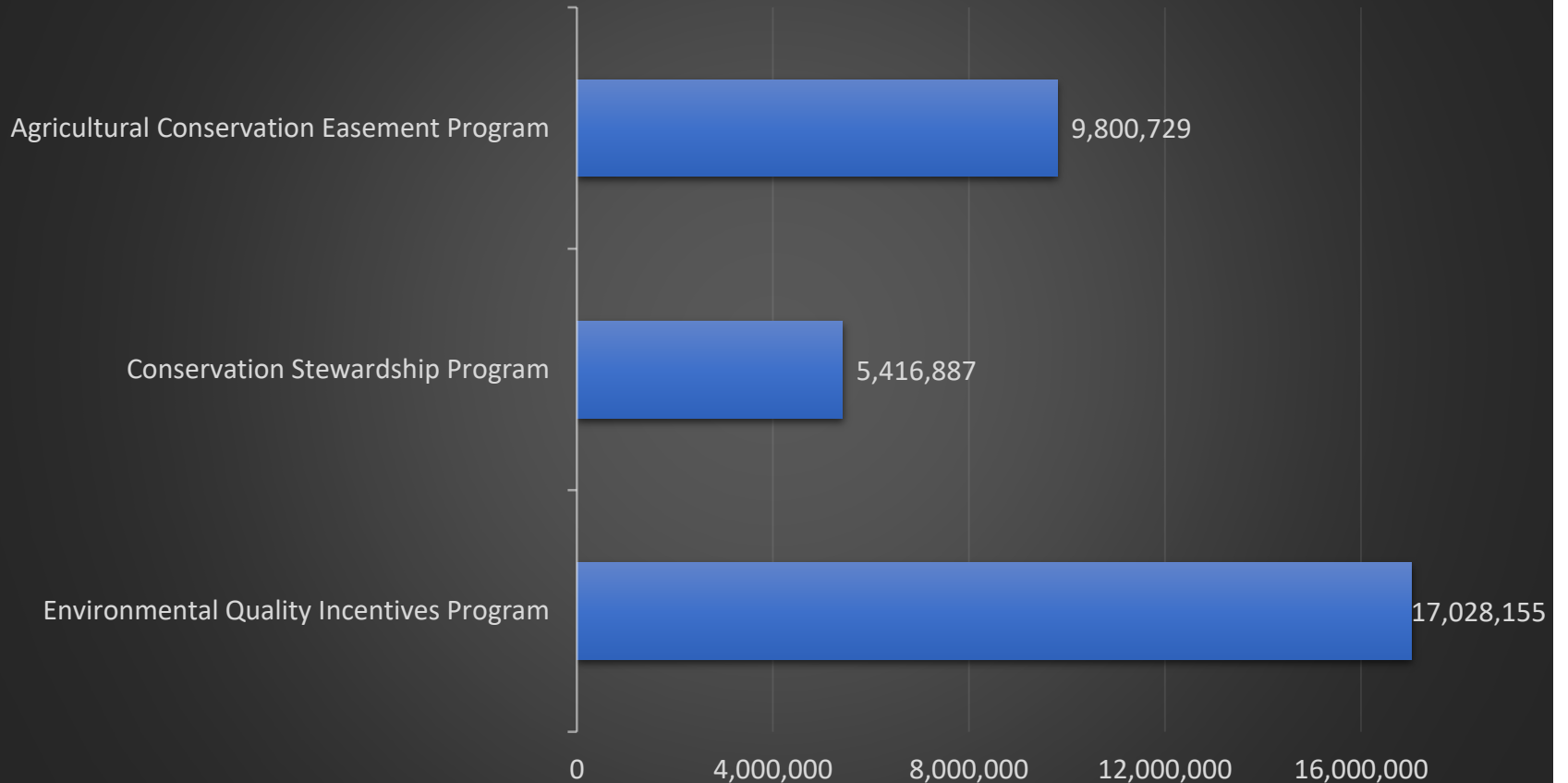
Forest Stand Improvement

Benefits:

- Improves wildlife habitat
- Increases available water to healthy trees
- Reduces damage from wildfires, pests and disease

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Financial
Assistance in
Kentucky

Fiscal Year 2019 Dollars

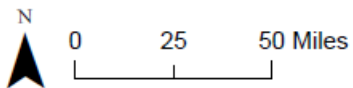
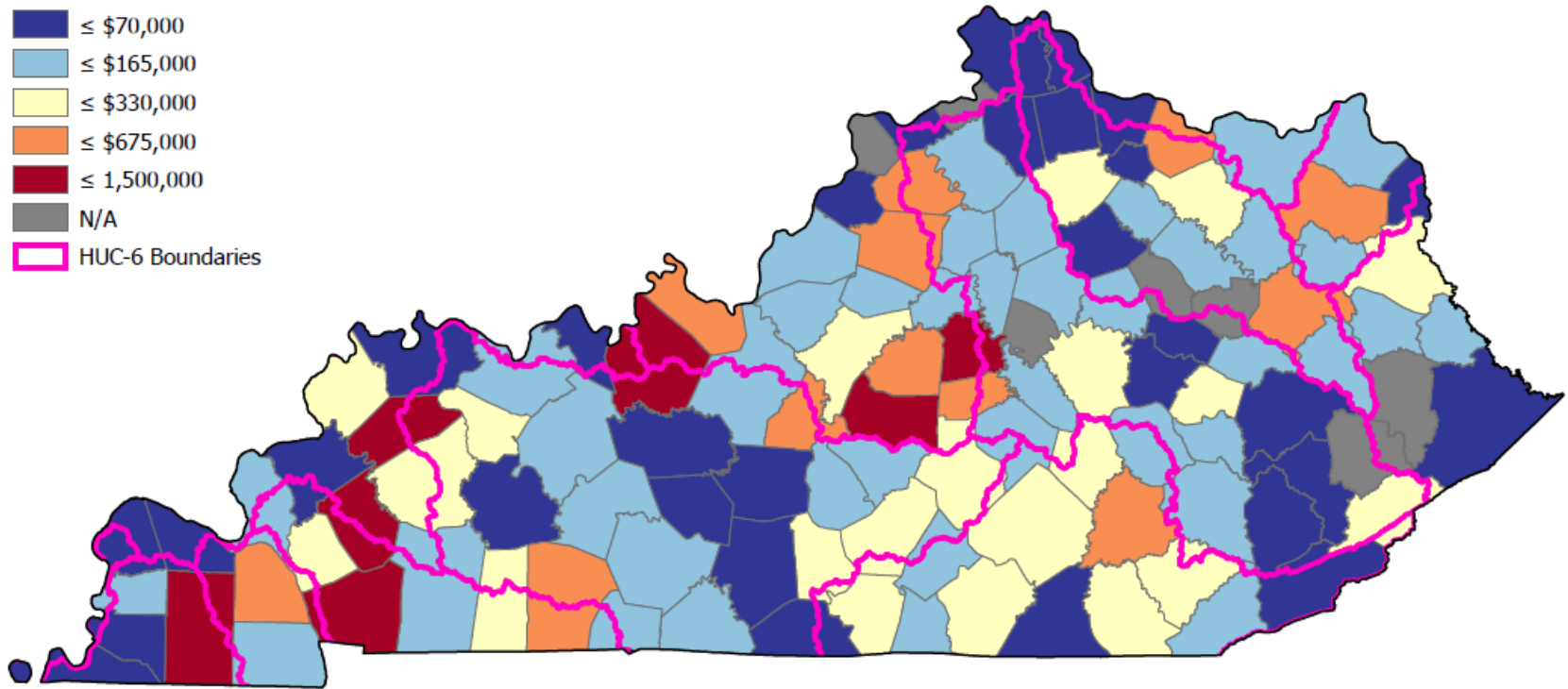


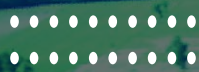
FY19 Program Funds Obligated

ACEP, EQIP, CSP

Program Dollars Obligated

- ≤ \$70,000
- ≤ \$165,000
- ≤ \$330,000
- ≤ \$675,000
- ≤ 1,500,000
- N/A
- HUC-6 Boundaries

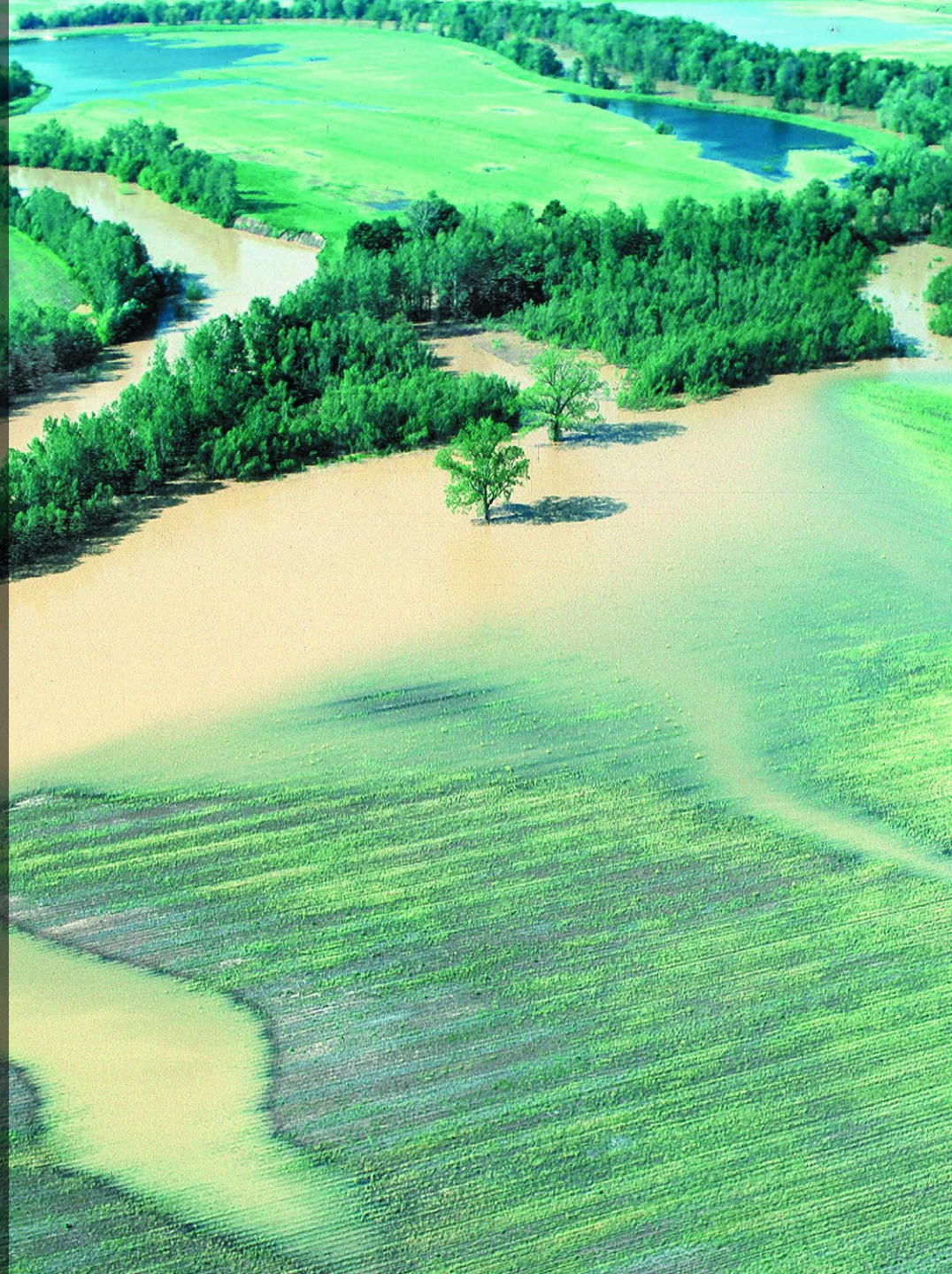




Landscape Planning

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program safeguards lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to entities of State and local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) for planning and installing watershed projects.



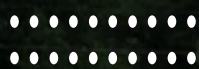
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Landscape Planning

Watershed Rehabilitation Program offers financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate dams constructed through NRCS Watershed Programs. This program extends the service life of dams to meet applicable safety and performance standards or decommission the dams so they longer pose a threat to life and property.

Watershed Surveys and Planning (WSP) authorizes NRCS to cooperate with Federal, State, and local agencies and Tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources.





Notes

- **NRCS Programs are voluntary, but have rules.**
- **All programs are funded competitively.**
- **All conservation programs have a continuous application period, but ranking periods are identified in order to evaluate and select applications for funding.**





Information

**You can find local NRCS
Field Office contact
information at
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>**

**Kentucky NRCS
program information
at:**

www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov

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