

Fact Sheet - February 2012

### Introduction

NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, reduce waste of critical water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. The website link below will take you to a list of all conservation programs offered by NRCS, including cost-share programs.

### Texas Conservation Programs

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

On the NRCS Texas website, you can find information specific to Texas conservation programs. There is county-specific and statewide information, including ranking criteria and resource concerns, for the following programs:

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)** <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/>

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to plan and implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP was reauthorized in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers EQIP. Funding for EQIP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

#### **FARM & RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP)** <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), formerly the Farmland Protection Program, is a voluntary conservation program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. This program provides funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, the

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) joins state, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements. The NRCS provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

#### **GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)** <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.

Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. A grazing management plan is required for participants.

#### **WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)** <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp.html>

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.

### More Information

For more information regarding conservation programs visit the NRCS Texas website at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov) or call the NRCS state office at 254.742.9800.

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