

Farm Bill 2002 Conservation Program

FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

Key Points

Provides matching funds to organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easement from landowners

Assures that landowners retains all rights to use the property for agriculture

Allows for 30-year or perpetual easements

Key Changes

Expands eligible entities to include non-governmental organizations

Expands eligible land to include farmland and rangeland containing historical and archeological sites

Allows confidentiality of case file data
Allows for possible protection of historical and archeological resources on farms and ranches if:

(1) Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or (2) Formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or (3) Formally listed in the State or Tribal Register of Historic Places

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

Key Points

Targets achievement of the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled

Provides 3 program participation options:

10-year cost-share agreement restorations
30-year conservation easement restorations
Permanent easement restorations

Continues landowner's control of access non-developed recreational activities (such as hunting and fishing), and the right to lease recreational uses for financial gain

Key Change

Assures confidentiality of case file data

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Key Points

Allows for year-round application acceptance

Provides financial assistance for structural, vegetative, & management practices

Cost-shares up to 75% of the costs of structural practices

Key Changes

Allows use of EQIP funds in the 1st year of contract

Streamlines the application process

Eliminates animal unit cap on large confined livestock operations

Increases total payment amounts to \$450,000/individual over the life of the Farm Bill

Reduces contract minimum length
Eliminates producer "bid down" process

Increases funding for practices related to livestock production, including grazing land

Eliminates conservation priority areas

Assures confidentiality of case file data

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WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Key Points

Offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands (the majority of land in the U.S.)

Provides cost-share payments under 5 to 10 year agreements for upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife habitats

Provides cost-share payments for shorter term agreements for practices to meet wildlife emergencies

Key Changes

Allows increased cost-share for long-term agreements of at least 15 years

Assures confidentiality of case file data

WHO TO CONTACT



To learn more about these programs, or to schedule an appointment, please call 260-426-4637 ext.3 and request:

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NRCS

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Soil Conservationist,
NRCS

Cassandra Vondran
Resource Specialist,
IDNR, Division of Soil
Conservation

Greg Lake
District Director
Allen County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Or stop by the office at 3718
New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne,
IN 46845

Farm Bill 2002

Conservation Program Provisions

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES
PROGRAM

FARMLAND PROTECTION
PROGRAM

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Brought to you By:

**Natural Resource
Conservation Service**

&

**Allen County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

3718 New Vision Drive

Fort Wayne, IN 46845

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