

Conservation Planning and Delivery



Every Successful Farm Starts with a Plan

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was born out of troubled times — the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s. Dust storms ravaged the nation's farmland, stripping away millions of tons of topsoil.

Helping People Help the Land

In response to this disaster, the Soil Conservation Service - today's NRCS - worked side-by-side with local conservation districts to assist farmers to help them recover and build sustainable farming solutions and boost the health of their soils through the latest science and research.

Now, more than 80 years later, we continue to champion science-based, locally led, voluntary conservation. With a highly trained workforce of more than 10,000 employees, partners and Technical Service Providers and a suite of financial assistance programs, our work and expertise have evolved to meet the needs of our broad customer base across all types of agricultural operations. Today, we help producers and landowners make investments in their operations and local communities to keep working lands working, boost rural economies, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture, and improve the quality of our plants, air, water, soil, livestock, and wildlife habitat.

NRCS helps America's producers meet the growing world demand for food, fuel, and fiber.

Foundation of Conservation

Our Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is the backbone of our assistance delivery system. It funds natural resource inventory, assessment, conservation planning and technical consultation, technology transfer, and conservation implementation.



Each farm and each acre is unique and requires tailored management; and every decision maker has different management concerns and needs. Our technical assistance is one-on-one, personalized advice and support to help producers and landowners make the best decisions for their lands — and is offered free of charge by NRCS.

This personalized assistance provides customers with the science-based data and tools to make informed decisions about where to target efforts to get the greatest return on their investment and ensure the long-term sustainability of their lands.

Watch

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presents a documentary on soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett, the history of our agency and the birth of the private lands conservation movement in the U.S.

[Hugh Hammond Bennett: The Story of America's Private Lands Conservation Movement](#)



More Information

Contact your local [USDA Service Center](#) to get started today.



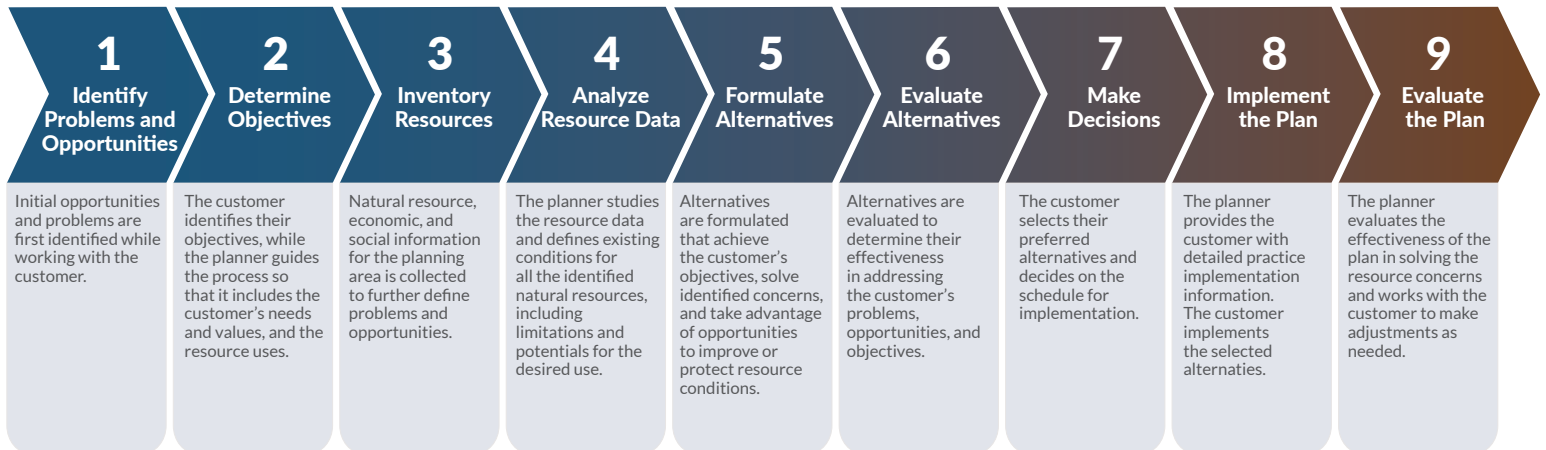
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HOW CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKS

A NINE-STEP PROCESS



Your Farm, Your Plan — The Final Decision is Yours

A comprehensive conservation plan is the first step to managing all the natural resources on your operation. We'll walk the property with you and work with you to develop options to address your needs. Our toolbox includes aerial photos, soil surveys, engineering solutions, and individual science-based analysis customized for your property.

The plan we develop together will combine existing production methods with recommended conservation practices to best manage your operation's unique natural resources, while allowing your operation to grow sustainably and productively.

Supported by our expert analysis and recommendations, you choose which option best meets your needs. These decisions become your conservation

THE FOLKS AT NRCS walked around the farm with us and we just kind of brainstormed and talked about what we wanted. Then they helped guide us in the programs that they had that would match what we wanted to accomplish. Our conservation plan gives us an enthusiasm and motivation for continuing to move forward in creating a dream that we want here.

—Theresa Lackey
Boone County, Missouri

plan: a step-by-step guide to reach your objectives. This planning process also makes it easier to identify how and when you could qualify for Farm Bill, Inflation Reduction Act, and other federal and state financial assistance to help you install conservation systems or receive incentives for trying new ones. Our friendly and professional staff will see you through the process.

Your conservation plan provides a roadmap for keeping your land healthy and productive for generations to come. It includes helpful information on each of your conservation practices, such as how they benefit your operation, how to maintain them, and

how they help your soil, water, and wildlife.

By developing a conservation plan and adding conservation to your operation, you will protect your land's ability to provide for your family, your community and future generations.

With nearly 3,000 offices in communities nationwide, NRCS employees and partners provide the information, tools, and delivery systems necessary for producers — in every state and territory — to conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.

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