EXHIBIT A

Archived version as of 12/22/2024

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20241222130229/https://www.fs.usda.gov/sci...
An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

Climate Change

How do we know the climate is changing?

Using historical and natural records, scientists have been able to measure the Earth's past climate. People have measured the Earth's temperature and amount of rainfall since the mid-1800s, providing a snapshot of the climate for the last 150 years. For climate measurements prior to this, researchers must obtain measurements from indirect sources, including core samples from ice, sediment, and trees.

Learn more about how we know the climate is changing

How is the Forest Service adapting to climate change?

To stay healthy and vigorous, our National Forests and Grasslands will need to adapt quickly to the changing climate. The Forest Service is incorporating the best ecological and climate science into its management to ensure that National Forests continue to produce the benefits that the American people enjoy. Healthy forests and grasslands will also help mitigate climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in plants and soils. In addition to our work on public lands, the Forest Service works with private landowners, non-governmental organizations, and tribal governments to foster climate-informed, sustainable land management.

Learn more about how the Forest Service is adapting to climate change

How does climate change affect forests and grasslands?

Over the next century, the average global temperature is expected to rise, with variations by season and location. Within the United States, the average temperature is expected to increase between 3 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Under current projections, winters are likely to be less cold and snowy while summer high temperatures are likely to continue to rise. Changes in

rainfall are more difficult to project, but precipitation is expected to decrease across the Southwest while extreme rainfall episodes are projected to increase in the Northeast, Midwest, and Great Plains regions.

Learn more about the impacts of climate change

What can I do?

There are many things you can do to help reduce the effects of climate change. Simple changes like conserving water and energy will decrease your environmental footprint. Call your local National Forest or Grassland to see if there are opportunities available for you to volunteer your time.

Learn more about what you can do to fight climate change

Related Content

- Effects of Drought on Forests and Rangelands in the United States
- Sustainability and Climate

Science and Technology

- **Climate Change**
- Energy and Forest Products
- Fire Science
- Fish, Wildlife and Plants
- Forest Health
- Infrastructure
- People and Forests

Research and Development

Data, Tools & Products

Water, Air and Soil

Visit Us | **Managing the Land** | **Learn** | **Science and Technology** | **Working with Us** | **About the Agency** | **Inside the FS**

askUSDA

Contact Us

Sitemap

Policies & Links

Our Performance

Careers

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline

Inspector General

Plain Writing

Open

FOIA

Accessibility Statement

Privacy Policy

Non-Discrimination Statement

USDA Anti-Harassment Policy

Forest Service Anti-Harassment Policy

Information Quality

USA.gov

Whitehouse.gov

eGov

No FEAR Act Data

Whistleblower Protection Coordinator

Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Live version as of 2/20/2025

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

You are not authorized to access this page.

Science and Technology

- Energy and Forest Products
- Fire Science
- Fish, Wildlife and Plants
- Forest Health
- Infrastructure
- People and Forests
- Research and Development
- Data, Tools & Products
- Water, Air and Soil

Forest Service Anti-Harassment Policy

Information Quality

USA.gov

Whitehouse.gov

eGov

No FEAR Act Data

Whistleblower Protection Coordinator

Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT B

Archived version as of 1/22/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/...

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

Are you interested in climate-smart solutions for your agricultural or forestry operation? USDA offers voluntary programs and services to help you build soil health, sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance productivity and commodity marketability, and mitigate the impacts of climate change while building resilience to strengthen your operation.

On This Page

- Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry for Your Operation
- Funding to Support Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry
- Getting Assistance
- Climate Smart Agriculture and Nutrient Management
- Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities
- Disaster Protection and Recovery
- Additional Resources
- Climate-Smart Success Stories

() Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry for Your Operation

As farmers and ranchers confront the challenges of natural disasters and changing weather patterns, climate-smart agriculture is becoming an important way to build resilience in operations in ways that benefit both producers and the environment.

The main goals of climate-smart agriculture are to:

1. Increase or maintain productivity and yield.
2. Enhance resilience to environmental changes.
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate-smart agriculture does not necessarily define new farming practices. It includes and builds upon many practices that farmers and ranchers already use, like cover cropping, nutrient management, and conservation tillage. Advancing these practices with the goal of adapting to the current climate or preventing any potential impacts to it, is what makes them “climate-smart.”

USDA offers financial assistance and one-on-one technical advice through a suite of voluntary programs to directly support farmers, ranchers, private forest landowners, and partners in implementing climate-smart management solutions.

() Funding to Support Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

USDA offers a range of funding opportunities and voluntary programs for farmers and ranchers to implement climate-smart solutions.

Funding from the Inflation Reduction Act

From 2023 to 2027, the Inflation Reduction Act provides an additional $19.5 billion to USDA’s oversubscribed conservation programs, including Environmental Quality

Incentives Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

Learn More About Inflation Reduction Act Conservation Assistance (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act)

Conservation Programs, Grants, and Partnership Opportunities

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/acep-agricultural-conservation-easement-program) helps landowners and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements. ACEP is available through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Easements can be leveraged to keep agricultural land in production, thereby maintaining carbon sequestration benefits over time. Easements may also be used to restore and enhance wetlands, which sequester carbon and contribute to climate resiliency.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take existing conservation efforts to the next level. Through this program, NRCS provides opportunities for producers to apply conservation practices across their entire operation through a five-year contract.

If you've already pursued conservation across your working land and would like to do more, CSP could deliver new opportunities to apply climate-smart practices.

Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/conservation-reserve-program) provides rental payments and cost-share assistance for agricultural producers to put environmentally sensitive land into 10-15 year contracts to plant resource-conserving plant species that control soil erosion, improve water quality, develop wildlife habitat, and boost carbon sequestration. FSA updated CRP in 2021 to include a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive as well as invested in monitoring, assessment and evaluation of the program's climate benefits.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives) provides financial and one-on-one technical assistance to implement conservation practices to meet your specific conservation and production goals.

EQIP supports climate-smart conservation practices that enable agricultural producers and land managers to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across a diversity of operations while building resilience for the future.

Conservation Innovation Grants

The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/cig-conservation-innovation-grants) program drives public and private sector innovation in natural resource conservation through projects that address our nation’s water quality, air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations and delivering climate solutions. CIG is available through NRCS.

The CIG program has three components – CIG Classic, CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials, and state-level CIG.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program) , conservation partners work in collaboration with NRCS to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners implement systems that conserve water and soil resources, improve the health of wildlife habitats, and increase climate resilience.

Partners apply for RCPP projects through NRCS, then producers, landowners, and partners sign contracts to carry out conservation activities.

() Farm Loans to Finance Climate-Smart Practices or Equipment

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans to help farmers and ranchers start, expand, or maintain family agricultural operations that can be used to finance the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices or to purchase related equipment for your operation.



Farm Ownership Loans

Farm ownership loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-ownership-loans/index) can be used to purchase or expand your farm or ranch. They can help with paying closing costs, constructing or improving buildings on the farm, or to help conserve and protect soil and water resources. FSA offers up to $600,000 for eligible borrowers through farm ownership loans.

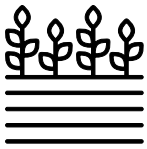
These loans can assist with larger-scale improvements to make an operation more climate-smart.



Farm Operating Loans

Farm operating loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/farm-operating-loans/index) can be used to purchase livestock, seed and equipment. It can also cover farm operating costs and family living expenses while a farm gets up and running. FSA offers up to $400,000 for eligible borrowers through farm operating loans.

These loans can assist with the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices or the purchase/expansion of an operation implementing climate-smart practices.



Microloan and EZ Guarantee Loans

Microloans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/microloans/index) and EZ Guarantee Loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/ez-guarantee-loans) can be used for small-scale climate-smart investments or a source of funding for small or beginning farmers and ranchers.

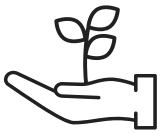
Microloans are direct farm operating or ownership loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork for loan amounts up to $50,000. EZ Guarantee Loans guarantees streamlined loans of up to $100,000 for farm operating or ownership.



(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/callout-icon/leaf-icon-1.svg)

Guaranteed Conservation Loans

FSA guarantees conservation loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/tools/informational/fact-sheets/conservation-loan-program-2024pdf) of up to $2,037,000 to implement techniques that will conserve natural resources. The loans are available from lenders working with FSA and funds can be used to implement conservation approved by NRCS. Many conservation practices also help producers build more climate resilient landscapes.



Emergency Loans

Emergency loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index) help farmers and ranchers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, or other natural disasters. The program is triggered when a natural disaster is designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, or a natural disaster or emergency is declared by the President.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

Farm storage facility loans (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/facility-loans/farm-storage/index) provide low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade various storage facilities for eligible commodities. Loan terms span 3 to 12 years. The maximum loan amount for storage facilities is $500,000; storage and handling trucks can be financed up to $100,000.

Example Uses of Farm Loan Programs for Climate-Smart Practices

The table below provides examples of how producers could use FSA farm loans to finance climate-smart agriculture practices or equipment. This table is not exhaustive of all climate-smart agriculture practices and equipment for which FSA loans could be used.

Climate-Smart Practice or Equipment
Cover Crops
Potential Use of Farm Loan Program
Annual Operating Loan for seed costs or Term Operating Loan for specialized equipment
Climate-Smart Practice or Equipment
Precision Agriculture Equipment
Potential Use of Farm Loan Program
Term Operating Loan to purchase equipment (e.g., GPS globes, monitors, strip till fertilizer equipment)

Climate-Smart Practice or Equipment

No/Reduced Till

Potential Use of Farm Loan Program

Term Operating Loan to purchase equipment

Climate-Smart Practice or Equipment

Livestock Facility Air Scrubber or Waste Treatment

Potential Use of Farm Loan Program

Farm Ownership Loan for capital improvements to livestock facilities

Climate-Smart Practice or Equipment

Cross Fencing

Potential Use of Farm Loan Program

Annual or Term Operating Loan to purchase fencing and/or installation equipment

Learn more about how climate-smart agriculture can benefit producers and the environment in our Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs Fact Sheet (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fsa-climate-smart-farm-loans.pdf) .

Other Programs to Support Climate-Smart Agriculture

Transition to Organic Partnership Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/

organic-certification/topp) is building partnership networks in six regions across the United States to provide farmer training, education, and outreach activities. Many organic farming activities also build climate resilience and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Rural Energy for America Program

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans) provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new, energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

() Getting Assistance

USDA Service Centers are staffed with conservation experts ready to provide custom, one-on-one support based on your specific climate-smart management and production goals. Through Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-technical-assistance) , NRCS offers targeted advice and information – based on the latest science and research – to help producers make informed decisions. This support is offered at no cost to producers.

Contact your local USDA Service Center to learn more about programs and services to support climate-smart solutions for your working land. Visit our Important Dates page (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/program-deadlines) for more information on application deadlines and state ranking dates.

Find Your Local USDA Service Center

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator)

() Climate-Smart Agriculture and Nutrient Management

Nutrient management is an important part of climate-smart agriculture. Excess nutrients on the land can lead to nitrogen losses to the atmosphere. Nutrient management maximizes crop-nitrogen uptake and has a compelling and cost-effective role to play in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

The Inflation Reduction Act will deliver $19.5 billion from 2023 to 2027 in new conservation funding to support climate-smart agriculture, including for NRCS to improve opportunities for nutrient management. NRCS is targeting funding, increasing program flexibilities, and expanding partnership to develop nutrient management plans. This is part of USDA's broader effort to address future fertilizer availability and cost challenges for U.S. producers.

Learn More About Nutrient Management
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/nutrient-management)

() Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities) is investing more than $3.1 billion for 141 projects that:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate-smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working lands.
- Pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits.
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Learn About Projects in Each State on the Climate-Smart Commodities Project Dashboard
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://publicdashboards.dl.usda.gov/#/site/fpac_pub/views/partnershipsforclimate-smartcommodities/overview)

() Disaster Protection and Recovery

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners experience the impacts of climate change through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfire. At USDA, we offer a suite of programs to help offset losses as well as crop insurance and other coverage options to help manage risk and provide a safety net for your operation.

Disaster Assistance Resources

Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/disaster-tool)

Learn about USDA disaster assistance programs that might be right for you by completing five simple steps.

Protection and Recovery
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery)

USDA provides a suite of disaster assistance programs to help offset losses as well as crop insurance and other coverage options to help manage risk and provide a safety net for your operation.

Risk Management and Conservation
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://rma.usda.gov/topics/conservation)

USDA's Risk Management Agency supports conservation-minded farmers and ranchers by creating new and improving insurance options for producers.

() Additional Resources

Interactive Climate and Conservation Tools

Conservation Concerns Tool
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/concerns-tool)

Learn about different types of conservation issues that might impact the productivity or natural resources on your farm, ranch, or forest land.

COMET-Farm Tool
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/http://comet-farm.com/home)

Access a digital carbon and greenhouse gas accounting system to quantify your operation's carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction potentials based on multiple management scenarios.

COMET-Planner Tool
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/http://comet-planner.com/)

Access a digital carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas mitigation evaluation tool specific to conservation practices implemented through NRCS.

USDA Climate Hubs (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/)

Access tools and webinars for responding to or preparing for climate-related events that may impact your operation, assess risk and vulnerability, and inform decision making.

Climate Smart Farming (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/http://climatesmartfarming.org/)

Leverage decision tools to manage risks such as a cover crop planting scheduler, water deficit calculator, and county climate change trackers. This program primarily focuses on the Northeast region, but general tools can be applied in additional locations.

Drought Monitoring Tools (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://drought.unl.edu/monitoring/droughtmonitoringtools.aspx)

The University of Nebraska National Drought Mitigation Center develops and maintains the U.S. drought monitor, a planning tool for ranchers, and other resources.

Climate Resources

NRCS Climate Solutions (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate)

NRCS offers a variety of programs, services, resources and tools to help farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and partners pursue voluntary conservation efforts to deliver climate solutions.

USDA Climate Quick Reference Guides (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://webapps.jornada.nmsu.edu/climate-quick-guides/)

Find state- and county-level information about key changes in historical and projected climate that can impact agricultural production, compiled by the USDA Climate Hubs.

USDA Climate Solutions (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.usda.gov/topics/climate-solutions)

View the latest USDA updates to support informed, science-based decisions that mitigate the impacts of climate change and build climate resilience across working lands.

Carbon Sequestration Overview (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/carbon-sequestration)

Iowa State's Extension webpage highlights carbon sequestration, how to manage related practices, and the benefits of sequestrating carbon.

Climate Change Adaptation Workbook (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://adaptationworkbook.org/resources)

The Adaptation Workbook assists producers in identifying strategies and approaches for managing their potential climate impacts and preparing for changing climate conditions.

State Climate Summaries (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://ncics.org/cics-news/new-us-state-climate-summaries/)

Select your state to access a description of the historical climate conditions and future projections via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's State Climate Summaries.

Conservation Resources

Conservation at Work Video Series (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/conservation/conservation-at-work)

Watch 90-second videos to learn about conservation practices available through NRCS, including those that support climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

NRCS Program Application Ranking Dates (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ranking-dates)

See state-level application ranking dates for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and Agricultural Management Assistance.

Conservation of Natural Resources Webinar Portal (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://conservationwebinars.net/)

Find live and on-demand virtual events and webinars focused on forestry, agriculture, conservation, climate science and other natural resource topics.

Fact Sheets and Reports Related to Climate Smart Agriculture

- Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/nrcs_climate_factsheet_23_final.pdf)
- Climate-Smart Opportunities for Urban and Small-Scale Producers and Communities (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/nrcs_climate_urban_factsheet_23_final.pdf)
- Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/csaf%20mitigation%20activities%202023_1028.pdf)
- Conservation Programs At-a-Glance (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/sites/defa

ult/files/documents/conservation_at_a_glance_22_final.pdf)

- USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/climate-smart-ag-forestry-strategy-90-day-progress-report.pdf)
- USDA Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.sustainability.gov/pdfs/usda-2021-cap.pdf)

()

Climate-Smart Success Stories

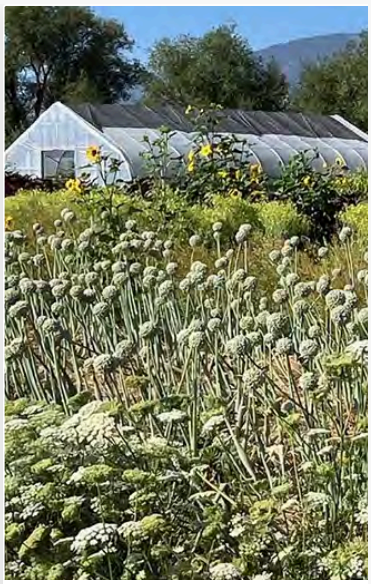


CONSERVATION

Inflation Reduction Act in Action: Funding Drives Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency on Maine Potato Farm

Thomas Kielbasa, NRCS, Maine • Sep 18, 2024

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250122063523/https://www.farmers.gov/node/29983)



CONSERVATION

Inflation Reduct Farm Making Bi Idaho Communi

Mindi Rambo, I

(https://web.archive.o rmers.gov/node/29980)



Live version as of 2/20/2025

USDA Farmers.gov
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ERROR CODE: 403

Access Forbidden

We're sorry, but you do not have access to view this page.

If you are a USDA employee with login access to this page, please make sure you are logged into your account.

Here are a few things that you can do:

- Visit our homepage (https://www.farmers.gov/) to view helpful tools and resources
- Use our site search (https://search.farmers.gov/search?utf8=%e2%9c%93&affiliate=farmers.gov&query=&commit=search) to find the information you need
- Check the URL (web address) for errors

If you are experiencing technical issues with this website, contact technical support at usdafpacbc@servicenowservices.com.

EXHIBIT C

Archived version as of 1/17/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250117222531/https://www.fsa.usda.gov/re...

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), offer financial support to farmers and ranchers seeking to adopt climate-smart practices. These programs aim to promote sustainable agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and enhance the resilience of farming operations to climate change. The loans cover a wide range of activities, including conservation projects, renewable energy systems, and other climate-smart technologies.

Who Is Eligible

Eligible applicants include U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a viable farm business plan. Farmers and ranchers must demonstrate a need for credit to implement climate-smart practices and have the ability to repay the loan.

How To Apply

To apply for Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs, applicants must submit a loan application to their local FSA office. The application process includes providing documentation of financial history, a farm business plan, and other required information. Detailed enrollment instructions and deadlines are available through the local FSA office.

Find Your FSA Location

How It Works

Program Features

Loan Purposes

- Direct Farm Ownership Loans: For purchasing farmland, constructing or repairing buildings, and implementing climate-smart improvements.
- Direct Operating Loans: For purchasing equipment, seed, livestock, and supplies, and for funding conservation practices.
- Guaranteed Loans: Issued by commercial lenders but guaranteed by the FSA, reducing the lender's risk.
- Microloans: Smaller loans for beginning and small-scale farmers to implement climate-smart practices.

Loan Amounts

- Direct Farm Ownership Loans: Up to $600,000.
- Direct Operating Loans: Up to $400,000.
- Guaranteed Loans: Up to $1,825,000.
- Microloans: Up to $50,000.

Interest Rates: Competitive interest rates set by the FSA, generally lower than conventional loans.

Repayment Terms: Up to 40 years for farm ownership loans and up to 7 years for operating loans. Microloans typically have shorter terms.

Additional Resources

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs Fact Sheet

Live version as of 2/20/2025

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oops!

404 - Page Not Found

We've been tending our digital farm, and the page you're looking for was harvested or replanted.

Here are a few fruitful ways to find similar information:

- Search for a topic using the search box above
- Explore our Program finder for farmers and ranchers
- Find your local Farm Service Agency location. They're at-the-ready to assist you.

EXHIBIT D

Archived version as of 1/8/2025

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Farm Loan Programs



Climate-Smart Agriculture Overview

As farmers and ranchers confront the challenges of natural disasters and changing weather patterns, **climate-smart agriculture is becoming an increasingly important way to build resilience in their operations** in ways that benefit both producers and the environment. The main goals of climate-smart agriculture are to:

1. Increase or maintain productivity and yield,
2. Enhance resilience to environmental changes, and
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate-smart agriculture does not necessarily define any new farming practices. In fact, climate-smart agriculture includes and **builds upon many practices that farmers and ranchers already use,** like cover cropping, nutrient management, and conservation tillage. Advancing conservation practices with the goal of adapting to the current weather or preventing potential impacts to the climate, is what makes them "climate-smart".

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Why it Matters

Producers across the country are confronting climate-related impacts to their operations through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent floods, drought, and wildfire. Weather impacts continue to present a threat to agricultural production and rural economies. America's farmers and ranchers are uniquely positioned to enhance our environment and ensure future generations continue to benefit from productive land and natural resources.

Climate-smart agricultural practices generate significant environmental benefits by **capturing and storing (sequestering) carbon, improving water management, restoring soil health,** and more.

Investments in climate-smart agriculture also benefit producers directly. Many of these practices improve resilience to changing weather, ecological disturbances, and/or natural disasters, therefore lowering risk to the producer. These investments can also reduce input use and costs of fuel, pesticides, water, and more. Additionally, some practices can increase carbon sequestration or create new market opportunities for climate-smart products.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency

As environmental conditions change over time, FSA can empower producers to both adapt to these changes and develop solutions for mitigation. FSA offers a suite of funding opportunities and voluntary programs for farmers and ranchers to implement climate-smart solutions. Among other programs, **Farm Loan Programs (FLP) can be used to finance climate-smart agriculture practices and equipment.**

FSA loans can provide capital needed to invest in climate-smart practices and equipment including (but not limited to) the establishment of rotational grazing systems, precision agriculture equipment, or machinery for conversion to no-till residue management.

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other details or restrictions may apply. For further information, visit **fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, farmers.gov**, or contact your local USDA Service Center. Find your local USDA Service Center at **https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator.**

Helpful Links

To learn more about climate-smart agriculture and the USDA resources available, check out the following links:

USDA Climate Hubs: Region-specific information to enable climate-informed decision-making.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Resources: Program information, tools, and resources on climate-smart agriculture and forestry for producers.

NRCS Conservation at Work Video Series: Short video series on the benefits of conservation practices to farmers and ranchers.

Climate-Smart Practice Examples

The table below provides a set of illustrative examples on how producers could use FSA loans to finance climate-smart agriculture practices or equipment.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of practices or equipment that could be financed with FSA loans, nor a guarantee that any loan application for these purposes would be approved.

Practice or Equipment	Sample Benefit to Producer	Sample Benefit to Environment	Potential Use of FLP
Cover Crops	• Improved soil health/resilience • Improved crop yields • Potential additional feed source for livestock • Reduced need for pesticides, and/or fertilizers	• Reduced erosion from wind and water • Increased soil health and organic matter content • Improved water quality due to utilization of excessive soil nutrients • Improved water storage and infiltration	Annual Farm Operating Loan for seed costs or Term Operating Loan for specialized equipment
Precision Agriculture Equipment	• Reduced input costs and improved yields due to accurate and optimized application of chemicals and fertilizer • Ability to expand farming operations with remote systems • Increased monitoring for quality control and compliance	• Decreased use and runoff of fertilizer and chemicals • Reduction in fuel usage • Reduction in water use	Term Farm Operating Loan to purchase equipment (e.g., GPS globes, monitors, strip till fertilizer equipment)
No/Reduced Till	• Increased resilience to extreme weather due to improved soil health and stability • Reduced fuel and labor costs due to decreased tillage • Potential cost savings on herbicides if used in conjunction with cover crops	• Increased moisture and nutrient retention in soil • Reduced wind erosion • Reduced sediment in surface waters • Reduced energy use • Food and escape cover for wildlife	Term Farm Operating Loan to purchase equipment
Livestock Facility Air Scrubber and/or Waste Treatment	• Reduced emissions of odorous compounds • Potential improved conditions for livestock, supporting health and productivity	• Reduced emissions of greenhouse gasses and particulate matter (air scrubber) • Improved water quality by better management of excess nutrients from waste (waste treatment)	Farm Ownership Loan for capital improvements
Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing	• Improved grazing animal health and productivity • Improved pasture yield and quality • Potential new market opportunities (e.g., grass-fed beef)	• Maintained health of native grasses in pasture/range land • Reduced runoff and soil erosion due to less overgrazing • Improved soil health and manure distribution from pasture rotation • Reduced animal impacts on stream banks and water bodies	Annual or Term Farm Operating Loan to purchase fencing and/or installation equipment



Options for Accessing Capital

FSA offers multiple types of loans to help farmers and ranchers start, expand, or maintain a family agricultural operation. For more information, please see the **FSA Farm Loan Guide.** Some of these loans can be leveraged to invest in climate-smart agriculture practices or equipment:

- **Farm Operating Loan:** FSA makes and guarantees both annual and term operating loans to help purchase livestock and equipment and pay for minor real estate repairs and annual operating expenses. Direct loans are offered at a fixed interest rate in amounts up to $400,000 and terms of 1 to 7 years. FSA can also guarantee operating loans made by commercial lenders in amounts up to $2,037,000 for terms of up to 7 years. The maximum loan guarantee amount is adjusted annually by the Agency. These loans can assist with the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices.

- **Farm Ownership Loan:** FSA makes and guarantees farm ownership loans to help purchase or enlarge family farms. Direct loans are offered at a fixed interest rates in amounts up to $600,000 and terms of up to 40 years. FSA can also guarantee farm ownership loans made by commercial lenders in amounts of up to $2,037,000 for terms of up to 40 years. The maximum loan guarantee amount is adjusted annually by the Agency. These loans can assist with larger-scale improvements to make an operation more climate-smart.

- **Microloan:** Microloans are direct farm operating loans or farm ownership loans with a shortened application process and reduced paperwork for loan amounts up to $50,000. These can be used for small-scale climate-smart investments or as a source of funding for small or beginning farmers and ranchers.

- **Emergency Loan:** Emergency Loans help farmers and ranchers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, or other natural disasters in amounts up to $500,000. The county or counties where the farm is located must be declared a disaster area by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

- **Conservation Loan:** FSA guarantees conservation loans up to $2,037,000 to implement techniques that will conserve natural resources. The maximum loan guarantee amount is adjusted annually by the Agency. The loans are available from lenders working with FSA and funds can be used to implement conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Many conservation practices also help producers build more climate-resilient landscapes.

- **Farm Storage Facility Loan:** FSFLs provide low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade various storage facilities for a wide range of commodities. FSFL loan terms span 3-12 years. The maximum loan amount for storage facilities is $500,000, while storage and handling trucks can be financed up to $100,000. Visit the program **web page** for more information.

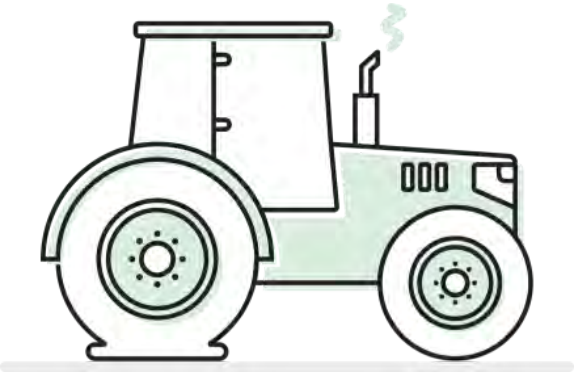
USDA offers other financial assistance through a suite of voluntary conservation programs through the FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These programs can be found in the **FSA Conservation Programs at a Glance** fact sheet.



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

Live version as of 2/20/2025

USDA Farmers.gov
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



ERROR CODE: 404

Page Not Found

We're sorry, we can't find the page you're looking for.

Here are a few things that you can do:

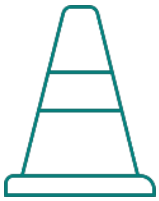
- Visit our homepage (https://www.farmers.gov/) to view helpful tools and resources
- Use our site search (https://search.farmers.gov/search?utf8=%e2%9c%93&affiliate=farmers.gov&query=&commit=search) to find the information you need
- Check the URL (web address) for errors

If you are experiencing technical issues with this website, contact technical support at usdafpacbc@servicenowservices.com.

EXHIBIT E

Live version as of 2/20/2025

ArcGIS StoryMaps



Hmm... there seems to be an issue

There was a problem accessing this story or this page. Please try again or contact your ArcGIS administrator.

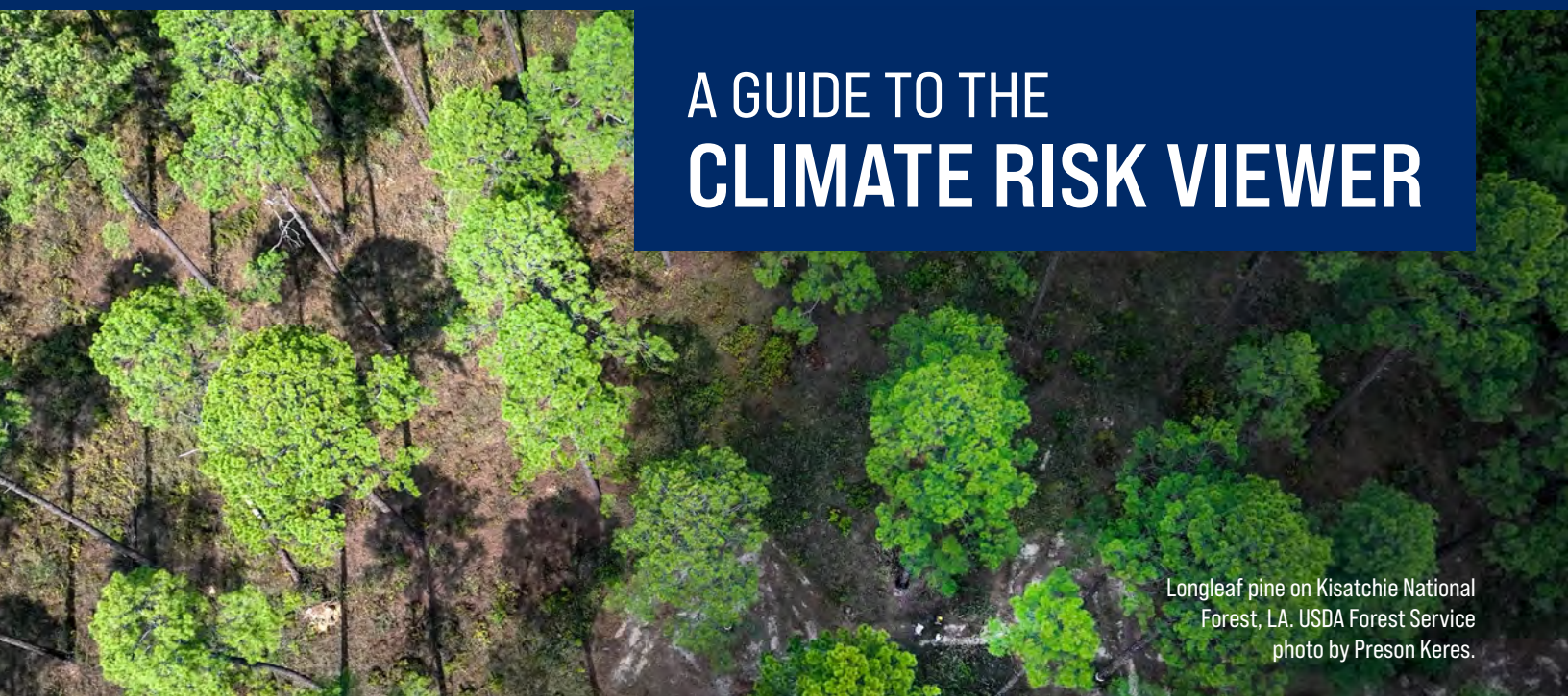
ArcGIS StoryMaps home

EXHIBIT F

Archived version as of 1/18/2025

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FS-1253 | November 2024



A GUIDE TO THE CLIMATE RISK VIEWER

Longleaf pine on Kisatchie National Forest, LA. USDA Forest Service photo by Preson Keres.

Identify climate change vulnerabilities and threats to national forests and grasslands using more than 140 map layers curated by experts.

Created in response to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's memo on climate resilience (Memo 1077-004), the Climate Risk Viewer is a one-stop shop for climate-related geospatial data. The viewer presents comprehensive insight into how climate change may affect national forests and grasslands.

Researchers, planners, land managers, students, and members of the public can use the viewer to explore more than 140 data layers to visualize relationships, inform spatial analyses, and identify additional resources related to climate risks and vulnerabilities.

How to use the Climate Risk Viewer?

Explore data:

- Assess the impacts of climate change on wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers.
- Highlight watersheds where future predicted climate change and demands on water supply will be the greatest.
- Identify areas where mature and old-growth forests on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands are most threatened by future climate change.

Answer questions such as:

- Which areas will experience the largest changes in temperature and snowfall?
- Which forests will be most affected by drought?
- What habitat types are most vulnerable to extreme wildfire?
- Which National Forest System lands have the highest scores for terrestrial condition?

QUICK START GUIDE

1. Navigate to https://arcg.is/WyiTi.

2. View the introduction page to learn about the background of the Climate Risk Viewer and access resources such as the FAQ, data catalog, version history, and citation information.

3. Learn about the themes by clicking on the relevant pages, where each page has a similar structure: an introduction to the theme, relevant tools and reports, descriptions of each dataset, and an interactive map that allows users to explore the datasets. Themes include: Climate Exposure and Vulnerability, Management Intent, Water and Watersheds, Biodiversity and Species at Risk, Carbon, Reforestation, Mature and Old-Growth Forests, and Firesheds.

The "All Data" tab contains all data from the Climate Risk Viewer in one place.



Tabs at the top will take you to the other pages in the Climate Risk Viewer.

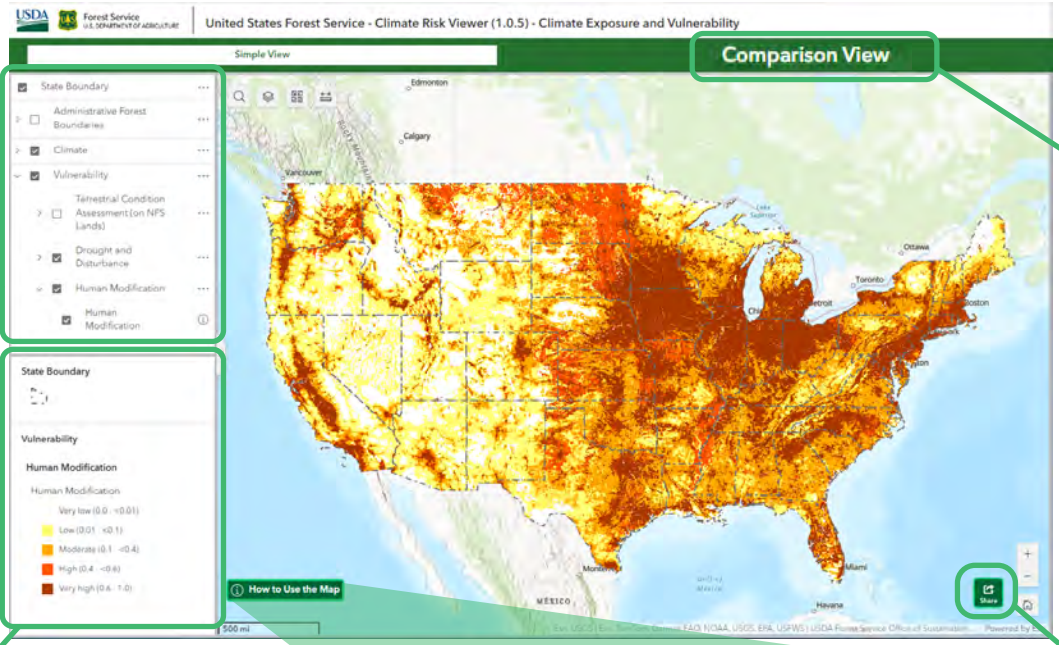
These headers describe the sections of the page for that theme. Read through it all or click on a header to skip ahead.

The **Explore the Data** section is an interactive map.

Explore data for each theme:

The checkable boxes in **the table of contents** draw layers on the map.

When a layer is visible on the map, it shows up in the **legend**.



Toggle to **Comparison View** to see two maps at once.

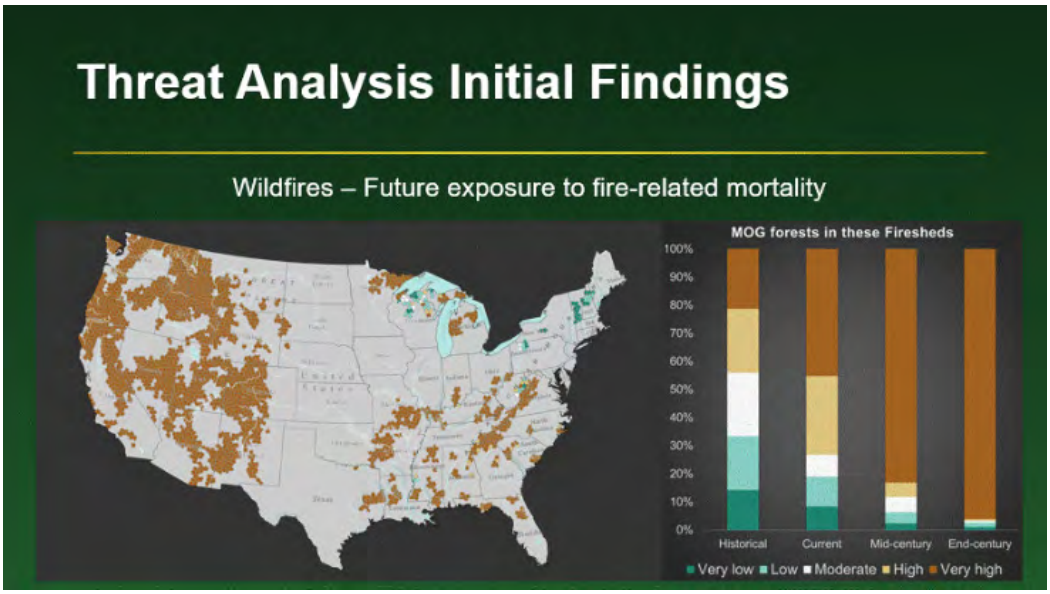
Share your custom map. This button preserves your selected layers and the current map extent so you can share exactly what you are looking at with anyone.

For all instructions, click this button on the map:



Find data with ease:

- Simply access all datasets.
- Overlay map layers or see them side by side.
- Create a custom map view to share.



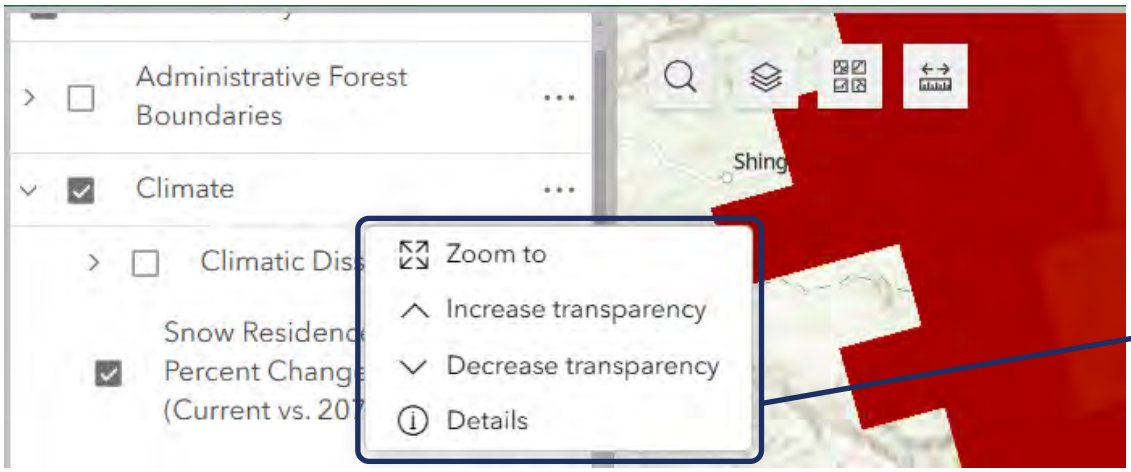
A key finding of the threat analysis, showcased in this image, is that by mid-century, more than half of the firesheds containing mature and old-growth forests will have very high exposure to fire-related mortality.

Ready to use the data for decision making?

Use the data catalog to learn about the datasets, such as where to find and download the data.

Try this!

- Open the "Climate Exposure and Vulnerability" theme.
- Scroll down or skip to Explore the Data section.
- Expand the Vulnerability section in the table of contents and check the box on "Terrestrial Condition Scores" to turn on the layer.
- Zoom to northern California and note that the legend describes that the red areas are "Very Poor."
- Expand the Climate section by clicking on ">" and then "Snow Residence Time: Percent Change."
- Now it is possible to see which National Forest System lands with a "Very Poor" rating for "Terrestrial Condition" will also see a large reduction in snow residence time in the future.

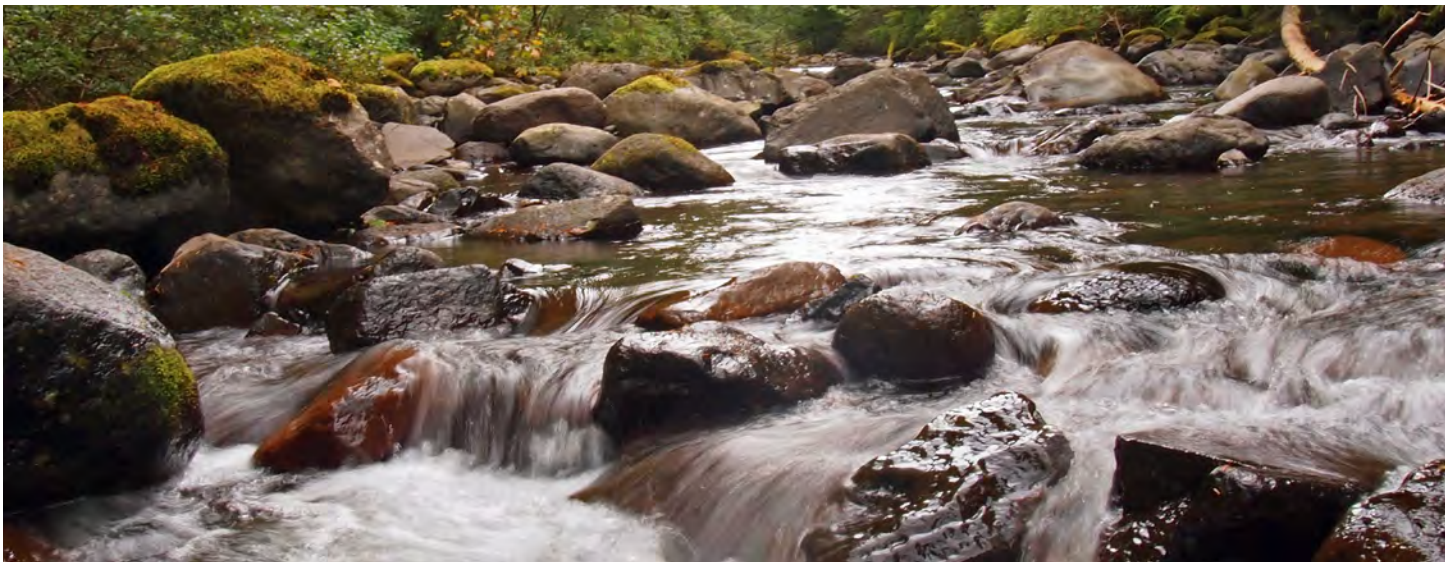


Click the three dots on the "Climate" group name and then "Increase Transparency" to see both at once.

The Climate Risk Viewer provides the functionality to change the transparency of the map layers displayed.

Questions or comments?

Contact SM.FS.OSC_Inquiry@usda.gov.



Steamboat Creek in the Boulder Creek Wilderness on the Umpqua National Forest, OR. USDA Forest Service photo.

Live version as of 2/20/2025

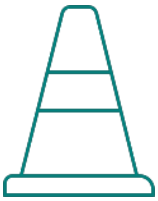
An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

The requested page could not be found.

EXHIBIT G

Live version as of 2/20/2025

ArcGIS StoryMaps



Hmm... there seems to be an issue

There was a problem accessing this story or this page. Please try again or contact your ArcGIS administrator.

ArcGIS StoryMaps home

EXHIBIT H

Archived version as of 1/20/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resourc...

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know



Mitigation

NRCS helps agricultural producers and private landowners voluntarily mitigate climate change (reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage) by providing technical and financial assistance, tools, science, and knowledge.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/wg3/), climate change mitigation is achieved by limiting or preventing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and by enhancing activities that remove these gases from the atmosphere. Agriculture contributes to nearly 11% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, according to the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks). Minimizing the impacts of long-lived pollutants in the atmosphere requires reducing or eliminating the emissions of these pollutants at their source. Through the conservation planning process, NRCS helps agricultural producers and private landowners voluntarily mitigate climate change (reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage) by providing technical and financial assistance, tools, science, and knowledge.

Each agricultural operation is unique. Through voluntary conservation programs (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/http://farmers.gov/climate-smart), NRCS offers a broad suite of conservation practices and enhancements that can accommodate the diversity of operations across America's working lands. The agency has identified practices and enhancements that are critical to climate change mitigation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/CSAF%20Mitigation%20Activities_2023.pdf). When applied appropriately, these climate-smart mitigation measures can deliver quantifiable (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/http://comet-planner.com/) greenhouse gas reductions or increases in carbon

sequestration, including through enhanced carbon stocks in perennial biomass and soils. Most of these activities also offer added benefits (also known as co-benefits and ancillary benefits (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://archive.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg3/en/ch5s5-5-4.html)) such as improved water quality, wildlife habitat, pollinator forage and many other environmental improvements. Other added benefits to agricultural operations include building climate change resilience to extreme weather events, such as drought, and supporting healthier soils.

For more information on climate change mitigation and agriculture, see our booklet: The Role of Agriculture in Climate Change Mitigation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/USDA_ClimateChangeMitigation_Brochure_24.pdf)

Mitigation Highlights

NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities

Learn more about NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate/climate-smart-mitigation-activities) and the voluntary conservation practices and enhancements that can support climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions or increasing carbon sequestration.

Download the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activity List (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/CSAF%20Mitigation%20Activities_2023.pdf) to view the full list of mitigation activities, including practices available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and enhancements available through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Greenhouse Gas Estimation Tools

COMET-Planner (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/http://www.comet-planner.com/)™ is an evaluation tool designed to provide estimates of greenhouse gas reductions expected by adopting NRCS conservation practices. Use of this tool is intended for conservation planning purposes and does not provide site-specific calculations. Please visit COMET-Farm for an estimate tailored to site specific conditions of your farm.

COMET-Farm (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/http://cometfarm.nrel.colostate.edu/)™ is an interactive online tool to estimate whole-farm, ranch, and forestry emissions and mitigation options.

Environmental Markets and Conservation Finance

Environmental markets and conservation finance (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/environmental-markets-conservation-finance) approaches complement NRCS's work by bringing private and other non-Federal investments and revenue sources to private lands conservation, including to pay for ecosystem services that benefit society such as carbon sequestration or GHG reductions. NRCS supports environmental markets and conservation finance through providing partnership and grant opportunities through the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP); developing technical tools, such as COMET; and supporting networks, including the Conservation Finance Practitioners Roundtable.

USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy

This Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy: 90 Day Progress Report (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/climate-smart-ag-forestry-strategy-90-day-progress-report_0.pdf) provides recommendations and next steps to support the Department in implementing climate solutions in ways that build strong communities, fair markets, and are inclusive of all Tribes and stakeholders. The climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategy employs proven conservation practices to achieve enhanced productivity and economic sustainability for U.S. agriculture and forestry; improved ecological, social, and economic resilience to climate change; increased carbon sequestration; and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Related News & Events

PRESS RELEASE

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic Investment in Partnerships for 70 Climate-Smart Commodities and Rural Projects

September 14, 2022

(/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/california/news/biden-harris-administration-announces)

PRESS RELEASE

USDA to Invest $15 Million in Innovative Projects for Climate-Smart Agriculture, Urban Agriculture and Addressing Invasive Species

August 15, 2022

(/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/idaho/news/usda-to-invest-15-million-in-innovative)

PRESS RELEASE

USDA Offers Expanded Conservation Program Opportunities to Support

Climate-Smart Agriculture in 2022

January 20, 2022

(/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/idaho/news/usda-offers-expanded-conservation-program)

VIEW MORE NEWS (/WEB/20250120091944/HTTPS://WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/NEWS)

VIEW MORE EVENTS (/WEB/20250120091944/HTTPS://WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/EVENTS)

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA

Ask.USDA.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://ask.usda.gov/s/)

1-833-ONE-USDA (tel:8336638732)

askusda@usda.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

ASK A QUESTION (HTTPS://WEB.ARCHIVE.ORG/WEB/20250120091944/HTTPS://ASK.USDA.GOV/S/)

Policies and Statements

FOIA (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/foia)

Information Quality (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/information-quality)

Our Performance (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/performace)

Privacy Policy (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/privacy)

Accessibility Statement (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/accessibility-statement)

Non-Discrimination Statement (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/non-discrimination)

Related Sites

USDA.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://usda.gov/)

AskUSDA (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://ask.usda.gov/s/)

Office of the Inspector General (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/oig)

USA.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://usa.gov/)

WhiteHouse.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://whitehouse.gov/)

Resources

Subscribe to our Newsletter

OneFPAC - Employee Links (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/employees)

eDirectives (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/edirectives)

Glossary (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/glossary)

USDA CARES Partner Portal (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/partner-portal)

No Fear Act Data (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/no-fear-act)

Open Government (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/open)

Plain Writing (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.usda.gov/plain-writing)

Report Fraud on USDA Contract (https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/resources/contractor-fraud)

Sitemap (/web/20250120091944/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sitemap.xml)

Stay updated on the latest news and stories from NRCS and other USDA topics.

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://facebook.com/usdanrcs

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://twitter.com/USDA_NRC

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.flickr.com/photos/

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.youtube.com/theu

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250120091944/https://www.linkedin.com/comp
resources-conservation-service/)

Live version as of 2/20/2025

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know



403 - Access Denied

This page is not available.

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA

Ask.USDA.gov (https://ask.usda.gov/USDA 1-833-ONE- (tel:8336638732) askusda@usda.gov (mailto:askusda

s/) @usda.gov)

ASK A QUESTION (HTTPS://ASK.USDA.GOV/S/)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (HTTPS://USDA.GOV)

Policies and Statements

FOIA (/foia)

Information Quality (/information-quality)

Our Performance (/performace)

Privacy Policy (/privacy)

Accessibility Statement (https://www.usda.gov/accessibility-statement)

Non-Discrimination Statement (/non-discrimination)

Related Sites

USDA.gov (https://usda.gov)

AskUSDA (https://ask.usda.gov/s/)

Office of the Inspector General (https://www.usda.gov/oig)

USA.gov (https://usa.gov)

WhiteHouse.gov (https://whitehouse.gov)

Resources

OneFPAC - Employee Links (/employees)

eDirectives (/edirectives)

Glossary (https://www.usda.gov/glossary)

No Fear Act Data (/no-fear-act)

Open Government (https://www.usda.gov/open)

Plain Writing (https://www.usda.gov/plain-writing)

Report Fraud on USDA Contract (https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/resources/contractor-fraud)

Sitemap (/sitemap.xml)

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Stay updated on the latest news and stories from NRCS and other USDA topics.

(mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

(https://facebook.com/usdanrcs)

(https://twitter.com/USDA_NRCS)

(https://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/collections/7215762

(https://www.youtube.com/theusdanrcs)


(https://www.linkedin.com/company/natural-resources-conservation-service/)

EXHIBIT I

Archived version as of 1/17/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250117213327/https://www.rd.usda.gov/inflati…
An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

Official websites use .gov
A **.gov** website belongs to an official government organization in the United States.

Secure .gov websites use HTTPS
A **lock** (🔒) or **https://** means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Inflation Reduction Act Investments by State

Home (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117213327/https://www.rd.usda.gov/) > Inflation Reduction Act (/web/20250117213327/https://www.rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act) > Inflation Reduction Act Investments by State

The Biden-Harris Administration is making a historic investment in rural communities, expanding clean energy and supporting American energy independence, investing in popular conservation programs and climate-smart agriculture, and fostering economic opportunity.

Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act funding, more farmers and more acres are enrolled in voluntary conservation practices than at any single point in history, and even with this unprecedented funding, USDA is seeing more demand than we have funds to support. The below fact sheets share investments by state by NRCS as well as USDA's Rural Development.

IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions State Fact Sheets

States A - H | States I - M | States N - P | States R - W

States A-H

Alabama Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (176.7 KB)
Alaska Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (198.86 KB)
American Samoa Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (173.57 KB)
Arizona Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.56 KB)
Arkansas Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.88 KB)
California Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.11 KB)
Colorado Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (199.01 KB)
Connecticut Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (179.45 KB)
Delaware Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.51 KB)
Florida Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.05 KB)
Georgia Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.3 KB)
Guam Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (174.18 KB)
Hawaii Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (191.79 KB)

States I-M

Idaho Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (205.1 KB)
Illinois Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (205.97 KB)
Indiana Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (204.94 KB)
Iowa Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (204.58 KB)
Kansas Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.28 KB)
Kentucky Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (183.39 KB)
Louisiana Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.18 KB)
Maine Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (186.01 KB)
Maryland Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.3 KB)
Massachusetts Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (184.14 KB)
Michigan Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (179.83 KB)
Minnesota Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (186.04 KB)
Mississippi Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.57 KB)

Missouri Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180 KB)
Montana Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (184.75 KB)

States N-P

Nebraska Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.85 KB)
Nevada Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.68 KB)
New Hampshire Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.61 KB)
New Jersey Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (179.8 KB)
New Mexico Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.18 KB)
New York Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (173.24 KB)
North Carolina Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.56 KB)
North Dakota Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.49 KB)
Ohio Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.94 KB)
Oklahoma Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.99 KB)
Oregon Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.97 KB)
Pennsylvania Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (197.8 KB)
Puerto Rico Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (176.3 KB)

States R-W

Rhode Island Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (178.42 KB)
South Carolina Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.66 KB)
South Dakota Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.07 KB)
Tennessee Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (196.1 KB)
Texas Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.75 KB)
U.S. Virgin Islands Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (176.12 KB)
Utah Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (179.61 KB)
Vermont Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.75 KB)
Virginia Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.12 KB)
Washington Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.62 KB)
West Virginia Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (181.15 KB)
Wisconsin Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.69 KB)
Wyoming Updates - IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions (180.56 KB)

Live version as of 2/20/2025

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Oops! File Not Found

Perhaps you were looking for one of these areas?

Programs & Services (/programs-services)

All Programs (/programs-services/all-programs)

Loan Turn Times (/page/sfh-guaranteed-lender)

Lender Training (/page/usda-linc-training-resource-library)

Newsroom (/newsroom)

News Releases (/newsroom/news-releases)

Stakeholder Announcements (/newsroom/stakeholder-announcements)

Funding Opportunities (/newsroom/federal-funding-opportunities)

Resources (/resources)

Publications (/resources/publications)

Regulations and Guidance (/resources/regulations)

Handbooks (/resources/directives/handbook

Still need help? Try our general contact information (/browse-state) or email rdwebmaster@usda.gov (mailto:rdwebmaster@usda.gov) for technical assistance.

EXHIBIT J

Archived version as of 1/22/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250122220929/https://www.usda.gov...

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Climate Solutions

SHARE:



Climate change presents real threats to U.S. agricultural production, forest resources, and rural economies. Producers and land managers across the country are experiencing climate impacts through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfire.

Climate Change Affects U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities

Climate change presents real threats to U.S. agricultural production, forest resources, and rural economies. Producers and land managers across the country are experiencing climate

impacts on their operations through shifting weather patterns and increasingly frequent and severe storms, floods, drought, and wildfire.

Learn more

These threats have significant implications—not just for farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners—but also for surrounding communities and all Americans.

The Department is developing a comprehensive strategy centered on voluntary incentives that is inclusive for all agricultural producers, landowners, and communities, and that builds on the 90-Day Progress Report on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (PDF, 561 KB).

Additionally, USDA's Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience outlines action items to address the most significant climate risks to agriculture, forestry, and rural communities.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment details how climate change is affecting various land uses in different regions of the United States.

Agriculture Plays a Critical Role in Delivering Climate Change Solutions

The American agriculture sector has an incredible potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and deliver lasting solutions to the climate crisis.

America's producers are already leading the way. In recent years, carbon stored in cultivated cropland soils increased by more than 8.8 million tons annually (PDF, 1.9 MB) thanks to their voluntary conservation efforts. Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are ready, and USDA offers resources to help.

Learn more

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial assistance and one-on-one technical support to assist producers in implementing climate-smart conservation practices such as no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and silvopasture. This empowers producers to both strengthen their operation's resilience to climate-related disaster events while leveraging their land's potential to sequester and store carbon, thereby delivering lasting climate solutions.

A suite of resources for agricultural producers and conservation partners is available at farmers.gov/climate-smart. Producers may contact the NRCS office at their local USDA Service Center to learn more.

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Funding Opportunity

USDA is investing up to $2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity, with projects from the second funding pool to be announced later this year. This effort will increase the competitive advantage of U.S. agriculture both domestically and internationally, build wealth that stays in rural communities, and support a diverse range of producers and operation types.

Learn more

On February 7, 2022, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture would invest $1 billion in partnerships to expand market opportunities for climate-smart commodities and support America's climate-smart farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. Because of the unprecedented demand and interest in Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, and the potential for

meaningful opportunities to benefit producers through the proposals, USDA has tripled this commitment to more than $3 billion. On September 14, 2022, Secretary Vilsack announced USDA is investing up to $2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first funding pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity, with projects from the second funding pool to be announced later this year.

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will finance pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products that use climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective ways to measure and verify greenhouse gas benefits. USDA is **no longer accepting project applications** for this funding opportunity.

This funding opportunity defines climate-smart commodities as being produced using agricultural (farming, ranching, or forestry) practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Funding will be provided to partners through the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation for pilot projects. Spanning up to five years, the 70 projects announced on September 14 will:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate-smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working lands;
- Pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and
- Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

USDA anticipates that these 70 projects will result in:

- **Hundreds of expanded markets and revenue streams** for producers and commodities across agriculture ranging from traditional corn to specialty crops.
- **More than 50 thousand farms reached, encompassing over 20-25 million acres of working land** engaged in climate-smart production practices such as cover crops, no-till and nutrient management.
- **More than 50 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent sequestered over the lives of the projects.** This is equivalent to removing more than 10 million gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road for one year.
- **More than 50 universities, including multiple minority-serving institutions, engaged** and helping advance projects, especially with outreach and monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification.

- Proposals for the 70 selected projects include plans to **match on average over 50% of the federal investment with nonfederal funds.**

This infographic (PNG, 1.0 MB) includes additional metrics on projects from the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities first funding pool.

Visit www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities for additional information, including details on the two funding pools and the full list of projects announced in September 2022.

Combatting the Causes and Effects of Climate Change

Since January 2021, USDA has announced a suite of updates to the Department's programs, positioning farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and rural communities to be leaders in emissions reductions and carbon sequestration and supporting them in managing the impacts of climate change.

Learn more

Reports and Strategies

- A 90-Day Progress Report on a Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Strategy, which provides recommendations and next steps to support the Department in implementing climate solutions in ways that build strong communities, fair markets, and are inclusive of all Tribes and stakeholders.
- The Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (PDF, 813 KB) (USDA's Adaptation Plan) describes how USDA will integrate climate adaptation into its mission, programs, operations, and management. The USDA Climate Hubs will continue to play a leading role across USDA to put "Adaptation in Action" by connecting science and practice and through tailored outreach activities.
- USDA Agency's Climate Adaptation Plans identify the risks climate change poses to their missions, and actions they will take to manage these risks to better help agricultural producers, forest landowners, and communities across the country face the effects of a changing climate.

Visit www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-adaptation-usda to learn more about climate risks and USDA's actions.

- The Biden-Harris Administration released the Nature-Based Solutions Roadmap (PDF, 1.3 MB) in November 2022, an outline of strategic recommendations to unlock the potential of nature-based solutions to address climate change, nature loss, and inequity. A companion document, The Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide: Compendium of Federal Examples, Guidance, Resource Documents, Tools and Technical Assistance (PDF, 850 KB) includes examples of nature-based solutions and over 150 resources, including those from USDA.

Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

- Expanded conservation program opportunities to support climate-smart agriculture in 2022, including nationwide availability of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Conservation Incentive Contracts option, a new and streamlined EQIP Cover Crop Initiative, and added flexibilities for producers to easily re-enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program.
- $50 million invested in 118 partnerships to expand access to conservation assistance for climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements, administered by NRCS, will fund 2-year projects to expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are new to farming, low income, socially disadvantaged, or military veterans.
- $10 million invested in NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program to support climate-smart conservation practices in 10 target States in fiscal year 2021, with lessons learned informing a national rollout planned for fiscal year 2022.
- A suite of updates to the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program to bolster program effectiveness and target climate impacts. Updates include higher payment rates, new incentives, a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation, and the CRP Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative to quantify the program's climate benefits.
- $5 per acre premium support for agricultural producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the

2021 crop year through the Risk Management Agency's Pandemic Cover Crop Program.

- $330 million invested in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships to address climate change, improve the Nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in 2021. Additionally, $75 million invested in RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (RCCP AFA) focused on climate-smart agriculture and forestry and other conservation priorities as well as improving access for historically underserved producers.
- $225 million allocated for RCPP in 2022, with project proposals for RCCP Classic and RCCP AFA accepted through April 13, 2022.
- $15 million invested to support the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation with a focus on climate-smart strategies through the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants program, and $25 million for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials. These projects will increase the adoption of new approaches and technologies to help agricultural producers mitigate the effects of climate change, increase the resilience of their operations, and boost soil health.
- Post Application Coverage Endorsement (PACE), a new crop insurance option announced through USDA's Risk Management Agency, helps corn farmers in select locations improve conservation efforts while gaining efficiencies and reducing costs by specifically supporting the practice of "split application."
- $285 million invested to support the USDA Forest Service (FS) in improving national forest and grassland infrastructure through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund.
- $218 million invested to fund Great American Outdoors Act projects that conserve critical forest and wetland habitat, support rural economic recovery, and increase public access to national forests and grasslands.
- $15 million invested in FS grants to develop and expand the use of wood products, strengthen emerging wood energy markets, and protect community forests.

Research and Education

- $10 million invested through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in a new program area priority called, "Extension, Education, and USDA Climate Hub Partnerships." Funds support training for the next generation of agriculturalists and foresters to incorporate climate change research into their management practices.

Environmental Justice

- $50 million invested for Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements that support historically underserved farmers and ranchers in implementation of climate-smart agriculture and forestry conservation practices.

Biofuels and Renewable Energy

- $26 million invested in biofuel infrastructure to expand availability of higher-blend renewable fuels in 23 States and increase the availability of biofuels by 822 million gallons annually through the Rural Development (RD) Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.
- $464 million invested in RD's Rural Energy for America Program and Electric Loan Program to support climate-smart solutions that lower energy costs in 48 States and Puerto Rico.

USDA Resources and Tools

USDA offers a variety of resources and tools to support farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, partners, and rural communities in making informed, science-based decisions to support climate change mitigation and build climate resilience.

Learn more

USDA Climate Hubs

USDA's Climate Hubs deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies—in partnership with USDA agencies and partners—to enable climate-

informed decision making, reduce agricultural risk, and build resilience to climate change. Since 2014, the 10 regional Climate Hubs have helped farmers, ranchers, forest and land managers, and rural communities plan for and manage weather- and climate-related risks and vulnerabilities. The Climate Hubs translate climate science to action to ensure producers and land managers have useful and actionable information about climate change and its impacts to support adaptation, mitigation, and resilience efforts.

The Hubs provide:

- Tools, technologies, and resources.
- Regional assessments of risk and vulnerability and user-friendly information and data.
- Outreach, education, engagement, and technical support. Tools, technologies, and resources. Regional assessments of risk and vulnerability and user-friendly information and data.

Learn More

COMET Farm

USDA offers a carbon and greenhouse gas accounting system, COMET-Farm, to help producers quantify their operation's carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction potentials based on multiple management scenarios. COMET-Farm estimates the carbon footprint for all or part of an agricultural operation and allows producers to evaluate a diversity of management decisions. No prior training is needed to use this online tool.

Learn More

COMET-Planner

USDA offers the COMET-Planner Tool to support carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas mitigation evaluations specific to conservation practices implemented through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Learn More

Climate Change Resource Center

The USDA Forest Service's Climate Change Resource Center provides a suite of tools that are intended to help land managers incorporate climate change and carbon stewardship into their decision-making. Available tools range from specialized calculators to maps or models covering a variety of scales and geographical regions.

Learn More

USDA Office of Energy and Environmental Policy

USDA's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy (OEEP) coordinates agricultural, rural, and forestry-related climate change program and policy issues across USDA. OEEP houses the Office of Climate Change Program Office (CCPO), which ensures that USDA is a source of objective, analytical assessments of the effects of climate change and proposed response strategies.

Learn More

Farmers.gov Resources for Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

USDA offers voluntary programs and services to help agricultural producers and land managers build soil health, sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

enhance productivity and commodity marketability, and mitigate the impacts of climate change while building resilience to strengthen your operation.

Learn More

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Live version as of 2/20/2025

U.S. Department of Agriculture

You are not authorized to access this page.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

EXHIBIT K

Archived version as of 1/17/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction...

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know



Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act represents the single largest investment in climate and clean energy solutions in American history.

Inflation Reduction Act assistance is available through NRCS' oversubscribed conservation programs for agricultural producers. NRCS accepts producer applications for its conservation programs year-round, but for fiscal year 2024 funding, producers interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program or Conservation Stewardship Program should apply by their state's ranking dates to be considered for funding in the current cycle.

- State application ranking dates (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ranking-dates)

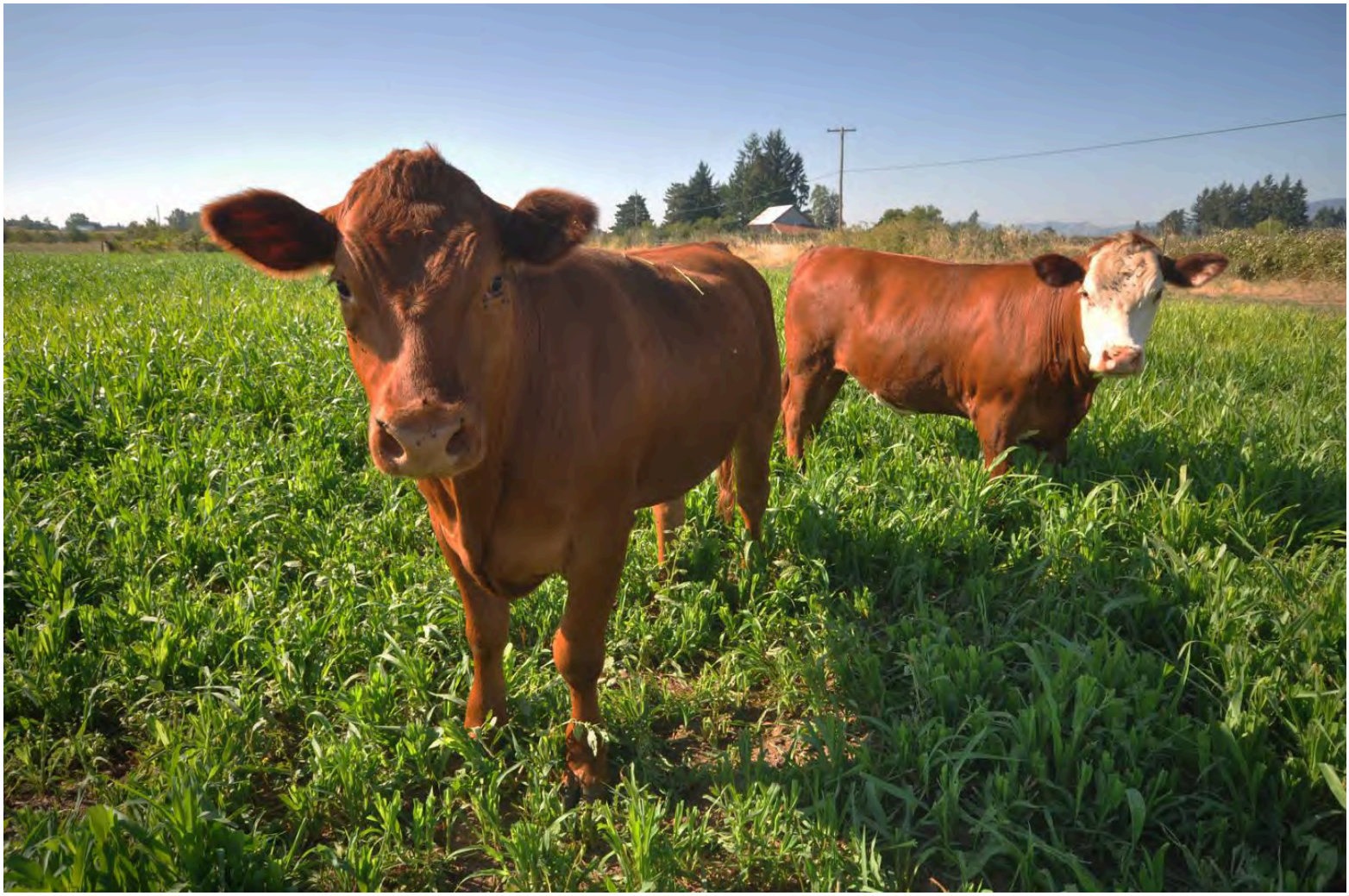
Funding is provided through a competitive process and will include an opportunity to address the unmet demand from producers who have previously sought funding for climate-smart conservation activities. Those applications that were not previously funded, and those that are received after the ranking date, will automatically be considered during future funding cycles.

Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Data

For fiscal year 2024, NRCS released data showing it supported more than 23,000 climate-focused conservation contracts funded by the Inflation Reduction Act covering over 11 million acres, contributing to the highest total investment in private lands conservation in any year in NRCS history. The agency released final fiscal year 2024 state-by-state data (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer) showing where investments went from the Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act. See the December 4, 2024, news

release (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-sets-record-investment-in-private-lands-conservation-in-2024).

For fiscal year 2025, NRCS is releasing data as it becomes available. See the latest fiscal year 2025 data (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://publicdashboards.dl.usda.gov/t/FPAC_PUB/views/FY24IRAReport/FY24IRADashboard?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y) in the tool.



Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool

State-by-state data showing investments by fiscal year for the Inflation Reduction Act and Farm Bill.

ACCESS THE TOOL →

Inflation Reduction Act Investments

The Inflation Reduction Act provides an additional $19.5 billion over five years to support USDA's conservation programs that yield climate change mitigation benefits. Implementation began in 2023. These investments mean that more producers will have access to conservation assistance and include:

- $8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/2)
- $4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/22)
- $3.25 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/23)
- $1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/91)
- $1 billion for Conservation Technical Assistance (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-technical-assistance)
- $300 million to measure, evaluate, quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions from conservation investments (see fact sheet (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/nrcs-ira-mmrv-factsheet-23.pdf))

For fiscal year 2025, which began Oct. 1, 2024, the Inflation Reduction Act provides:

- $2.8 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/2)
- $1.4 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/22)
- $943 million for the Conservation Stewardship Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/23)
- $472 million for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/91)

This is in addition to the $2 billion available for these programs through the Farm Bill, including $860 million for EQIP, $600 million for CSP, $450 million for ACEP, and $250 million for RCPP. These additional funds will help farmers and ranchers implement expanded conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase storage of carbon in their soil and trees. The conservation funding is in addition to otherwise available program funds, and participation is voluntary, incentive-based and targeted to support climate-smart mitigation activities and other conservation activities that facilitate them.

NRCS Continues to Expand Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities

NRCS released an updated list of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/NRCS-CSAF-Mitigation-Activities-List.pdf) eligible for Inflation Reduction Act funding in fiscal year 2025, which includes 14 new activities. NRCS also released the NRCS Conservation Practices and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Information dashboard (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://publicdashboards.dl.usda.gov/t/FPAC_PUB/views/NRCSConservationPracticesandGreenhouseGasMitigation/MitigationSummaries?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y#3) sharing the expected mitigation benefits and science-based estimation approach for listed practices.

These in-demand activities are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon sequestration, as well as provide significant other benefits to natural resources like soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality. In response to feedback received from conservation partners, producers and NRCS staff across the country, NRCS considered and evaluated activities based on scientific literature demonstrating expected climate change mitigation benefits.

When applied appropriately, these activities are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon sequestration. NRCS will continue to evaluate additional practices based on available scientific literature and improve its estimation approaches.

To learn more, see the:

- *Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities and Additional Planner Guidance* (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/NRCS-CSAF-Mitigation-Activities-List.pdf)
- *NRCS Conservation Practices and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Information dashboard* (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://publicdashboards.dl.usda.gov/t/FPAC_PUB/views/NRCSConservationPracticesandGreenhouseGasMitigation/MitigationSummaries?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y#3)
- Frequently Asked Questions (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/faqs-climate-smart-agriculture-and-forestry-mitigation-activities-and-inflation)
- *The Role of Agriculture in Climate Change Mitigation* (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-

07/USDA_ClimateChangeMitigation_Brochure_24.pdf)

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Fiscal Year 2025 State-Led Funding Cycles

NRCS accepts applications year-round for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE). Interested producers, landowners, and partners should apply by the next two ranking dates, **Oct. 4, 2024**, or **Dec. 20, 2024**, at their local NRCS office, to be considered for these two state-led funding cycles. In addition, any application submitted to NRCS that was unfunded in fiscal year 2024 will be automatically re-considered during the October 4 funding cycle.

In fiscal year 2025, states will receive Inflation Reduction Act funding and all eligible applications within a state will compete. The current ACEP priorities for the Inflation Reduction Act funding are unchanged from last fiscal year and are available in all states. Depending on location, NRCS may also have a state-specific priority. The Inflation Reduction Act funding is in addition to the funding authorized and available under the Farm Bill.

Project Selections

On March 13, 2024, NRCS announced it will invest about $138 million of financial assistance from the Inflation Reduction Act in 138 new climate-smart conservation easements (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/agricultural-producers-to-conserve-land-through-climate-smart-easements-as-part-of-presidents), through which farmers and ranchers are conserving wetlands, grasslands and prime farmlands.

Expansion of priorities for the ACEP investments

NRCS expanded the national priority areas eligible for Inflation Reduction Act funding for ACEP (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/group/91) easements in fiscal year 2024.

For ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ALE), NRCS is currently prioritizing securing:

- Grasslands in areas of highest risk for conversion to non-grassland uses to prevent the release of soil carbon stores.
- Agricultural lands under threat of conversion to non-agricultural uses.
- State-specific priorities including rice cultivation on subsiding highly organic soils.

For ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE), NRCS is currently prioritizing:

- Land with soils high in organic carbon.
- Eligible lands that will be restored to and managed as forests like bottomland hardwood forests.
- Eligible lands in existing forest cover that will be managed as forests.
- Several geographically specific priorities (i.e., former cranberry bogs, wet meadows, and ephemeral wetlands in grassland ecosystems).

For more information, see our factsheet, The Agricultural Conservation Easements Program and the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/NRCS_IRA_ACEP_Factsheet_23.pdf).

Building Capacity

Right now, we're increasing staff to help implement the Inflation Reduction Act (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/node/3806). NRCS plans to hire up to 4,000 new staff members as well as work with conservation partners to hire nearly 3,000 staff members to help producers develop conservation plans and implement conservation practices, including critical climate-smart practices. Go to USAjobs.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?a=AG16) and search for "NRCS" or "Natural Resources Conservation Service" to find the latest openings.

Streamlining Programs

To strengthen implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, NRCS is improving its programs, including RCPP and ACEP.

For RCPP, NRCS has identified ways to streamline and simplify RCPP, ease the burden on employees and partners, and help maximize flexibility for partners to leverage their investments with NRCS resources and capabilities. Through a concerted effort since early 2023, using guidance, feedback and expertise from partners, employees, leadership and stakeholders, NRCS has identified several improvements that the agency will implement in the months and years ahead. Learn more about the RCPP improvement effort (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/improvements-to-the-regional).

For ACEP, NRCS is updating its processes around appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements. These changes are for ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) as well as Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). Learn more about ACEP improvements (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-available-historic-3-billion-for-climate-smart-practices).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Quantification

To better understand and estimate the climate mitigation impacts of climate-smart conservation practices, the Inflation Reduction Act invests $300 million over eight years. The work supports USDA's broader Measuring, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MMRV) efforts. See Greenhouse Gas Quantification and the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act/greenhouse-gas-quantification-and-the-inflation-reduction-act).

See farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation who are adopting climate-smart conservation practices with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act.

SEE THE MAP →

More Information

Blogs

Inflation Reduction Act in Action Blog Series:

- Helping Stabilize Agricultural Land in Southeastern Colorado (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-helping-stabilize-agricultural-land-in-southeastern-colorado) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Baca_24.pdf))
- Utah Ranchers Utilize Cover Crops to Improve Soil Health (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-utah-ranchers-utilize-cover-crops-improve-soil-health) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Utah%20Ranchers%20Utilize%20Cover%20Crops%20to%20Improve%20Soil%20Health.pdf))
- Kentucky Tree-Farming Family Fights Invasives and Aids Woodland Recovery (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-kentucky-tree-farming-family-fights-invasives-and-aids) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_KentuckyTree-Farming%20Family.pdf))
- Family in Nebraska Restores and Protects Land at Risk Near Nine Mile Prairie (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-family-in-nebraska-restores-and-protects-land-at-risk-near) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Oberg_24.pdf))
- Houston Landowner Chooses Protection Versus Development (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-houston-landowner-chooses-protection-versus-development) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Towle_24.pdf))
- Alaska Native Producers See New Growth on Afognak Island (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-alaska-native-producers-see-new-growth-on-afognak-island) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Afognak_24.pdf))
- Funding Helps Wisconsin Producers Make Their Farm the Best it Can Be (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-funding-helps-wisconsin-producers-make-their-farm-best-it) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Dittman_24.pdf))
- NRCS Helps Family Farm Boldly Invest in Their Future (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-nrcs-helps-family-farm-boldly-invest-in-their-future) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Slosberg_24.pdf))

- Energy Efficiencies Help Farmer Lower Costs While Protecting His Flock (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-energy-efficiencies-help-farmer-lower-costs-while-protecting) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/Farmers_IRAinAction_factsheet_Indiana.pdf))
- Funding Drives Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency on Maine Potato Farm (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-funding-drives-climate-change-mitigation-and-resiliency-on) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Peabody_24-web.pdf))
- Small Farm Making Big Changes That Benefit Idaho Community (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-small-farm-making-big-changes-that-benefit-idaho-community) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_McAleese_24-web.pdf))
- Funding Allows Montana Family Farm to Flourish through Climate-Smart Practices (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-funding-allows-montana-family-farm-flourish-through-climate) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/IRAinAction_Montana_NRCS.pdf))
- A 21st Century Solution to Saving the Family Farm (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-21st-century-solution-saving-family-farm) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/IRAinAction_Virginia_NRCS.pdf))
- Sovereign Nation Weaves Funding into Conservation Restoration (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-sovereign-nation-weaves-funding-into-conservation) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Sovereign%20Nation%20Weaves%20Funding.pdf))
- A Beginning Farmer's Journey with Conservation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-beginning-farmers-journey-with-conservation) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_HEINE_24.pdf))
- A Forester in Massachusetts Comes Back to His Roots (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-forester-in-massachusetts-comes-back-his-roots) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Liu_24.pdf))
- Protecting Family Land as Old as Minnesota (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-protecting-family-land-as-old-as-minnesota) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Meinke_24.pdf))
- Texas/Oklahoma Rancher Turns Her Cropland Back to Grass (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-texasoklahoma-rancher-turns-her-cropland-back-grass) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_NineStotts_24.pdf))
- Bell Rock Livestock Association Partners with USDA to Keep Traditions Alive (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-bell-rock-livestock-association-partners-with-usda-keep) (PDF Version (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_BELLROCK_24.pdf))
- Funding Makes Georgia Farmer's Dream Come True (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-funding-makes-georgia-farmers-dream-come-true) (PDF Version) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Hightower_24_1.pdf)

- Sustainable Agriculture Drives Conservation Goals on Pennsylvania Farm (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/inflation-reduction-act-in-action-sustainable-agriculture-drives-conservation-goals-on) (PDF Version) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/FARMERS_IRAinAction_FACTSHEET_Daniels_24_0.pdf)

Blog by the NRCS Chief:

- Turning Your Feedback Into Action on the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/blog/turning-your-feedback-into-action-on-inflation-reduction-act)

Fact Sheets

- NRCS and the Inflation Reduction Act FY2024 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/NRCS%20and%20the%20Inflation%20Reduction%20Act%20Fiscal%20Year%202024.pdf)
- The Role of Agriculture in Climate Change Mitigation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/USDA_ClimateChangeMitigation_Brochure_24.pdf)
- Accelerating Climate Solutions on Livestock Operations through the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/202405-NRCS-FactSheet-IRA_LivestockOperations.pdf)
- NRCS and the Inflation Reduction Act FY2023 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/NRCS%20and%20the%20Inflation%20Reduction%20Act%20FY2023.pdf)
- The Agricultural Conservation Easements Program and the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/NRCS_IRA_ACEP_Factsheet_23.pdf)
- Inflation Reduction Act Investments by State (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-investments-by-state)
- Harnessing the Inflation Reduction Act to Further Support:
    - Forest Landscapes (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/NRCS_IRA_Forests_Factsheet_23_FINAL.pdf)
    - Grasslands (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/NRCS_IRA_Grassland_Factsheet_23_FINAL.pdf)
    - Wetlands (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/NRCS_IRA_Wetlands_Factsheet_23_FINAL.pdf)
    - Western Agricultural Landscapes (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/nrcs-western-water-and-ira-fact-sheet.pdf)
        - Translations: 中文 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_TRA_CHI.pdf) | Hmoob (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_HMO.pdf) | 한국어 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_KOR.pdf) | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_PUN.pdf) | Español (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_SPA.pdf) | ไทย (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_THAI_0.pdf) | Tiếng

Việt (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Harnessing%20the%20IRA%20to%20Support%20Western%20Agricultural%20Landscapes_VIET.pdf)

- USDA Investment in Improved GHG Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification for Agriculture and Forestry through the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/nrcs-ira-mmrv-factsheet-23.pdf)
- NRCS Conservation Programs and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act.pdf)
    - Translations: 中文 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Traditional%20Chinese.pdf) | Hmoob (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Hmong.pdf) | 한국어 (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Korean_0.pdf) | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Punjabi_0.pdf) | Español (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Spanish_0.pdf) | ไทย (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Thai.pdf) | Tiếng Việt (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/nrcs-conservation-programs-and-the-inflation-reduction-act_Vietnamese.pdf)

News Releases

- December 4, 2024: Biden-Harris Administration Sets Record Investment in Private Lands Conservation in 2024 Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-sets-record-investment-in-private-lands-conservation-in-2024)
- October 23, 2024: USDA Invests $1.5 Billion in 92 Partnership Projects to Advance Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture as Part of the Biden-Harris Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-invests-15-billion-in-92-partnership-projects-to-advance-conservation-and-climate-smart)
- October 2, 2024: Biden-Harris Administration Makes up to $7.7 Billion Available for Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands as Part of Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-up-to-7.7-Billion-Available)
- July 12, 2024: USDA Announces Progress in Efforts to Improve Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/news/usda-announces-progress-in-efforts-to-improve-measurement-monitoring-reporting-and)
- April 3, 2024: USDA Makes $1.5 Billion Available to Help Farmers Advance Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture as Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nrcs.usda.gov%2Fnews%2Fusda-makes-15-billion-available-to-help-farmers-advance-conservation-and-climate-smart&data=05%7C02%7Cnancy.mcniff%40usda.gov%7C9e8d4a310fff4e9fa80108dc58b04111%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638482761219618521%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yOgoO7N5ALgJTniUb%2Fkxc4ftiv6S3MOs%2FihL50FAdgM%3D&reserved=0)
- March 13, 2024: Agricultural Producers to Conserve Land through Climate-Smart Easements as part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/agricultural-producers-to-conserve-land-through-climate-smart-easements-as-part-of-president)

- February 13, 2024: USDA Makes Record Investment in Private Lands Conservation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-record-investment-in-private-lands-conservation-as-part-of)
- February 5, 2024: USDA Celebrates 10 Years of Climate Hubs as Biden-Harris Administration Leads Historic Climate Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate/news/usda-celebrates-10-years-of-climate-hubs)
- Sept. 28, 2023: Biden-Harris Administration Makes Available Historic $3 Billion for Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands Through Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-available-historic-3-billion-for-climate-smart-practices)
- August 31, 2023: USDA Invests $65 Million for Conservation and Climate Action on Private Lands as Part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-invests-65-million-for-conservation-and-climate-action-on-private-lands-as-part-of-the)
- June 27, 2023: USDA Announces Historic Investment in Wildlife Conservation, Expands Partnership to Include Additional Programs (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-announces-historic-investment-in-wildlife-conservation-expands-partnership-to-include)
- June 23, 2023: USDA Hiring Engineers, Natural Resource Specialists Nationwide to Strengthen Inflation Reduction Act Implementation, Enhance Agricultural Conservation (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-hiring-engineers-natural-resource-specialists-nationwide-to-strengthen-inflation)
- May 19, 2023: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of $500 Million for Improved Regional Conservation Partnership Program to Better Support Partners, Producers as Part of Investing in America Agenda (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-of-500-million-for-improved-regional)
- May 5, 2023: USDA Opens Full-Time, Entry-Level Soil Conservationist Positions across U.S. as Part of Broader Effort to Implement the Inflation Reduction Act (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-opens-full-time-entry-level-soil-conservationist-positions-across-us-as-part-of-broader)
- February 13, 2023: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate-Smart Agriculture Nationwide (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-of-inflation-reduction-act-funding-for)

Data

- Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer)

FAQs

- Frequently Asked Questions: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities and Inflation Reduction Act Funding (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/faqs-climate-smart-agriculture-and-forestry-mitigation-activities-and-inflation)

Webinars

- Fiscal Year 2025 Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities List Webinar (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS7zxPAEwRs&list=PL4J8PxoprpGYHBzvdJnL9PsjOF2PMsCM4&index=4)

Webpages

- Farmers.gov: Inflation Reduction Act Investments in USDA Programs (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments)

Related News & Events

PRESS RELEASE

Biden-Harris Administration Sets Record Investment in Private Lands Conservation in 2024 Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act

December 04, 2024

(/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-sets-record-investment-in-private-lands-conservation-in-2024)

PRESS RELEASE

Biden-Harris Administration Makes up to $7.7 Billion Available for Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands as Part of Investing in America Agenda

October 02, 2024

(/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-up-to-7.7-Billion-Available)

PRESS RELEASE

Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Fiscal Year 2025 Funding for Agricultural Conservation Easements through the Investing in America Agenda

September 04, 2024

(/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-fiscal-year-2025-funding-for-agricultural)

VIEW MORE NEWS (/WEB/20250117181054/HTTPS://WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/NEWS)

VIEW MORE EVENTS (/WEB/20250117181054/HTTPS://WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/EVENTS)

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA

Ask.USDA.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://ask.usda.gov/s/)

1-833-ONE-USDA (tel:8336638732)

askusda@usda.gov (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

ASK A QUESTION (HTTPS://WEB.ARCHIVE.ORG/WEB/20250117181054/HTTPS://ASK.USDA.GOV/S/)

da.gov/accessibility-statement)

Non-Discrimination Statement (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/non-discrimination)

Resources

OneFPAC - Employee Links (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/employees)

eDirectives (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/edirectives)

Glossary (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.usda.gov/glossary)

USDA CARES Partner Portal (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.usda.gov/partner-portal)

No Fear Act Data (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/no-fear-act)

Open Government (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.usda.gov/open)

Plain Writing (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.usda.gov/plain-writing)

Report Fraud on USDA Contract (https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/resources/contractor-fraud)

Sitemap (/web/20250117181054/https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sitemap.xml)

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Stay updated on the latest news and stories from NRCS and other USDA topics.

(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/mailto:askusda@usda.gov)
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://facebook.com/usdanrcs
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://twitter.com/USDA_NRC
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.flickr.com/photos/
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.youtube.com/theu
(https://web.archive.org/web/20250117181054/https://www.linkedin.com/comp
resources-conservation-service/)

Live version as of 2/20/2025

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know



403 - Access Denied

This page is not available.

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA

Ask.USDA.gov (https://ask.usda.gov/USDA 1-833-ONE- (tel:8336638732) askusda@usda.gov (mailto:askusda

s/) @usda.gov)

ASK A QUESTION (HTTPS://ASK.USDA.GOV/S/)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (HTTPS://USDA.GOV)

Policies and Statements

FOIA (/foia)

Information Quality (/information-quality)

Our Performance (/performace)

Privacy Policy (/privacy)

Accessibility Statement (https://www.usda.gov/accessibility-statement)

Non-Discrimination Statement (/non-discrimination)

Related Sites

USDA.gov (https://usda.gov)

AskUSDA (https://ask.usda.gov/s/)

Office of the Inspector General (https://www.usda.gov/oig)

USA.gov (https://usa.gov)

WhiteHouse.gov (https://whitehouse.gov)

Resources

OneFPAC - Employee Links (/employees)

eDirectives (/edirectives)

Glossary (https://www.usda.gov/glossary)

No Fear Act Data (/no-fear-act)

Open Government (https://www.usda.gov/open)

Plain Writing (https://www.usda.gov/plain-writing)

Report Fraud on USDA Contract (https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/resources/contractor-fraud)

Sitemap (/sitemap.xml)

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Stay updated on the latest news and stories from NRCS and other USDA topics.

(mailto:askusda@usda.gov)

(https://facebook.com/usdanrcs)

(https://twitter.com/USDA_NRCS)

(https://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/collections/7215762

(https://www.youtube.com/theusdanrcs)

(https://www.linkedin.com/company/natural-resources-conservation-service/)

EXHIBIT L

Archived version as of 01/16/2025

The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20250116090749/https://www.rd.usda.gov/inf…
An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

Inflation Reduction Act

Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Rural Development

In August, Congress passed the Biden-Harris Administration's historic legislative package known as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to reduce energy costs for families and create thousands of good-paying jobs for people across rural America. IRA represents the largest single investment in rural electrification since the passage of the Rural Electrification Act in 1936. Sections 22001 through 22005 of IRA provide new loan and grant products and unprecedented incentives to expand clean energy, transform rural power production, create jobs, and spur economic growth to be offered by USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Rural Business and Cooperative Service (RBCS).

Funding Opportunities

White House Factsheet | **Rural Development in the Bill**

Frequently Asked Questions | **Events** | **IRA Pocket Guides**

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act Climate Crisis

The nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis. This historic investment in rural communities, expands clean energy and supports American energy independence, invests

in popular conservation programs and climate-smart agriculture, helps agricultural producers and rural small business owners make energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy investments to lower energy costs, generate new income and fosters economic opportunity.

Download full project chart

Download the White House Factsheet

Download the IRA Climate and Clean Energy Solutions Factsheets

Latest Webinars

Please visit our events page for upcoming and past webinar information.

Funding Notices

- 07/14/2023 - Rural Energy for America Program Technical Assistance | Federal Register Notice
- 06/28/2023 - Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program | Federal Register Notice
- 05/16/2023 - Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program | Federal Register Notice
- 05/16/2023 - Empowering Rural America (New ERA) Program | Federal Register Notice
- 03/31/2023 - Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants | Federal Register Notice
- 12/16/2022 - Section 22002: Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) | Federal Register Notice

IRA Programs

New programs made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act will support new jobs and healthier communities. These funding opportunities will help rural energy and utility providers bring affordable, reliable clean energy to their communities across the country. To learn more, read the full Summary of New Programs and the Rural Utilities Service IRA Presentation.



Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Over $2 billion for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement grants.

Learn More



Empowering Rural America New ERA Program

New ERA funding improves health outcomes and lower energy costs for people in rural communities.

Learn More



Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Program

PACE helps make clean, affordable, and reliable energy accessible to the people of rural America.



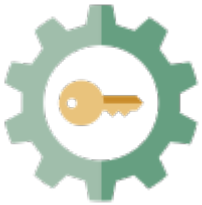
Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program

Competitive grants to eligible entities for activities designed to expand the

sales and use of renewable fuels.

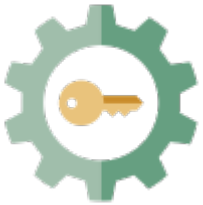
Learn More

Learn More



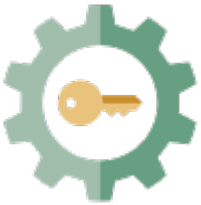
Events

View past and upcoming events.



IRA FAQs

View answers to frequently asked questions.



IRA Stakeholder Input

Learn more about IRA stakeholder input.

Stay up to Date

Sign up to receive updates for the Inflation Reduction Act.

Sign Up for Updates

Live version as of 2/20/2025

Oops! File Not Found

Perhaps you were looking for one of these areas?

Programs & Services (/programs-services)

All Programs (/programs-services/all-programs)

Loan Turn Times (/page/sfh-guaranteed-lender)

Lender Training (/page/usda-linc-training-resource-library)

Newsroom (/newsroom)

News Releases (/newsroom/news-releases)

Stakeholder Announcements (/newsroom/stakeholder-announcements)

Funding Opportunities (/newsroom/federal-funding-opportunities)

Resources (/resources)

Publications (/resources/publications)

Regulations and Guidance (/resources/regulations)

Handbooks (/resources/directives/handbooks)

Still need help? Try our general contact information (/browse-state) or email rdwebmaster@usda.gov (mailto:rdwebmaster@usda.gov) for technical assistance.