United States Department of Agriculture

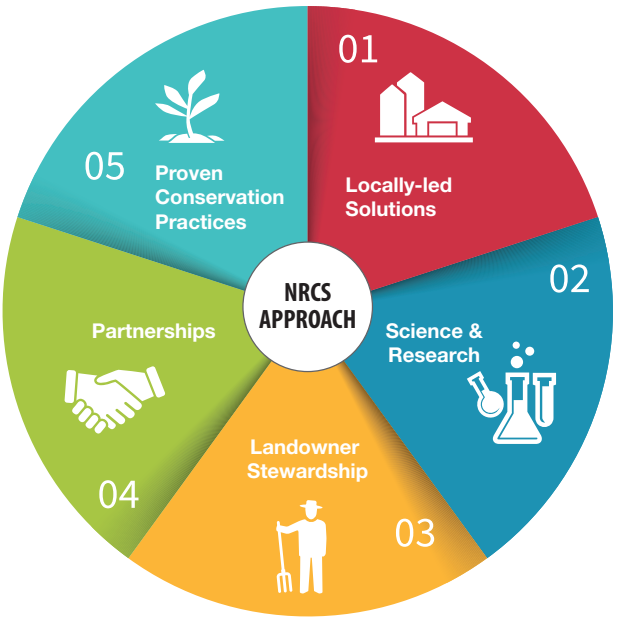
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the country to help them boost agricultural productivity and protect our natural resources through conservation.

Roughly 70 percent of land in the lower 48 states is privately owned. The health of our environment and natural resources is not going to be decided on public lands, but by farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

The United Nations projects a global population of 10.8 billion by 2100. Farmers and ranchers will have to produce as much food in the next 40 years as they have in the last 500. At the same time, we're facing impacts from climate change and extreme weather events. Severe droughts and flooding are becoming the norm. Our nation's agricultural land base is shrinking.

The conservation practices NRCS promotes are helping producers prepare for what's ahead. From systems that help improve the health of the soil and water to restoring wetlands and wildlife populations, we're helping to ensure the health of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.



NRCS' approach combines locally-led solutions with science and research; landowner stewardship; partnerships; and proven conservation practices to produce results for agriculture and the environment.

JASON WELLER
CHIEF, NRCS

"We use sound conservation science & research to deliver results for producers and communities. Our programs are voluntary, incentive-based and they work."

NRCS at Work

Landowners apply to participate in NRCS programs and we provide them with technical guidance and financial assistance to help them implement proven conservation practices on their land.

Mississippi farmers Percy and Emma Brown were hauling large buckets of water to their cattle every other day.

NRCS has helped them install more efficient water troughs, heavy-use pads to control nutrient run-off and a corral for the herd.

PERCY AND EMMA BROWN
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

Thanks to practices to improve soil health, like cover crops and no-till, Ohio farmer Dave Brandt harvested twice as much corn as his neighbors in the middle of a drought.

He's also been able to reduce his fuel costs and use nutrients more efficiently.

DAVE BRANDT
CARROLL, OHIO

NRCS and our partners worked to build a new fish ladder at Wiswall Dam in New Hampshire.

This project allowed declining herring populations to access nearly eight miles of historic spawning habitat for the first time since 1830.

WISWALL DAM PROJECT
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Good to Know

Over the past four years, working with our partners, NRCS has put conservation on more than 216 million acres of land, obligating more than $15 billion.

Visit **www.nrcs.usda.gov** for more information.

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