



USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Pennsylvania 2007

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) No allocations announced yet!

- Administered by NRCS
- For practices that reduce financial risk to producers
- 75% cost-share, \$50,000 annual payment limit
- Open signup period, applications collected and ranked as funds are available
- Options: conversion to organic farming, new irrigation, IPM/pest management

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Administered by FSA
- For practices that reduce erosion and water pollution, benefit wildlife
- 50% cost-share, 10-15 year contracts to retire land
- Continuous signup as long as acreage cap has not been met
- Enhanced payments for wildlife benefits and higher water quality benefits
- Available in all 43 counties in Chesapeake Bay watershed and all 16 counties in Ohio River Watershed. Signups in original 20 counties in Bay watershed limited to Riparian Forest Buffers

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

- Administered by NRCS
- 5 to 10 year contracts to maintain conservation practices and activities, install new practices and enhancements
- Lower Juniata, Lower Delaware, Gunpowder-Patapsco watersheds selected for Pennsylvania for 2007
- nationally designated sign-up period not determined-dependent on budget

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) No allocations announced yet!

- Administered by NRCS
- For practices that reduce erosion, water & air pollution, benefit at risk species
- Incentive payments up to 75% of average cost, \$250,000 contracting limit per year in Pennsylvania
- Open signup period; applications collected and ranked as funds are available
- PA targets livestock, grazing, cropland erosion, conversion to no till, air quality/anaerobic digesters, wildlife habitat, nutrient management
- Pennsylvania NRCS offers a state Conservation Innovation Grant option

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) No allocations announced yet!

- Administered by NRCS
- For permanent conservation easements.
- National designated sign-up period not yet announced for 2006
- Applications must be unit of government, tribe or qualified private non-profit that can hold an easement

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)

- Administered by USDA Forest Service through PA State Bureau of Forestry
- 2007 Program is being developed
- PA Bureau of Forestry is local contact agency

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) No allocations announced yet!

- Jointly administered by FSA and NRCS
- 30-year or permanent easements, or 10, 15, 20 or 30 year rental agreements
- Land must be maintained in grass and can be grazed or hayed
- Open signup period; applications collected and ranked as funds are available
- Applications accepted from landowner (easement) or owner-operator (contracts)
- Conservation plan required
- Program funding cap was reached in FY2006

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) No allocations announced yet!

- Administered by NRCS
- For practices that benefit wildlife habitat
- Incentive payments up to 75% of average cost
- Continuous signup, applications collected and ranked as funds are available
- PA has targeted at risk wildlife, especially grass nesting species

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) No allocations announced yet!

- Administered by NRCS
- 30 year or permanent easements, or 10 year wetland restoration agreements
- Incentive payments to restore wetlands
- Continuous signup, applications collected and ranked as funds are available

For more information, see the Pennsylvania NRCS web site at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

Sign up for AMA, EQIP, WHIP and WRP by December 1, 2006 to be included in the first round of allocations. In past years most of all of program funds are allocated in this first round of rankings!

New work in 2007 for AMA, CSP, EQIP, FLEP, FRPP, GRP, WHIP, WRP cannot be signed before approval of funding in 2007 Federal Budget and allocation of funds for these programs.

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