

Benefits of a Conservation Plan

- Identifies immediate or potential problems that will result in resource degradation and diminished production.
- Protects soil and your land's productivity.
- Helps you comply with environmental regulations.
- Qualifies you for various USDA conservation programs that can help you implement your conservation plan.
- Adapts to your changing farm or ranch operational goals.
- Establishes a reasonable schedule for applying needed conservation practices that will fit your timetable and resources.



For More Information

To learn more about conservation planning, financial incentives, and how you can get help creating your own conservation plan, please visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in your local USDA Service Center or visit our Web site at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>



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Helping People Help the Land



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Conservation Planning



Investing in Our Future



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A conservation plan is the starting point for managing the natural resources on your farm or ranch while maintaining productive capacity and meeting individual objectives/goals. Every farm or ranch has its own unique natural resource concerns. Without the application of proper conservation systems and management, human activities may cause natural resource problems or concerns that may include:

- SOIL being washed into bodies of water;
- WATER quantity problems because of over-pumping ground water supplies, or water quality degradation because of polluted streams;
- AIR transporting livestock odors or soil particles;
- PLANTS overgrazed, the encroachment of invasive plant species, or the decline of wildlife habitat; and
- ANIMAL waste not managed properly.

A conservation plan combines your farming or ranching skills with the science-based knowledge and tools of the conservation planner. With Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) advice, landowners select the best combination of conservation practices to meet natural resource needs and individual management goals.

What Is a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan is a written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices and systems you plan to use and maintain on your farm. Carrying out your plan will achieve the goals of protecting the environment on and off your farm or ranch, as well as meeting your individual management



objectives. After soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources on your property are inventoried and evaluated, the Certified Conservation Planner will review several alternatives for you to consider. The alternatives you select are recorded in the conservation plan, which becomes your roadmap for better management of your natural resources.

A Conservation Plan Includes:

- Producer/landowner-determined objectives/goals;
- Aerial photograph or diagram of your fields;
- Soils map and soils descriptions;
- Resource inventory data which can include forage or crop production potential, or potential livestock-carrying capacity;
- List of your treatment decisions;
- Location and schedule for applying conservation practices and systems; and
- Plan of operation and maintenance of conservation practices and systems.

