

Conservation Planning



*Helping People
Help the Land*

*Productive
Lands . . .
Healthy
Environment*

A conservation plan is the starting point for managing the natural resources on your farm or ranch while maintaining productive capacity. Every farm or ranch has its own unique natural resource concerns. Without proper conservation systems and management, human activities may cause natural resource problems or concerns including:

- ♦ SOIL being washed into bodies of water;
- ♦ WATER quantity problems because of over pumping ground water supplies, or water quality degradation because of polluted streams;
- ♦ ANIMAL waste not managed properly;
- ♦ PLANTS overgrazed, the encroachment of invasive plant species, or the decline of wildlife habitat; and
- ♦ AIR transporting livestock odors or soil particles.

A conservation plan combines your farming or ranching skills with the science-based knowledge and tools of the conservation planner. With Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) advice, landowners select the best combination of conservation practices to meet natural resource needs to achieve individual management goals.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Four Steps to Becoming a Conservation Partner



1. Identify management objectives and resource concerns such as water quality, water quantity, soil erosion, and plant and animal health on your farm or ranch.



2. Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss technical assistance and Farm Bill financial assistance with your District Conservationist.



3. A Certified Conservation Planner will review resource concerns with you and develop practice suggestions in a Conservation Plan.



4. Install and implement the suggested practices and management methods on your farm or ranch.

To learn more about conservation planning, financial incentives and how you can get help creating your own conservation plan, call your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office for an appointment or visit www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.