



Taking Advantage of New Opportunities in the 2008 Farm Bill

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Exciting Times for Forest Owners

- 2008 Farm Bill



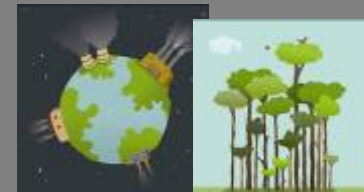
- USDA Secretary's Vision



- State Assessments & Strategies



- Emerging Opportunities with Carbon markets





Steps to USDA Conservation Assistance

1.

Create your Plan

2.

Sign-up with USDA

3.

Find a Program for you



Steps to USDA Conservation Assistance

1.

Create your
Plan



1. Create Your Plan – Work with a Professional Forester

- Forest Stewardship Plan
 - Meets planning requirements for FB programs
- Tree Farm Plan
 - Many states mutually recognize FSP & Tree Farm Plans
- MOU – Forest Service & Tree Farm





1. Create Your Plan – Additional Info Needed

- Description for each practice and an alternative
- Updated map with proposed practices
- Environmental Effects
 - Provide assessment and impacts to help USDA meet requirements
 - Ultimately USDA responsibility





Steps to USDA Conservation Assistance

2.

Sign-up with
USDA



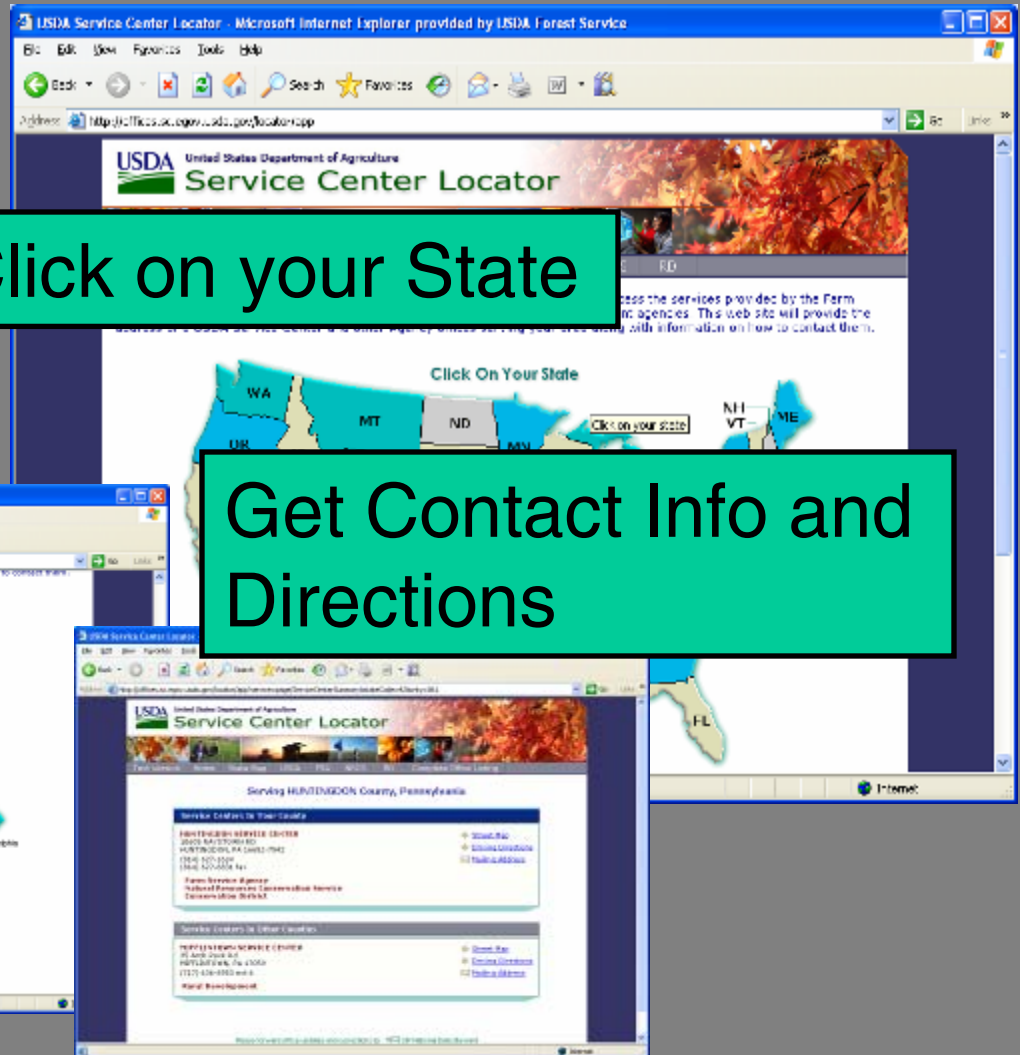
2. Sign-Up with USDA – Find a Service Center

Go to:
offices.usda.gov

Click on your State

Click on your County

Get Contact Info and Directions





2. Sign-Up with USDA - Eligibility

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Limitation

- Limits conservation benefits to persons or legal entities with avg. non-farm AGI less than \$1 million
- Exceptions: *unless 2/3 of average total AGI is from farming, ranching, or forestry*
- Limitation may be waived: *if environmentally sensitive land of special significance protecte*



2. Sign-up with USDA – Application Process

- Landowner forms at USDA Service Center:
 - *Adjusted Gross Income Statement*
 - *Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Determination*
- Landowner information: into *Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS ID)*
 - Name, address, etc.
 - Farm and Tract Number (need deed)
- Complete program application and submit to NRCS/FSA



Steps to USDA Conservation Assistance

3.

Find a Program
for you



3.

Find a Program for you

Working
Lands
Conservation





3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

NRCS

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

EQIP (NRCS)

- Nonindustrial private forest land (NIPF) is eligible
- Addresses natural resource concerns
- State Conservationist identifies priority resource concerns with advice of State Technical Committee.



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

EQIP (NRCS)

- Assistance for a wide range of forestry-related conservation practices
- Applications accepted throughout the year
- Participants enter into a contract to implement one or more practices



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

EQIP (NRCS)

- \$7.3 billion authorized for five years - \$1.3 billion in FY 2009
- 60% of funds to conservation practices related to livestock production
- Priorities/practices/processes vary by State – *see NRCS, participate on State Technical Committee*



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

WHIP (NRCS)

- Assistance to develop wildlife habitat, including T&E species.
- Eligibility Changes: private agric. land, **NIPF**, Tribal land, (govt. land NOT eligible)
- National and State level - can focus program on special areas, habitats, species (e.g., State-wide strategies for forest resources)



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

WHIP (NRCS)

- Funding authorized at \$85 million annually through 2012
- Priorities and processes vary by State – participate on State Technical Committee and contact NRCS for more information



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

CSP (NRCS)

- Focus is on additional conservation activities and to maintain, improve, manage existing activities
- Emphasis on NIPF (up to 10% of the acres enrolled nationally ~ 1.3 million acres)
- Applicants must:
 1. Meet the “stewardship threshold” for at least one resource concern and;
 2. Address one additional priority res. concern



3. Find a Program for You – Working Lands Conservation

CSP (NRCS)

- EQIP may be better option for some NIPF owners (significant resource concerns)
- 5-year contract and receive stewardship payments for “enhancements”
- Eligibility and conservation measurement tools still under development
- Comment period for Interim Final Rule ended 9/28



3.

Find a Program for you

Wood
Energy





3. Find a Program for You – Wood Energy

BCAP (FSA)

- Assistance for establishment, production, harvest, storage and transport of renewable biomass
- Requires:
 - Establishment of BCAP project areas
 - Producer contracts with USDA: NIPF is eligible
- Payments:
 - Contract payments to producers in BCAP
 - Delivery payments to collect or harvest eligible materials delivered to conversion facility in BCAP project area.



3.

Find a Program for you

Emergency Programs





4. Other Farm Bill Programs - Emergency Programs

EFRP (FSA)

- Available to NIPF owners to restore landscapes damaged by fire, drought, flood, & other natural disasters.
- Funding subject to appropriation.
- Funds available until expended. Up to 75% cost-share.
- Status – EIS and Rule not completed



Questions?

