

### CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Applicant (Decision Maker):</b> | <b>Application Date:</b>                       |
| <b>Address:</b>                    | <b>Location where assistance is requested:</b> |
| <b>Email:</b>                      |  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>                  | <b>Receive text messages (optional):</b>       |
| <b>Assistance Requested:</b>       |  |

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

**1. Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?**

Yes  No

**2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) |
|---|---|

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

**3. Applicant Information:**

Select the business structure and enter the legal name and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

| <b>Business Structure</b><br>(Mark with an X) |                          | <b>Applicant Legal Name</b> | <b>Tax Number</b><br>(last four digits) |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Individual                                    | Entity                   |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |   |

To add more applicants, complete [CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the legal entity or joint operation?

Yes  No  N/A

b) Complete the table below for all applicants who meet the requirements for one or more of the historically underserved categories. If none, leave blank. (optional)

| Applicant Legal Name | Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher | Beginning Farmer or Rancher | Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher | Veteran Farmer or Rancher | Veteran Discharge Date |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |

c) If awarded an EQIP contract, would you be interested in receiving an advance payment to assist you with implementing the conservation practice(s)? The availability of an advance payment only applies to EQIP contracts where the participant meets the definition for one or more of the historically underserved categories. Refer to the instructions to learn more about advance payments. If not applicable, leave blank. (optional)  
 Yes  No

4. **Land Information.** The following questions apply to the land being offered for enrollment through this application.

a) **Land Type (check all that apply):**

- Private Land
- Public Land:  Federal Government  State Government  Local Government
- Indian Land:  Allotted  Tribal Trust Land  Tribal Non-Trust Land  Other

b) **Control of Land Documentation (check all that apply):**

- Deed or other evidence of land ownership
- Written lease agreement
- Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

c) **Is the land currently enrolled in other USDA conservation program(s)?**

- Yes  No
- Which program(s):**

d) **Organic Certification:**

- Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)
- Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP
- Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP
- Not Applicable

e) **What is the primary crop type(s)?**

f) **What is the primary livestock type(s)?**

The applicant agrees not to start any financially assisted conservation practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified technical service provider before the program contract is executed by NRCS. The applicant understands that if they start a conservation practice or activity prior to NRCS executing the program contract, the applicant will be ineligible to receive payment for the conservation practice or activity. The applicant may request a waiver to begin a conservation practice or activity early by submitting their written request to the applicable NRCS State Conservationist.

Applicants must provide NRCS with written authorization from the landowner to install structural or vegetative practices on leased land included in this application.

The applicant acknowledges that they have or will file all other required eligibility information including highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation certifications, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations with the FSA, as applicable, prior to NRCS approving a program contract based on this application.

The applicant may obtain a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix, which defines the full terms and conditions of program participation at the local NRCS office.

Check here if NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page, Applicant Information is attached.

| Applicant Signature | Date |
|---------------------|------|
|                     |      |

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Instructions for NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application**

This form is used to apply for program assistance.

| Field Name                             | Instruction   |
|--|---|
| Applicant (Decision Maker)             | Enter the name of the decision maker who is authorized to make decisions pertaining to the application and whose name will be displayed on documents if selected for funding.   |
| Application Date                       | Enter the date of application submission.   |
| Address/Email                          | Enter mailing address and email address for communication with the decision maker.  |
| Location where assistance is requested | Enter the County and State of assistance request.   |
| Telephone                              | Enter the telephone number where decision maker may be contacted.   |
| To receive text message(s)             | Enter a primary and/or secondary mobile number if you would like to receive text messages. This is optional.  |
| Assistance Requested                   | Describe the type of assistance needed. Provide details of what you seek to accomplish through this application.  |
| Question 1                             | Mark yes if you have records established with FSA. If answering no, NRCS will assist you with determining which records must be established to continue processing your application.<br><b>Note:</b> If applicable, additional applicants listed in question 3 will also need records with FSA for NRCS to determine eligibility.   |
| Question 2                             | Select the program(s) applying to participate in. It may be necessary to sign a new application if you decide to change your program selection(s).  |
| Question 2a (optional)                 | Enter the program enrollment type(s) applying to participate in. For example, enter CSP-Renewal if applying to renew a CSP contract. If interested in applying for an EQIP conservation incentive contract, enter EQIP-CIC.<br><br>For RCPP, activity type includes: Land Management, Rental, US Held Easements. The RCPP project name may be entered if known.<br><br><b>Note: This form must not be used for the following programs: ACEP-ALE or RCPP Entity Held Easements, Supplemental Agreements, or Watershed Activities.</b> To apply for one of these programs, follow this <a href="#">link</a> or contact NRCS for additional information.   |
| Question 3                             | Provide the legal identity of each party seeking participation through this application. Indicate whether each applicant is an individual or an entity and enter the legal name and last four digits of tax identification number.  |
| Question 3a                            | If the applicant is a legal entity, be sure appropriate signature authority is available for parties representing an entity.  |
| Question 3b (optional)                 | Mark the appropriate box(s) designating historically underserved status for each applicant meeting one or more of the definitions for the historically underserved categories below, if applicable. Applicants that mark Veteran Farmer or Rancher must also provide the date of discharge.<br><br><b>Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher</b> – The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and</li> <li>• Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.</li> </ul> A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at:<br><a href="https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/">https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a><br><br><b>Beginning Farmer or Rancher</b> – The term “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” means a participant who:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and</li> <li>• Who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.</li> </ul> In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material |

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|                        | <p>and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.</p> <p>In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.</p> <p><b>Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher</b> – The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.</p> <p>These groups consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Indians or Alaskan Natives</li> <li>• Asians</li> <li>• Blacks or African Americans</li> <li>• Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders</li> <li>• Hispanics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.</p> <p><b>Veteran Farmer or Rancher</b> – The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or</li> <li>• who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.</li> </ul> <p>A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.</p> |
| Question 3c (optional) | <p>Check “Yes” if you meet the historically underserved requirements defined in question 3b above and you are interested in receiving advance payments for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Advance payments are only authorized in EQIP for customers who meet the historically underserved requirements.</p> <p>NRCS offers historically underserved EQIP participants the opportunity to receive advance payments for costs related to purchasing materials or contracting services. All EQIP practices are eligible for advance payments, including vegetative, structural, and management practices. Historically underserved customers can use the option for as many or as few practices as they choose. Checking “Yes” or “No” does not prevent Historically Underserved Producers from changing their decision later.</p>   |
| Question 4             | Enter information regarding land seeking enrollment for program participation.   |
| Question 4a            | Check the applicable box(s) identifying the type of land included in the application.  |
| Question 4b            | <p>Check the applicable box(s) that support the documented control for the land seeking to enroll.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> A deed or evidence of ownership is required for all ACEP-WRE and RCPP easement applications.</p>  |
| Question 4c            | Mark yes if the land in this application is currently enrolled in another USDA conservation program under an active contract or agreement and list the program(s) in the space provided. Otherwise, mark no.   |
| Question 4d            | <p>Check the applicable box acknowledging organic status of the operation. Mark N/A if this application is for an operation not in organic-related production. Certification in any of these categories is to assist with planning and will not automatically result in the application being considered in any initiatives made available for organic-related production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Organic Producer must maintain organic certification for the life of the contract.</li> <li>• Transition Organic Producer must self-certify that agree to develop and implement an Organic System Plan (OSP).</li> </ul>   |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organic Producers selling less than \$5,000 per year will need to self-certify that agree to develop and implement an Organic System Plan (OSP).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Applicants must specifically request to participate in an organic initiative.</p> |
| Question 4e | Enter the predominant crop type(s) produced by the operation.  |
| Question 4f | Enter the predominant livestock type(s) produced by the operation.   |

**Note:** *If this application is selected for funding, it is the responsibility of the participants under a program contract or agreement to provide accurate information to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes. Each participant listed for share of the payment must provide an SF-1199A, Direct Deposit Form to proceed with contract execution. All participants that certify land control or certify eligibility as Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher, will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative.*