



United States Department of Agriculture



# NRCS OVERVIEW

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*Soil Water Air  
Plants Animals  
People Soil Water  
Air Plants*

**Helping  
People  
Help the  
Land**





# USDA 2018 Farm Bill



Voluntary incentive programs are offered to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Through these programs the agency approves contracts to provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land.

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# General Program Eligibility

- Be a person, legal entity, Indian Tribe, native corporation, or joint operation with signature authority.
- Engaged in agricultural production or forestry management or have an interest in the agricultural or forestry operation associated with the land offered for enrollment
- Establish farm records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and meet the required certifications
  - Average Gross Income
  - Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification
- Have control of the land when obligating contract and when receiving payment.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



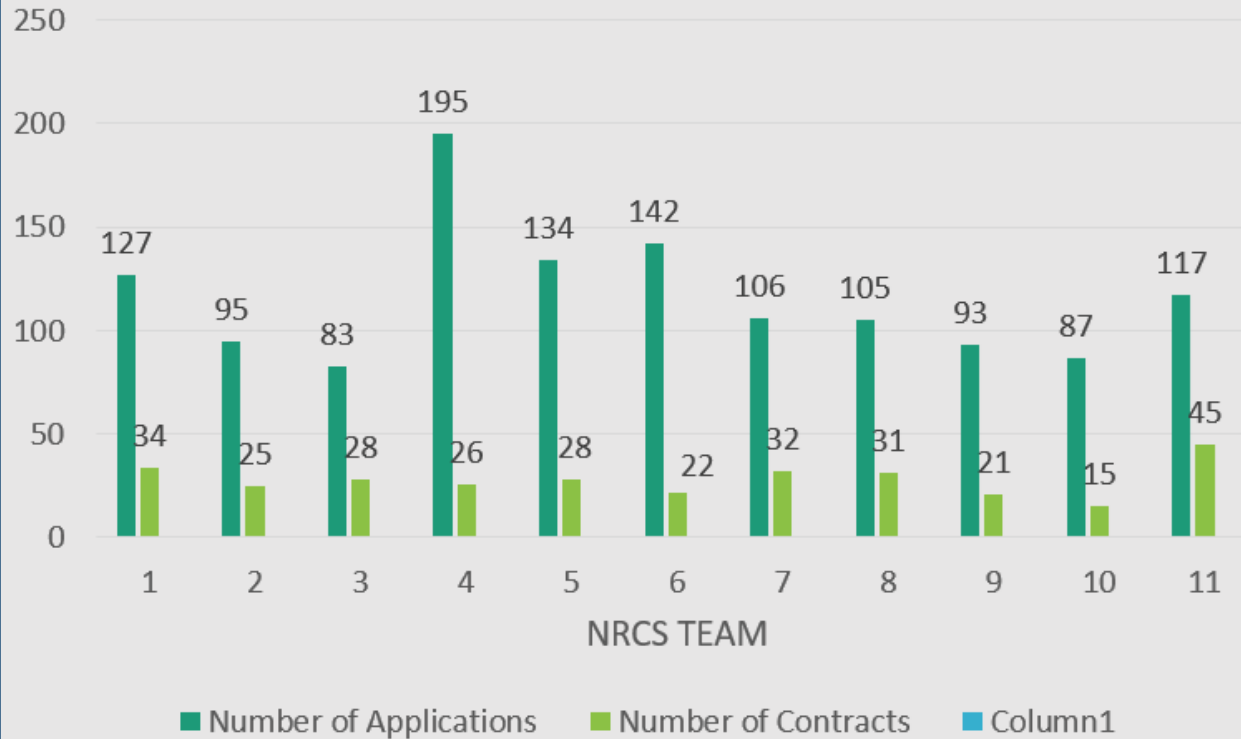
- Concrete Ditches
- Pipelines – Livestock and Irrigation
- Troughs/Storage
- Ponds
- Fencing
- Wildlife habitat
- Brush Management

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. environmental regulations.

# EQIP Eligibility

- Meet General Eligibility plus
- Land Eligibility
  - agricultural or nonindustrial private forestland
  - Private, Public, Indian Land
- Irrigation History Requirements
  - Irrigated 2 out of last 5 years to qualify for irrigation related practices
- Water Management Entity
  - A State irrigation district, ground water management district, acequia, land grant-merced, or similar entity
  - Has jurisdiction or responsibilities related to water delivery or management to eligible lands

## FY 22 EQIP Applications and Contracts



FY 2022 EQIP Applications and Contracts  
Per Team

Team	Apps	Contract
1	127	34
2	95	25
3	83	28
4	195	26
5	143	28
6	142	22
7	106	32
8	105	31
9	93	21
10	87	15
11	117	45
Total	1089	281

# National EQIP Initiatives Offered in New Mexico

- Strike Force
- Lesser Prairie Chicken
- Organic
- National Water Quality Initiative
- Joint Chiefs
- WaterSMART
- Source Water



# State and Local Initiatives in New Mexico

- Initiatives are based on recommendations from Local Work Groups and State Technical Committee
  - NM High Tunnel System (General and BFR)
  - NM Conservation Activity Plans
  - NM Beginning Farmer or Rancher (BFR)
  - NM Socially Disadvantaged (SD)
  - NM Organic (Transitioning and Certified)
  - NM Energy
  - NM Wildlife
  - Water Management Entities (WME's)



# Top 8 Practices in New Mexico

Practice	Extent	Number	Financial Assistance
Brush Management	45,900 Ac.	249	\$3,200,027
Conservation Crop Rotation	2,995 Ac.	30	\$1,200,033
Irrigation Pipeline	129,976 Ft.	104	\$1,768,254
Sprinkler System	2,488 Ac.	53	\$2,675,218
Fence	798,384 Ft.	144	\$1,390,033
Livestock Pipeline	939,333 Ft.	176	\$1,256,882
Watering Facility	323 No.	323	\$1,493,365
Forest Stand Improvement	794 Ac.	100	\$1,046,020

# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level.
- Provides funding for maintaining and improving existing conservation systems and practices and adopting additional conservation activities.
- 5 year contracts with yearly payments

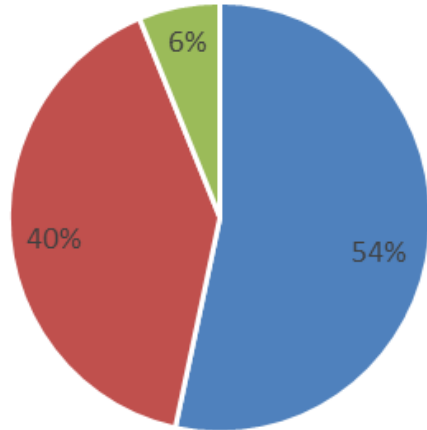
# CSP Eligibility

- General Eligibility Plus:
- Be the operator, owner, or other tenant of an agricultural operation
- Share in the risk of producing a crop; share in the crop available for marketing
- Must include all eligible land associated with an applicant's agricultural or NIPF operation
  - Private, Ag Indian Lands, NIPF, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead, Public Lands
- Meet the Stewardship Threshold Requirement
  - Meet or exceed Two Resources Concerns (RC) at the time of application plus
  - Meet or exceed at least one additional RC by the end of the contract

# FY 2022 spending

Funded CSP contracts

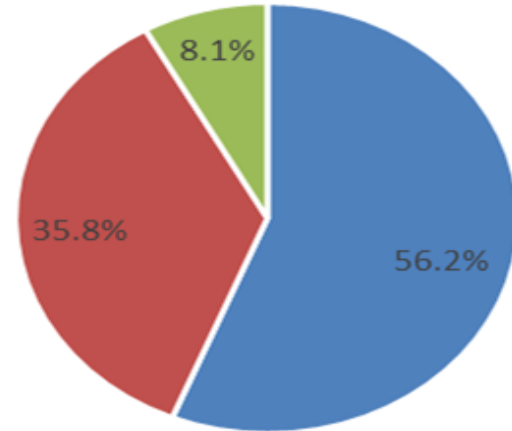
■ Regular ■ SDFR ■ BFR



\$11.5 million

Applications

■ Regular ■ SDFR ■ BFR



\$33 million

BFR- Beginning farmer rancher  
 SDFR- Socially disadvantaged farmer rancher

## FY 2022 CSP Ranking pools

- Agland (range, crop and pasture)
- Agland - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
- Agland - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher
- Agland-Organic
- Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF)
- NIPF - Beginning Farmer/Rancher
- NIPF - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher

# New Mexico Priority Resource Concerns

<b>Agland</b>	<b>Non-Industrial Private Forestland</b>
Wind and Water Erosion	Wind and Water Erosion
Concentrated Erosion	Concentrated Erosion
Degraded Plant Condition	Degraded Plant Condition
Pest Pressure	Pest Pressure
Livestock Production Limitation	Livestock Production Limitation
Terrestrial Habitat	Terrestrial Habitat
Source Water Depletion	Inefficient Energy Use
Soil Quality Limitations	Fire Management

- Other Resource Concerns that are not listed as State Priority Resource Concern
  - Air quality emissions, Aquatic habitat, Field pesticide loss, Salt losses to water, Storage and handling of pollutants, Weather resilience
- Ranking considers the number of priority resource concerns met and addressed.

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.
- NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.



# Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

**Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)** protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Land protected by agricultural land easements provides additional public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space.





# Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

- Competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation.
- Projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

# Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

The EWP Program helps landowners, operators, and individuals implement emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life or property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.



# Eligibility

Private entities or individuals may only receive assistance through sponsorship by a project sponsor (A project sponsor is any legal subdivision of a State government or a State agency)

Assistance based on a determination that the current condition of the land or watershed impairment poses a threat to health, life, or property.

- (i) Assistance includes
  - practices associated with removing threats to public health and safety
  - restoring the natural environment to the greatest extent practical after natural disasters.
- (ii) “Property” is defined as any artificial structure permanently affixed to the land such as, but not limited to, houses, buildings, roads, utilities, structures, dams, etc. **Standing timber, orchards, growing crops, other agronomic crops, etc. are not considered property under the EWP Program. If the threat is only to standing timber, orchards, growing crops, other agronomic crops, etc., it is not eligible for EWP Program assistance.**
- (iii) The potential for a threat to life, health, or property may be at the site, upstream of the site, or downstream of the site



# CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



# The Nine-Step Conservation Planning Process



Categories	NRCS Resource Concerns
<b>Soil</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sheet and rill erosion</li> <li>2. Wind erosion</li> <li>3. Ephemeral gully erosion</li> <li>4. Classic gully erosion</li> <li>5. Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels</li> <li>6. Subsidence</li> <li>7. Compaction</li> <li>8. Organic matter depletion</li> <li>9. Concentration of salts or other chemicals</li> <li>10. Soil organism habitat loss or degradation</li> <li>11. Aggregate instability</li> </ol>
<b>Water</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Ponding and flooding</li> <li>13. Seasonal high-water table</li> <li>14. Seeps</li> <li>15. Drifted snow</li> <li>16. Surface water depletion</li> <li>17. Groundwater depletion</li> <li>18. Naturally available moisture use</li> <li>19. Inefficient irrigation water use</li> <li>20. Nutrients transported to surface water</li> <li>21. Nutrients transported to groundwater</li> <li>22. Pesticides transported to surface water</li> <li>23. Pesticides transported to groundwater</li> <li>24. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water</li> <li>25. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater</li> <li>26. Salts transported to surface water</li> <li>27. Salts transported to groundwater</li> <li>28. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water</li> <li>29. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater</li> <li>30. Sediment transported to surface water</li> <li>31. Elevated water temperature</li> </ol>
<b>Air</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors</li> <li>33. Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)</li> <li>34. Emissions of ozone precursors</li> <li>35. Objectionable odors</li> <li>36. Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen</li> </ol>
<b>Plants</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37. Plant productivity and health</li> <li>38. Plant structure and composition</li> <li>39. Plant pest pressure</li> <li>40. Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation</li> </ol>
<b>Animals</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates</li> <li>42. Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms</li> <li>43. Feed and forage imbalance</li> <li>44. Inadequate livestock shelter</li> <li>45. Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution</li> </ol>
<b>Energy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46. Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities</li> <li>47. Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations</li> </ol>





# What is in a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan identifies the customer's conservation objectives and assesses and analyzes the natural resources issues on that customer's land related to soil, water, animals, plants, air, energy, and human interaction.



# What is in a Conservation Plan?

- An aerial photo or diagram of your farm or ranch
- A map of the soils on your farm or ranch and descriptions of those soils
- Information on grasses, trees, and broad-leafed plants that grow on your farm or ranch
- Resource inventory data which can include crop production potential, engineering designs and support data, and potential livestock and wildlife carrying capacity
- The location and schedule for applying conservation practices
- A plan of operation and maintenance for conservation systems of practices
- Job sheets and fact sheets



### Conservation Plan Map (EQIP)

Date: 4/24/2017  
 Field Office: TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES SERVICE CENTER  
 Agency: NRCS  
 Assisted By: KRISTI JUSTICE

Customer(s) [REDACTED]  
 District: SIERRA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 Approximate Acres: 413.2  
 Land Units: Farm: 742 Tract: 124 Fields: 1-9, Tract: 382 Field: 3



#### Legend

- 426, Irrigation Ditch Lining
- 430, Irrigation Pipeline
- 587, Concrete Turnout Structure
- 587, Trash Rack
- 587, Turnouts
- 587, Check Gate
- 464, Irrigation Land Leveling
- Conspian





USDA LOS LUNAS SERVICE CENTER  
2600 PALMILLA RD  
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031  
5058654643 ext. 3

PEARL ARMUJO  
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

### Conservation Plan



Range Tract: 2737

Fence  
Construct a fence for use as a barrier to wildlife, livestock, or people.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
Metate	23760 ft	12	2016		
Total:	23760 ft				

Livestock Pipeline  
Install a pipeline to convey water from supply source to points of use.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
Puerco	5280 ft	12	2017		
Puerco	5280 ft	9	2017		
Total:	10560 ft				

Prescribed Grazing  
Grazing will be managed according to a schedule that meets the needs of the soil, water, air, plant and animal resources and the objectives of the resource manager.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
Coyote	14612.3 ac	1	2016		
Coyote	14612.3 ac	1	2017		
Metate	21182.4 ac	1	2016		
Metate	21182.4 ac	1	2017		
Number4	8829.7 ac	1	2016		
Number4	8829.7 ac	1	2017		
Puerco	10893.5 ac	1	2016		
Puerco	10893.5 ac	1	2017		
Total:	55517.9 ac				

### Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Create, maintain or enhance area(s) to provide upland wildlife food and cover.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
Coyote	14612.3 ac	1	2016		
Coyote	14612.3 ac	1	2017		
Metate	21182.4 ac	1	2016		
Metate	21182.4 ac	1	2017		
Number4	8829.7 ac	1	2016		
Number4	8829.7 ac	1	2017		
Puerco	10893.5 ac	1	2016		
Puerco	10893.5 ac	1	2017		
Total:	55517.9 ac				

### Watering Facility

Install a water drinking facility for livestock and/or wildlife.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
Coyote	1 no	12	2016		
Coyote	1 no	12	2017		
Puerco	1 no	9	2017		
Puerco	1 no	12	2017		
Total:	4 no				

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## CONSERVATION PLAN OR SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS

NRCS-CPA-1155  
02/2014

PARTICIPANT [REDACTED]	COUNTY AND STATE [REDACTED]	PROGRAM AND CONTRACT NUMBER EQIP 2014 [REDACTED]	SUBACCOUNT Los Lunas - Grazed Range - SD - [REDACTED]	
LAND UNITS OR LEGAL DESCRIPTION Farm: 1585 Tract(s) 2737.		WATERSHED 130202040904-Rio Puerco	ACRES 55517	EXPIRATION DATE 12/31/2018

**Contract Item 1: Fence(382)** **Practice Lifespan: 20 years** **Status: Planned 2017**

Construct a fence for use as a barrier to wildlife, livestock, or people.

Fields:

Tract: 2737 Fields: Metate;

Contract Item	Planned Conservation Treatment	Planned Amount	Unit Cost	Cost Share Rate/Method	COMPLETION SCHEDULE AND ESTIMATED COST-SHARE OR PAYMENT BY YEAR													
					2017 \$													
1	Fence(382)	23760 ft			45,382													
1a	HU-Multi Strand Barbed/Smooth Wire	23760 Ft	\$1.9100/ Ft	PR'	45,382													

Notes: \*Payment rates define the unit cost rate of compensation to be received by the participant.

**Contract Item 2: Livestock Pipeline(516)** **Practice Lifespan: 20 years** **Status: Planned 2017**

Install a pipeline to convey water from supply source to points of use.

Fields:

Tract: 2737 Fields: Puerco;

Contract Item	Planned Conservation Treatment	Planned Amount	Unit Cost	Cost Share Rate/Method	COMPLETION SCHEDULE AND ESTIMATED COST-SHARE OR PAYMENT BY YEAR													
					2017 \$													
2	Livestock Pipeline(516)	5280 ft			10,032													
2a	HU-1.25 In 160 psi PVC-SDR per Ft	5280 Ft	\$1.9000/ Ft	PR'	10,032													

Notes: \*Payment rates define the unit cost rate of compensation to be received by the participant.

**Contract Item 3: Watering Facility(614)** **Practice Lifespan: 20 years** **Status: Planned 2017**

Install a water drinking facility for livestock and/or wildlife.





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NRCS helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

**On This Page**

- [CONTACT INFORMATION](#)
- [HOW TO GET ASSISTANCE](#)
- [STATE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES](#)
- [RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS](#)

[NRCS New Mexico 2022 Annual Report \(18.79 MB\)](#)

**New Mexico State Office**

100 Sun Avenue Ne, Suite 602  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434

[STATE OFFICE PAGE](#)

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# How to Get Assistance

**Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?**

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

 [Print this information](#)



## Step 1: Make a Plan -

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office. We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

## Step 2: Start an Application +

## Step 3: Check your eligibility +

## Step 4: Rank your application +

## Step 5: Implement your plan +



The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, a dark, rocky mountain range stretches across the horizon. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. On the left side, a tree with yellow and orange autumn leaves is partially visible.

# Questions?

**Kris Graham Chavez**

**505-761-4404**

**[kristin.grahamchavez@usda.gov](mailto:kristin.grahamchavez@usda.gov)**





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- (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).

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