

Conservation Program Options

Stop into the office to visit about these programs or give us a call at 701-883-5344 ext. 3 NRCS or 701-883-5344 ext. 2 for FSA or contact the person listed.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): NRCS

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the best program for practices such as windbreak renovations, no till, cover crops, grass seedings, grassed waterways or seasonal high tunnels. If you have livestock, some common conservation practices are pipelines, tanks, wells, cross fences, and a prescribed grazing plan.

- Applications are accepted year-round. Cost share is paid as a flat rate per acre or per foot depending on practice.
- 3 to 5 years of payments depending on practice
- Based on points system – not everyone is accepted, prices based on practices picked
- A few different state initiatives are available, so contact the office if you want to know more.

Regenerative Pilot Program through EQIP: NRCS

Regenerative Agriculture is a conservation management approach that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities. This pilot program addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans. It puts American farmers first as a part of the solution to Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) by supporting access to American-grown whole foods, critical to addressing the chronic disease crisis nationwide.

- As part of participating in Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must:
 - Work with NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers to conduct a whole-farm assessment; Use at least one primary regenerative management practice; and agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes.
- The whole-farm assessment includes all resource concerns, and it must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories to be eligible. Only 15 practices are available under this pilot program.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): NRCS

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a comprehensive working lands conservation program designed to help farmers and ranchers protect and improve natural resources on productive and profitable farms. Through CSP, farmers and ranchers receive technical and financial assistance to actively manage and maintain current conservation systems and to implement additional conservation activities with incentive payments for installing these practices on your land. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and hayland. **This program is for operators only and is a five-year program. The operators are required to have owners sign a form giving them permission to apply for certain conservation activities.**

- The variety of CSP practices that are offered give you a lot of freedom to select enhancements that help you meet your management goals. These improvements work naturally with your land to bring out your land's best potential.
- If you have been paid on practices through NRCS before, then you are not eligible on those specific practices but could choose to go to a "higher standard" and be eligible for that practice.

Regenerative Pilot Program through CSP: NRCS

Regenerative Agriculture is a conservation management approach that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities. This pilot program addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans. It puts American farmers first as a part of the solution to Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) by supporting access to American-grown whole foods, critical to addressing the chronic disease crisis nationwide.

- As part of participating in Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must:
 - Work with NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers to conduct a whole-farm assessment; Use at least one primary regenerative management practice; and agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes.
- The whole-farm assessment includes all resource concerns, and it must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories to be eligible. Only 15 practices are available under this pilot program.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): FSA

CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies, such as NRCS, and partners provide technical support. CRP is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched but instead devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. **Call FSA if you are interested in CRP.**

- **Continuous CRP** Sign up ended- February 12th, 2026, through March 20th, 2026.
 - Land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017 and is physically and legally capable of being planted.
 - Currently existing grass stands not up for re-enrollment are ineligible for enrollment into Continuous CRP.
- **General CRP** Sign-up- March 9th, 2026, through April 17th, 2026.
 - Currently existing grass stands that meet cropping history requirements are eligible for enrollment into General CRP.

More information can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/north-dakota> and <https://www.dakotalegacyinitiative.com/programs/>.