

Dear Farmer,

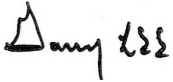
The need to conserve Michigan's natural resources unites Michigan's diverse agriculture. Under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill, new resources are available to assist landowners and agricultural producers to better conserve natural resources on private and public land.

As supporters of Michigan agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and the Michigan Farm Bureau want ALL of Michigan's farmers to know about the conservation resources and expertise available to them.

This booklet provides farmers an overview of the opportunities available under the 2008 Farm Bill and resources available. It is up to each producer, with assistance from a local USDA or Conservation District employee, to determine how these programs can benefit their operation. If you have questions as you work through this booklet, contact information for your local USDA or Conservation District office is located on pages 21-23.

Thank you for your leadership in natural resources conservation!


Sincerely,



Garry Lee, State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Wayne H. Wood, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

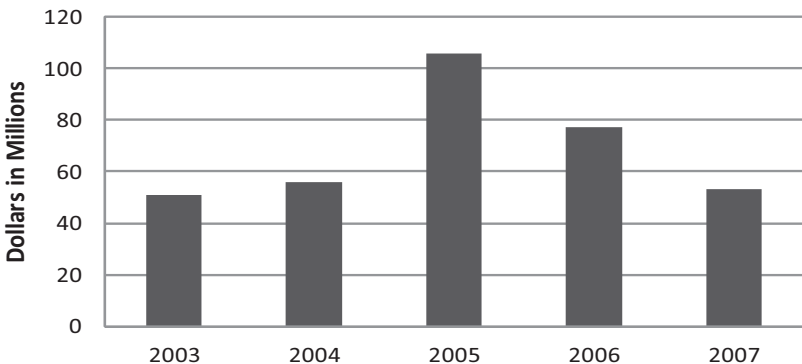


Christine White, State Executive Director
USDA Farm Service Agency



Mike Lawless, President
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

**Financial Assistance to MI Landowners through
USDA Conservation Programs 2003-2007
(Total Federal Investment = \$343,224,408)**



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THE 2008 FARM BILL

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) provides nearly \$300 billion in USDA programs over the next five years. More than 70% of this amount will be spent on nutrition programs (e.g., food stamps, etc.).

This guide provides basic information on select programs within the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill to raise the awareness of the potential benefits through Farm Bill programs and where to access the programs and services. Some of the programs discussed in this guide may be implemented immediately, while others will be implemented as funds are allocated.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

If USDA conservation programs fit your needs, there are basic eligibility requirements to receive financial assistance. These include:

- Meeting the highly erodible land regulations
- Wetland conversion regulations
- Control of the land through ownership or lease
- Income Limitations: The average non-farm Adjusted Gross Income limitation for conservation programs is \$1 million or less. However, an individual or entity who has non-farm Adjusted Gross Income in excess of \$1 million remain eligible for conservation programs only, if 66.66% or more of the total Adjusted Gross Income is derived from farming, ranching and forestry operations.

Each conservation program has additional eligibility rules. Technical assistance is available to all producers regardless of income. Participation in USDA programs is strictly voluntary; the landowner will not be forced to take any actions or incur any expenses as a result of developing a conservation plan.

WHO CAN HELP?

Farm Bill conservation programs are administered primarily through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). At the local level, these agencies work in partnership with Michigan Conservation Districts. Michigan Conservation Districts assist landowners in accessing the suite of Farm Bill programs.

To provide customer convenience, Michigan Conservation Districts, NRCS and FSA are co-located, where possible, in USDA Service Centers.

Call your local Conservation District or NRCS or FSA field office soon so you are prepared to utilize the conservation assistance available through the 2008 Farm Bill. See pages 21-23 to find phone numbers for your local field office.

CONSERVATION PLANNING

Making the most of the USDA's conservation programs begins with developing a conservation plan. A conservation plan is developed with the assistance of a conservationist from your local NRCS or Conservation District office. The plan should address the conservation concerns on the land, while taking into account the landowner's needs and priorities.

Probably the most important preparation for conservation planning is examining your short- and long-term goals. Do you plan to expand your operation or are you looking to downsize in preparation for retirement? NRCS may be able to provide financial assistance to help you improve conservation on your land, but there will still be expenses for the landowner. How much can you afford to invest in conservation measures on an annual basis? How readily can you obtain funds to finance conservation improvements? Knowing the answers to these questions can help you and the conservationist prioritize the needs of your operation and plan accordingly.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Agricultural Land

Cropland, grassland, rangeland, pasture, and other agricultural land, on which agricultural and forest-related products or livestock are produced and upon which resource concerns may be addressed.

Beginning Farmer or Rancher

An individual or entity who has not operated a farm, or who has operated a farm for not more than 10 years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity. Also, depending on the program, other requirements might exist, such as requirements to provide day-to-day management of the farm or certain acreage ownership limitations. This definition slightly varies between programs.

Contract

A contract is a binding agreement for the transfer of assistance from USDA to the participant to share in the costs of applying conservation practices.

Cost-Share Agreement

A binding agreement for the transfer of assistance from USDA to the participant to share in the costs of applying conservation.

Easement (Reserved Interest Easement)

An interest in land defined and delineated in a deed whereby the landowner conveys all rights, other than those rights specifically reserved, title, and interests in a property to the grantee.

Farm

Entity which produces at least \$1,000 in annual sales from agricultural production.

Farmer

A person, legal entity or joint operator who has an interest in the agricultural operation or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management.

Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC)

The limited rate per acre that will be paid for an easement. The state was divided into ten geographically similar areas based on land use patterns, soils and historical values and the rate was determined by appraisal values and the average sale price of farmland, if the land sold will continue to be used as farmland.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Limited Resource Farmer

A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$155,200 in each of the previous 2 years (adjusted for inflation), AND has a total household income at or below the national poverty level, or less than 50% of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

A comprehensive, voluntary, proactive program designed to reduce farmers' legal and environmental risks on all size and types of farms.

Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF)

Rural land that has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

Resource Concern

A specific natural resource problem that represents a significant concern in a state or region, and is likely to be addressed successfully through the implementation of conservation activities.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer

A member of a group who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as a member of that group without regard to their individual qualities. This definition also varies slightly between programs. For example, in some cases women are included in the definition.

Technical Service Provider

An individual, private-sector entity, or public agency certified by NRCS to provide technical services to program participants in lieu of, or on behalf of NRCS.

Tribal land

Land held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes; OR Land, the title to which is held by Indian tribes subject to federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance; OR Land which is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and/or benefit of certain Indian tribes; OR Land held in fee title by an Indian, family or tribe.

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CONTINUOUS CRP)

Description

This voluntary program offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. CRP periodically allows for a competitive general sign-up. However, certain environmentally sensitive cropland acreages can be enrolled at anytime under the Continuous CRP.

Eligible Land

Environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland that was planted to an agricultural commodity for 4 of the 6 years prior to 2001. Land must be physically capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity. NOTE: 2008 Farm Bill CRP changes to cropping eligibility are expected to be implemented within Fiscal Year 2010.

Contract Timeline

10-15 years

New Opportunities

Incentives for beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers to transition Continuous CRP land from a retired or retiring owner or operator to production, new wetlands restoration practices, biomass crop assistance program, pollinator habitat, cropping eligibility timeframe and voluntary tree thinning for existing contracts.

Common Practices

Filter strips, riparian buffers (i.e., vegetative cover established along water), wetland restoration, grassed waterways, shallow water areas for wildlife, windbreaks, shelterbelts and certain whole field plantings to grasses, trees and shrubs.

Financial Assistance

- Annual per acre rental payments based on length of agreement.
- Cost-sharing up to 90% to establish the conservation cover.
- Annual maintenance to offset periodic maintenance of the established cover.
- 50% cost-sharing to conduct mid-contract management.
- Certain practices receive up to 120% of the local prevailing rental rate and a signing incentive payment of \$100 per acre.
- Additional financial incentives available for eligible cropland located within a wellhead protection area.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT (SAFE)
DIVERSE GRASSLAND

SAFE

Description

To create and provide diverse native grassland habitat for some rare or declining species by planting native grasses and prairie and oak savanna habitat.

Eligible Land

Beyond basic CRP eligibility, enrolled acreage has to meet the following:

- A minimum of 30-acre blocks or 10-acre linear corridors.
- Private agricultural/tribal land located within Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, St. Joseph and Washtenaw Counties.

Contract Timeframe

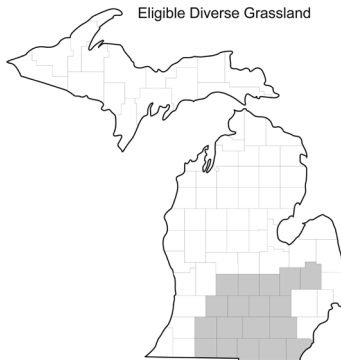
10-15 years

Common Practices

Filter strips, habitat buffers for upland birds, native grass planting, rare and declining habitat, wildlife food plot and wildlife habitat.

Financial Assistance

Similar to Continuous CRP.



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT (SAFE)
NATIVE POLLINATORS

SAFE

Description

To create and provide habitat for native pollinators (e.g., bees and hummingbirds) by planting grasslands with diverse sources of nectar and pollen and allowing for ground nesting pollinators.

Eligible Land

Beyond the basic CRP eligibility, enrolled acreage has to meet the following:

- A minimum of 2 acres in size and at least 100 feet wide. Exception: If part of a working FSA tract that contains an orchard, vineyard or other perennial fruit producing crop, the 2.0 acre minimum can be realized through multiple plantings of not less than .25 acre with a minimum width of 20 feet.
- Private agricultural/tribal land located within Allegan, Antrim, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Van Buren and Wexford Counties.

Contract Timeframe

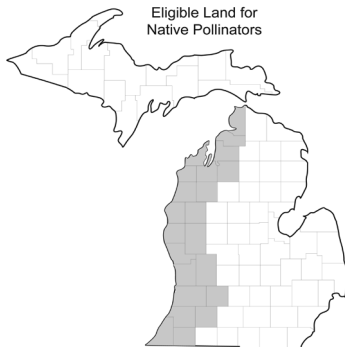
10-15 years

Common Practices

Filter strips, habitat buffers for upland birds, permanent native grasses, riparian buffer strips, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitat.

Financial Assistance

Similar to Continuous CRP.



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

Description

A CRP-focused partnership with the State of Michigan to reduce sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen in the surface water supply to improve water quality, enhance habitat for fish and wildlife and enhance nesting for upland birds, mammals and waterfowl.

Eligible Land

Beyond basic CRP eligibility, enrolled acreage has to meet the following: Private agricultural/tribal land located within the Lake Macatawa, River Raisin, Saginaw Bay Watersheds and the Michigan portions of the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed.

Contract Timeframe

15 years

Common Practices

Establish permanent introduced grasses/legumes or native grasses, field windbreaks, filter strips, riparian buffer strips, wetland restoration and sediment retention control structures.

Financial Assistance

Similar to Continuous CRP and participants receive 140% of the local rental rate and up to 100% cost-share to establish the practices. Practice Incentive Payments, Signing Incentive Payments, Maintenance and Mid-Contract Management cost-sharing are also available.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

Description

Encourages farmers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities.

Eligibility

- Agricultural/tribal land in any geographic location.
- Non-Industrial Private Forestland
- The farmer and land does not have an active CSP, EQIP, GRP, WRP, CRP contract.
- The farmer must demonstrate he/she is meeting the stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern.
- The farmer must address at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the conservation stewardship contract.
- Operator of the land and demonstrates control for contract period.

CSP

Contract Timeframe

5 years

New Opportunities

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) replaces the Conservation Security Program (CSP) for fiscal years 2009-2017.
- Equal access to all farmers, regardless of operation size, crops produced or geographic location.
- Farmers who are in past CSP designated watersheds and who do not have an active CSP contract will be able to apply to CSP as long as he/she meets the basic eligibility.
- The program will enroll an additional 12,769,000 acres nationally for each fiscal year of the 2008 Farm Bill. Acreage will be allocated based primarily on each state's or area's proportion of eligible acres to the total number of all eligible acres.

Financial Assistance

- Payments to a farm may not exceed \$200,000 for contracts entered into during any 5-year period and may not exceed \$40,000 in any given year.
- There will be no changes to CSP contracts signed prior to 2009.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP)

Description

To provide financial and technical assistance to farmers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land and to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.

Eligible Land

Private agricultural land, non-industrial private forestland and tribal land.

New Opportunities

- Like contracts will be ranked against each other.
- There is a new focus on organic production, forest management, specialty crop production, air quality and historically underserved farmers.
- The overall payment limitation is \$300,000 per farm over a 6-year period. The limitation may be increased to \$450,000 for projects of special environmental significance.
- Additional points are awarded to applicants that have completed a MAEAP “A-Syst” Tool.
- Farmers in the USDA TB Modified Accredited Zone, after completing a Wildlife Risk-A-Syst, may apply for cost share to implement the farm’s Wildlife Risk Mitigation plan.
- Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops: This practice is new in 2010 and consists of a seasonal polyethylene covered structure with no mechanical systems that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

This practice applies to cropland where crops can be grown in the natural soil profile. Seasonal High Tunnels will be manufactured equipment with wood, metal or plastic ribs. Minimum height of 6 feet with 6 mil greenhouse grade, UV-resistant polyethylene cover.

Contract Timeframe

Minimum 1 year, maximum 10 years, depending on the practice.

Financial Assistance

- Up to 75% cost-share on all practices implemented.
- Historically underserved producers may be eligible for up to 90% cost-share payments.

Common Practices

Waste storage facility, agrichemical containment facility, heavy use area protection, nutrient management, pest management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, waste facility cover, irrigation system, composting facility, pasture and hay land planting, pipeline, watering facility prescribed grazing and fence.

EQIP: ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Description

To provide assistance to organic producers and producers transitioning to organic production.

Farmer Obligations

Farmers need to submit a complete Organic System Plan (OSP) as part of the application process.

Financial Assistance

Farmers can receive up to \$20,000 per year (\$80,000 over the life of the Farm Bill) to defray the costs to install practices organically.

Common Practices

Brush management, conservation crop rotation, cover crop, field border, mulching, nutrient management, pest management, residue and tillage management, strip-cropping and vegetative barriers.

EQIP: GREENHOUSE, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Common Practices

- Neglected woody fruit orchards (i.e., tree fruit, vineyards and blueberries) can now apply to remove the orchard, but cannot plant a woody fruit back on the property for 5 years.
- Practices within EQIP that could be implemented on specialty crop farms have been updated and are included (e.g., heavy use area, compost facility, agrichemical handling facilities, roof runoff).

EQIP: FOREST MANAGEMENT

Producer Obligations

The producer must have one of the following:

- Forest Management Plan or Forest Stewardship Plan; OR
- Prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales; OR
- Proof of capital investment on forest practices such as: tree plantings, forest stand improvement, site preparation, prescribed burning or other agro-forestry practices.

Common Practices

- Technical and financial assistance for the development of Forest Management Plans.
- Access control, brush management, critical area planting, fence, forest harvest trails and landings, forest stand improvement, grade stabilization structure, hedgerow planting, invasive plant species control, mulching, restoration and management of declining habitats, riparian forest buffer, stream crossing, stream habitat improvement and management, stream bank and shoreline protection, tree/shrub establishment, upland wildlife habitat management, wetland wildlife habitat management and windbreak/shelterbelt establishment and renovation.

EQIP: AIR QUALITY

Description

To address the primary air quality natural resource concerns associated with “non-attainment” for the overall air quality standards of Particulate Matter 2.5 and 10 and/or 8-hour Ozone.

\$1 million has been set aside to address air quality concerns in Michigan.

Eligible Land

Private agricultural/tribal land located within Allegan, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.

Common Practices

Agrichemical handling facility, conservation cover, drainage water management, heavy use area protection, irrigation management, nutrient management, pest management, prescribed grazing, residue and tillage management, tree/shrub establishment, upland wildlife habitat management and windbreak/shelterbelt.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (WHIP)

Description

To develop and improve high quality habitat that supports wildlife populations of national, state, tribal and local significance.

Eligible Land

Private agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land and tribal land.

New Opportunities

- Cost-share payments to be made to landowners to develop other types of wildlife habitat including habitat developed on pivot corners and irregular areas.
- Habitat priorities include: essential plant and animal habitat, grassland habitat, forestland habitat, aquatic buffers, and historically underserved including tribes.
- Like contracts will be ranked against each other (e.g., contracts that both address aquatic buffers will be ranked amongst each other).

Contract Timeframe

5-15 years

Financial Assistance

- Between 75% and 90% cost-share.
- \$50,000 annual payment limitation.

Common Practices

Brush management, conservation cover, critical area planting, firebreak, forest stand improvement, hedgerow planting, invasive plant species control, prescribed burning, restoration and management of declining habitats, riparian forest buffer, riparian herbaceous cover, stream habitat improvement and management, stream bank and shoreline protection, tree and shrub site preparation, tree and shrub establishment and windbreak/shelterbelt establishment and renovation.

FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP)

Description

Provides matching funds to help state, tribal or local governments and non-governmental organizations purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses.

Eligible Land

Private land that contains prime farmland or other unique resources and is subject to a pending easement from an eligible entity.

New Opportunities

The purpose of the FRPP expanded from “protecting topsoil” to “protecting agricultural use and related conservation values of the land.”

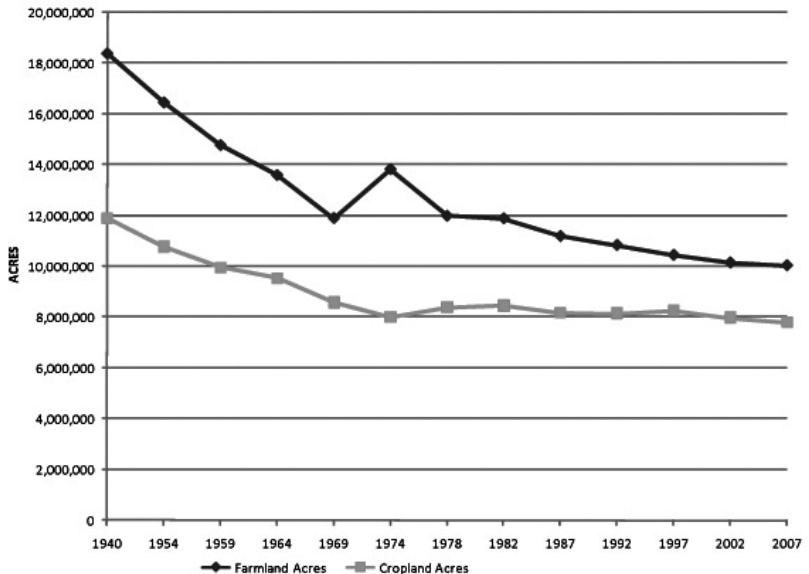
Contract Timeframe

Permanent Easement

Financial Assistance

One-time payment.

ACRES OF FARMLAND AND CROPLAND, MICHIGAN 1940 TO 2007



Courtesy of MDA, Farmland and Openspace Preservation

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)

Description

To assist landowners and operators in protecting grazing uses and other related conservation values by restoring and conserving eligible grasslands, shrub land and forbs (e.g., wildflowers) through rental contracts and easements.

Eligible Land

Privately owned grassland, shrub land, land containing forbs or land that historically contained those features that are predominantly grazed.

New Opportunities

- Priority areas include land in CRP expiring within 12 months, highly ecological valued land and land that is in threat of converting to something other than grassland (e.g., residential).
- Any acreage size is eligible to apply.
- The historical Direct Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) base is suspended; the cropland base will be suspended on land enrolled in a rental agreement and eliminate DCP for easements.
- Easement rates have been updated to be more reflective of the value of the grazing lands.

Contract Timeframe

10, 15, 20-year rental agreement or permanent easement

Financial Assistance

- 50% cost-share rates on practices implemented for grassland restorations.
- One-time payment for easements.

Common Practices

Cross interior fencing, exclusion fencing, invasive plant species control in natural habitats, pasture and hay land planting, pipeline, prescribed burning, restoration and management of declining habitats, stream crossing, upland wildlife habitat management and watering facilities.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

Description

To provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat.

Eligible Land

- Most private wetlands converted to agricultural use prior to 1985 are eligible.
- Wetland must be restorable or have been restored through a state, federal, or local program and suitable for wildlife benefits.

New Opportunities

- Easement rate payments have changed to be more reflective of the market value of the land.
- Must not have changed ownership within the last 7 years.
- For restoration cost-share agreements, annual payments may not exceed \$50,000 per year.

Contract Timeframe

10-year restoration only agreement, 30-year, or permanent easements

Financial Assistance

- One-time conservation easement payment.
- Up to 100% cost-share for restoring or improving wetland habitat.
- Payments for easements valued at \$500,000 or more will be made in at least five annual payments.

Common Practices

Wetland restoration, wetland enhancement, conservation cover, windbreaks and tree plantings.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEGINNING AND SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

The 2008 Farm Bill makes a major investment in programs to assist Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers to meet the challenges they face due to the cost of land and equipment, obtaining credit, turning a profit and building equity in a highly uncertain business. See pages 5-6 of this guide for the definitions of both the Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer. The following information is provided to raise the awareness of some of the opportunities that will be available through the USDA agencies. Some programs listed may be implemented immediately, while others will be implemented as funds are allocated.

- Increases amount of cost-share — up to 90% or 25% above prevailing rates. This is not applicable to Conservation Reserve Programs (General and Continuous CRP, CREP and CRP-SAFE).
- Allows up to 30% of cost-share funds to be advanced in order to help purchase materials. This is not applicable to Conservation Reserve Programs (General and Continuous CRP, CREP and CRP-SAFE).
- Sets aside 10% of funds in the EQIP (5% for socially disadvantaged and 5% for beginning farmers) and 5% of the acres in the CSP.
- Requires increased technical assistance through both NRCS and cooperative agreements with other organizations and entities.
- Provides two years of additional CRP annual rental payments for retiring farmers if they sell or enter into a long-term lease for the CRP land with a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer. (**TIP:** Transition Incentives Program)
- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Individual Development Accounts Pilot Program — Establishes a new pilot program that provides grants to enable community-based nonprofits and state, local, and tribal government agencies to promote matched savings accounts for qualified beginning farmers and allows the proceeds to be used on capital expenditures for the farm.
- Beginning Farmer Land Contract Program — Makes the land contract guaranteed loan pilot program permanent and nationwide.
- Down Payment Loan Program — Adjusts the interest rate to 4% below the standard direct farm ownership interest rate or 1.5%, whichever is greater. It updates the maximum allowable sales price, decreases the borrower's minimum down payment requirement from 10 to 5% and increases the allowable term from 15 to 20 years.
- Priority in Purchase of FSA Inventory Property Adds Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, along with previously eligible beginning farmers, initial preference in the purchase of FSA inventory property.

PROGRAMS RELATED TO CONSERVATION

There are other programs within the 2008 Farm Bill that were not covered within this guide. Below is a list of other conservation related programs that might be of interest to you. Some of these programs are new and others are similar to those programs offered with the 2002 Farm Bill. Be sure to talk with the agency responsible for the program that you are interested in for more details.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) – To support establishment and production of crops for bio-energy. Ineligible crops include: traditional commodity crops (e.g., corn, soybeans), invasive species/noxious weeds, animal waste/byproducts, food/yard waste and algae. Ineligible land includes federal or state owned land, land classified as native sod and land enrolled in CRP, WRP or GRP.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – Provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disaster and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) – Assist the owners of non-industrial private forest land in implementing emergency measures to restore forest health and forest resources after a natural disaster.

Source Water Protection Program (SWP) – To assist in developing plans to help prevent source water pollution and protecting recharge areas for public water supplies.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – A grant program that encourage owners and operators of private farm, ranch and forest land to voluntarily make those lands available for wildlife dependent recreation.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) – Assists landowners to restore and protect forest land resources and protects at risk species. HFRP allows for 10-year cost-share agreements and 30-year easement or permanent easements.

Soil Survey Program – On-the-ground inventories of each type of soil, data about the characteristics of each type and information about each soil use.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) – Provides grants and loan guarantees for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for growers and rural small businesses.

For More Information:

Farm Service Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov

Rural Development
www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE

Alcona County

NRCS-989-362-2591
Conservation District-989-724-5272
FSA- 989-356-3596

Alger County

NRCS-906-226-9460
Conservation District-906-387-2222
FSA-906-428-1060

Allegan County

NRCS-269-673-8903
Conservation District-269-673-8965 x 3
FSA-269-673-6940

Alpena County

NRCS-989-356-3596
Conservation District-989-356-3596 x 3
FSA-989-356-3596

Antrim County

NRCS-231-533-8709
Conservation District-231-533-8363
FSA-231-533-6450

Arenac County

NRCS-989-846-4566
Conservation District-989-846-9662
FSA-989-846-4565

Baraga County

NRCS-906-353-8225
Conservation District-906-353-8225 x 106
FSA-906-353-8225

Barry County

NRCS-269-948-8038
Conservation District-269-948-8056 x 3
FSA-269-948-8037

Bay County

NRCS-989-686-0430
Conservation District-989-684-1040
FSA-989-686-0430

Benzie County

NRCS-231-889-9666
Conservation District-231-882-4391
FSA-231-775-7681

Berrien County

NRCS-269-471-9111
Conservation District-269-471-9117
FSA-269-471-9111

Branch County

NRCS-517-278-2725
Conservation District-517-278-8008 x 5
FSA-517-278-2725

Calhoun County

NRCS-269-781-4263
Conservation District-269-781-4867 x 5
FSA-269-781-4263

Cass County

NRCS-269-445-8643
Conservation District-269-445-8643 x 3
FSA-269-445-8641

Charlevoix County

NRCS-231-347-5255
Conservation District-231-582-7341
FSA-231-347-2133

Cheboygan County

NRCS-989-733-8323
Conservation District-231-627-8484
FSA-989-733-8323

Chippewa & East Mackinac Counties

NRCS-906-632-7051
Conservation District-906-635-1278
FSA-906-632-9611

Clare County

NRCS-989-426-9621
Conservation District-989-539-6401
FSA-989-426-9461

Clinton County

NRCS- 989-224-3720
Conservation District-989-224-3720 x 3
FSA-989-224-3720

Crawford & Roscommon Counties

NRCS-989-732-6526
Conservation District-989-275-3163
FSA-989-345-5470

Delta County

NRCS-906-428-4076
Conservation District-906-428-9469 x 3
FSA-906-428-1060

Dickinson County

NRCS-906-774-1550
Conservation District-906-774-8441
FSA-906-753-6921

Eaton County

NRCS-517-543-1539
Conservation District-517-543-5848 x 5
FSA-517-543-1512

Emmet County

NRCS-231-347-5255
Conservation District-231-439-8996
FSA-231-347-2133

Genesee County

NRCS-810-230-8766
Conservation District-810-230-8766 x 131
FSA-810-230-8766

Gladwin County

NRCS-989-426-9621
Conservation District-989-426-9621 x 3
FSA-989-426-9461

Gogebic County

NRCS-906-774-1550
Conservation District-906-663-4512
FSA-906-353-8225

Grand Traverse County

NRCS-231-941-0951
Conservation District-231-941-0960
FSA-231-941-0951

Gratiot County

NRCS-989-875-3900
Conservation District-989-875-3050
FSA-989-875-3900

Hillsdale County

NRCS-517-849-9890
Conservation District-517-849-9890 x 3
FSA-517-849-9890

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE

Houghton & Keweenaw Counties

NRCS-906-353-8225
Conservation District-906-482-0214
FSA-906-353-8225

Huron County

NRCS-989-269-9540
Conservation District-989-269-9540 x 3
FSA-989-269-9549

Ingham County

NRCS-517-676-5543
Conservation District-517-676-2290
FSA-517-676-4644

Ionia County

NRCS-616-527-2620
Conservation District-616-527-2620 x 101
FSA-616-527-2098

Iosco County

NRCS-989-362-2591
Conservation District-989-362-2591 x 5
FSA-989-362-3842

Iron County

NRCS-906-774-1550
Conservation District-906-875-3765
FSA-906-753-6921

Isabella County

NRCS-989-772-9152
Conservation District-989-772-9152 x 3
FSA-989-772-5927

Jackson County

NRCS-517-784-2800 x 3
Conservation District-517-784-2800 x 5
FSA-517-784-2800 x 2

Kalamazoo County

NRCS-269-327-0696
Conservation District-269-327-1258 x 4
FSA-269-327-0940

Kalkaska County

NRCS-231-533-8709
Conservation District-231-258-3307
FSA-231-941-0951

Kent County

NRCS-616-942-4111
Conservation District-616-942-4111 x 100
FSA-616-942-4111

Lapeer County

NRCS- 810-664-3941
Conservation District-810-664-3941 x 3
FSA-810-664-0895

Leelanau County

NRCS-231-941-0951
Conservation District-231-256-9783
FSA-231-941-0951

Lenawee County

NRCS- 517-265-5887
Conservation District-517-263-7400 x 5
FSA-517-263-7400

Livingston County

NRCS- 517-676-5543
Conservation District-517-548-1553
FSA-517-676-4644

Luce & West Mackinac Counties

NRCS- 906-341-5304
Conservation District-906-293-3419
FSA-906-632-9611

Macomb County

NRCS-810-984-3001
Conservation District-586-752-9580
FSA-810-984-3865

Manistee County

NRCS-231-889-9666
Conservation District-231-889-4761
FSA-231-757-3707

Marquette County

NRCS-906-226-9460
Conservation District-906-226-2461 x 5
FSA-906-428-1060

Mason & West Lake Counties

NRCS-231-757-3707
Conservation District-231-757-3708 x 3
FSA-231-757-3707

Mecosta County

NRCS-231-796-2650
Conservation District-231-796-0909 x 3
FSA-231-796-2659

Menominee County

NRCS-906-753-2513
Conservation District-906-753-4663
FSA-906-753-6921

Midland County

NRCS-989-832-3781
Conservation District-989-687-9760
FSA-989-832-3651

Missaukee County

NRCS-231-775-7681
Conservation District-231-839-7193
FSA-231-775-7681

Monroe County

NRCS-734-241-7755
Conservation District-734-241-7755 x 3
FSA-734-241-8540

Montcalm County

NRCS-989-831-4606
Conservation District-989-831-4606
FSA-989-831-4212

Montmorency County

NRCS-989-356-3596
Conservation District- 989-785-4083
FSA-989-356-3596

Muskegon County

NRCS-231-924-2060
Conservation District-231-773-0008
FSA-231-924-2060

Newaygo County

NRCS-231-924-2060
Conservation District-231-924-2420 x 5
FSA-231-924-2060

Oakland County

NRCS-810-664-3941
Conservation District-248
FSA-810-664-0895

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE

Oceana County

NRCS-231-861-4967
Conservation District -231-861-4967 x 3
FSA-231-757-3707

Ogemaw County

NRCS-989-345-5470
Conservation District-989-343-0923
FSA-989-345-5470

Ontonagon County

NRCS-906-353-8225
Conservation District-906-884-2141
FSA-906-353-8225

Osceola & East Lake Counties

NRCS-231-832-5341
Conservation District -231-832-2950

Osceola County

FSA-231-775-7681

Oscoda County

NRCS-989-345-5470
Conservation District- 517-826-8824
FSA-989-345-5470

Otsego County

NRCS-989-732-6526
Conservation District- 989-732-4021
FSA-231-533-6450

Ottawa County

NRCS-616-842-5869
Conservation District- 616-846-8770 x 5
FSA-616-842-5852

Presque Isle County

NRCS-989-733-8323
Conservation District- 989-734-4000
FSA-989-733-8323

Saginaw County

NRCS-989-781-4070
Conservation District- 989-781-4077 x 4
FSA-989-781-1720

Sanilac County

NRCS-810-648-2116
Conservation District- 810-648-2116 x 4
FSA-810-648-2998

Schoolcraft County

NRCS-906-341-5304
Conservation District- 906-341-8215
FSA-906-428-1060

Shiawassee County

NRCS-989-723-8263
Conservation District- 989-723-8263 x 3
FSA-989-723-8263

St. Clair County

NRCS-810-984-3001
Conservation District- 810-984-3001 x 5
FSA-810-984-3865

St. Joseph County

NRCS-269-467-6088
Conservation District- 269-467-6336 x 5
FSA-269-467-6336

Tuscola County

NRCS-989-673-8174
Conservation District- 989-673-8174 x 3
FSA-989-673-8173

Van Buren County

NRCS-269-657-4220
Conservation District- 269-657-4030 x 5
FSA-269-657-7055

Washtenaw County

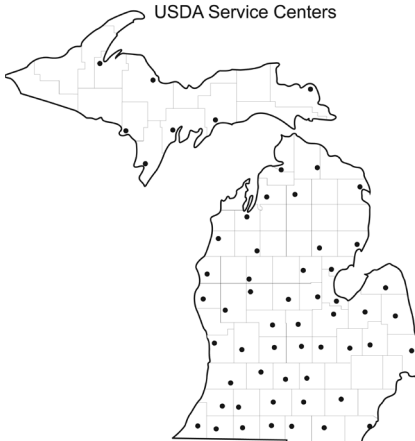
NRCS-734-761-6722
Conservation District-734-761-6721 x 5
FSA-734-761-8789

Wayne County

NRCS-734-761-6722
Conservation District- 734-727-7248
FSA-734-761-8789

Wexford County

NRCS-231-775-7681
Conservation District- 231-775-7681 x 3
FSA-231-775-7681



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state and county offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. State and county offices directly administer FSA programs. These offices certify farmers for farm programs and pay out farm subsidies and disaster payments. Farm Service Agency is a customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American agriculture.

Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

Michigan Association of Conservation Districts is a non-governmental, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that represents the interests of Michigan Conservation Districts and works to strengthen Districts through leadership, information and representation. Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens to conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. Conservation Districts are sub-units of state government that provide the leadership on conservation and natural resource needs within the county. Their elected board and staff are the gateway for USDA (and other government) agencies to provide conservation technical and cost-share funds to landowners within the county.

Michigan Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) is the state's largest general farm organization, with nearly 200,000 family members in 67 county Farm Bureaus. We have members from all walks of life -- from rural, urban and suburban Michigan. MFB provides legislative, economic, educational, leadership and information services to farmers and other people interested in the well-being of rural Michigan. As the "Voice of Michigan Agriculture," MFB also educates the public about the important role that farming plays in the state's economy. As a viable and reputable organization, the purpose of the Michigan Farm Bureau is to represent, protect and enhance the business, economic, social and educational interests of our members.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) originally called the Soil Conservation Service, is the USDA agency that assists America's private land owners and managers to conserve our soil, water and other natural resources. NRCS provides technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs; helping people help the land. The agency provides financial assistance for many conservation activities. Participation in NRCS programs is voluntary.