



## Understanding the Basics of Federal & State Conservation Programs Resources

### Federal Conservation Programs

All USDA Agencies: <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/agencies>

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives>
  - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives>
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program>
- **Farm Service Agency (FSA):** <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/index>
  - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/>
- **Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC):** <https://www.usda.gov/ccc>
- **Academic & Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Resources**
  - Farmers' Guide to Conservation Stewardship Program: <https://sustainableagriculture.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CSP-2020-draft3-interactive-1-1.pdf>
  - *Farm Bill Conservation Programs: Swampbuster and Sodbuster*, The National Agricultural Law Center, Scout Snowden & Brigit Rollins (2020): <https://nalcprowpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/articles/Swampbuster-Sodbuster.pdf>
  - *Building Blocks: Basics of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program*, National Agricultural Law Center, Brigit Rollins (Sept. 15, 2022): <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/building-blocks-basics-of-the-agricultural-conservation-easement-program/>
  - *Overview of Federal and State Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Programs* (webinar), The National Agricultural Law Center, Ross Pifer (Sept. 15, 2021): <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/webinars-3/pace/>

### State Conservation Programs—Pennsylvania

- **Pa. State Conservation Commission (SCC):**  
[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/StateConservationCommission/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/Pages/default.aspx)
  - Conservation District Law:  
[https://govt.westlaw.com/pac/Browse/Home/Pennsylvania/UnofficialPurdonsPennsylvaniaStatutes?guid=N9401E3F3B3A24BA394212C306A063CB1&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/pac/Browse/Home/Pennsylvania/UnofficialPurdonsPennsylvaniaStatutes?guid=N9401E3F3B3A24BA394212C306A063CB1&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))



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### State Conservation Programs—Pennsylvania, Continued

- Pa. Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR):  
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), County Conservation Districts:  
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/PlanningConservation/CountyConservationDistricts/Pages/default.aspx>
- Pa. Association of Conservation Districts (PACD): <https://pacd.org/>
  - PACD Explanatory Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taoUJjCkhgs>
- Pennsylvania's Final Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan:  
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/PAs-Plan.aspx>
- Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) Grant Program:  
[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx)

### Inflation Reduction Act

- *Ag & the IRA: Conservation Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act*, National Agricultural Law Center, Brigit Rollins (Aug. 18, 2022): <https://nationalaglawcenter.org/ag-the-ira-conservation-provisions-in-the-inflation-reduction-act/>
- *USDA Requests Public Input on Implementation of Inflation Reduction Act Funding*, NRCS (Nov. 17, 2022): <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-requests-public-input-on-implementation-of-inflation-reduction-act-funding>
- NRCS: Inflation Reduction Act: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/priorities/inflation-reduction-act>

American Farmland Trust Farmland Information Center: <https://farmlandinfo.org/>

### Dust Bowl video resources:

- The Dust Bowl by Ken Burns: <https://www.pbs.org/show/dust-bowl/>
- American Experience: Surviving the Dust Bowl:  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/dustbowl/>
- Dust Bowl: A 1950s Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CM3ZHMBhP2k>