

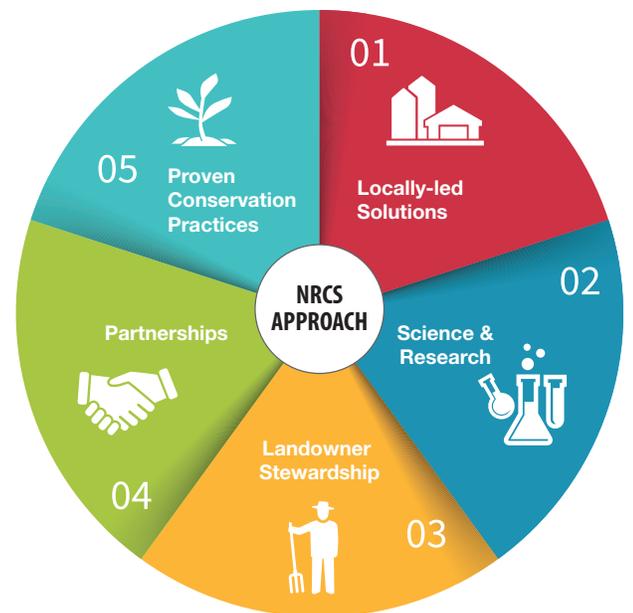


NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the country to help them boost agricultural productivity and protect our natural resources through conservation.

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 implement proven conservation practices on their land.

Row-crop farmer Manuel Imperial was using an open ditch, tube and flood irrigation system, which wasted water and flushed away topsoil.

NRCS has helped Manuel install a more efficient irrigation system on his farm, allowing him to use less water and compete in the marketplace with high-quality produce.

MANUEL IMPERIAL
YAKIMA, WASH



Cow-calf farmer Naomi Ferreira recognized that her pastures and water quality were suffering on her farm from year-round application of manure.

To help Naomi address these issues, NRCS helped install a waste storage structure, allowing her to spread cattle waste during the growing season and protect the water.

NAOMI FERREIRA
YACOLT, WASH



Organic farmer April Thatcher of April Joy Farm had a strong commitment to the land and conservation, but was looking for some help making her many conservation goals a reality.

NRCS helped April with a conservation plan for the farm, which has enabled her to stage out projects and receive funding to install her priorities.

APRIL THATCHER
RIDGEFIELD, WASH



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.