

**USDA
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
SERVICE**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers several programs to assist farmers with conservation practices that:

- ◆ Protect Soil and Water
- ◆ Protect Wildlife
- ◆ Improve Water Quality
- ◆ Encourage producers to undertake and maintain high levels of conservation stewardship
- ◆ Address natural resources concerns on agriculture lands
- ◆ Restore and conserve grassland for agriculture and wildlife
- ◆ Restore and protect wetlands and riparian areas for wildlife and improve water quality
- ◆ Reduce agriculture non-point pollution and improve the water quality in NC

**USDA-NATURAL
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CONSERVATION
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON PROGRAMS OFFERED
THROUGH USDA
NATURAL RESOURCES
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CONTACT OUR OFFICE**

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**PROVIDING
TECHNICAL AND
FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO
ROBESON
COUNTY
FARMERS**



2010 Conservation Programs at a Glance

Program Name	Program Purpose	Contract Length	Eligibility (Applicant)	Eligibility (Land)	Sign-up Period	Evaluation of Applications	Cost Share Rate	Funding Limit	Notes
CRP Continuous	To protect soil, water, wildlife and to improve water quality	10 to 15 years	Individuals and/or groups who own eligible land for at least one year	Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) or pasture grazed 2yrs between 1996 & 2001	Continuous, throughout the year	Noncompetitive Based on eligibility	50% of predetermined average cost, plus additional practice installation incentive and sign-up bonus.	\$50,000 per person per fiscal year	1, 2, 4, 6
CRP General	To apply high priority conservation practices that benefit large areas	10 to 15 years	Individuals and/or groups who have owned land for at least 1 year	Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) re-enrollments & extensions	Announced by Secretary of Agriculture	Competitive, environmental benefits/costs	50% of predetermined average cost	\$50,000 per person per fiscal year	1, 2, 4
CREP Enhancement	To improve water quality and wildlife habitat in selected watersheds in North Carolina	10 to 15 years, 30 years, or permanent easements by the State	Individuals and/or groups who own eligible land for at least 1 year in the following watersheds: See special note 8	Cropland (cropped 4 out of 6 years from 1996 to 2001) or marginal pasture grazed 2 years between 1996 and 2001	Continuous, throughout the year	Priority based on environmental benefits	Up to 100% of predetermined average cost. Easement payments available.	\$50,000 per person per fiscal year	1, 2, 5, 8
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	To encourage producers who maintain high levels of conservation stewardship to improve existing systems and address additional resource concerns	5 years	All who meet the quality criteria	All agricultural land uses	Continuous, throughout the year	Based on meeting program quality criteria	Calculated based on two possible types: annual base payment for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities, or a supplemental payment for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation	\$40,000 per person per fiscal year	2
EQIP	To address significant natural resource concerns on agricultural land	1 year after last practice is installed	Livestock or agricultural producers and landowners	All agricultural land uses, including Organic, Transitioning Organic and Private Forestland	Continuous, with periodic designated ranking periods	Competitive, based on resource concerns, cost, & environmental benefits	Varies, but not more than 50% of average installation cost. Up to 90% for limited resource, beginning farmers and Historically Underserved	\$300,000 total per individual or entity from fiscal year 2009 to 2014	2
AWEP	To conserve ground and surface water and improve water quality on agricultural lands	1 year after last practice is installed	Livestock or agricultural producers and landowners, States, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, Units of local government	All agricultural lands with an Irrigation History at least 2 of the last 5 years	Proposals with periodic designated ranking periods	Competitive, based on resource concerns, cost, & environmental benefits	Varies, but not less than 50% of average installation cost. Up to 90% for limited resource, beginning farmers and Historically Underserved	\$15,000 total per individual or entity from fiscal year 2010	2
WHIP	Improving habitat for at-risk species at landscape scale.	5-10-15 years or longer	Private landowners and tribes	All private and tribal agricultural land where important wildlife habitat can be provided.	Continuous with periodic designated ranking periods	Competitive, based on resource concerns, cost, & environmental benefits	75% of predetermined average cost. Up to 90% for limited resource, beginning farmers and Historically Underserved	\$50,000 per person per fiscal year	1, 2
WRP	Restore and protect wetlands for wildlife and Improve water quality	Permanent 30 year	Individuals and/or groups who have owned land for at least 1 year	Prior converted wetland (PC), farmed wetland (FW),	Continuous	Competitive	Up to 75% of restoration cost + 75% of land value for permanent easement.	Value determined by appraisal and costs.	2
NC Ag Cost Share Program	Reduce agriculture nonpoint pollution and improve the water quality in NC	Typically 3 year contracts, some annual contracts	Landowner or tenant of an agricultural operation existing for more than 3 years	All agricultural land uses	Continuous, throughout the year	Based on county priorities	75% of predetermined average cost. Up to 90% for Limited Resource & Beginning Farmers & participants in Enhanced Voluntary Ag. Districts.	SWCD's have specific caps for different practices	3

1)Contract length depends on practices selected, and option of applicant.2) Maximum limits for each of the different programs are independent of each other. Federal programs can not be used to fund practices on the same acreage.
3) Federal funds can be used to supplement state cost-share, but total can not exceed 75% of actual cost of practices) implemented. 4) Annual rental payments based on soils rental rates. 5) Annual rental payment based on soils rental rates plus incentive bonus for easements. 6) One time payment applied to certain practices.7) Administered by the NC Forest Service 8)Neuse, Tar-Pam, Chowan, Jordan, Whiter Oak, Caper Fear, Lumber, Yadkin-Pee Dee, Roanoke and Pasquotank watersheds.
*****All Programs Require a Conservation Plan. See Your Local NRCS and SWCD Office for Specifics Regarding Plan Requirements and/or Eligible Practices, or visit <http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.**