How you can use Farm Bill programs on your farm to help build soil health and be a good steward of the land.
NSAC: a grassroots alliance of more than 130 member organizations from around the country working together to improve federal food & farm policy for 30+ years!
About NSAC

FARMERS & STAKEHOLDERS
Share their experiences, ideas, challenges related to federal policy, programs, rules with local groups

MEMBER GROUPS
Collect input from farmers & stakeholders as well as their own experiences, bring asks to NSAC

NSAC
Helps members: identify top priority sustainable food & farm policy issues nationwide, set campaign strategies, campaign to win!

CONGRESS & FED AGENCIES
NSAC brings – directly and thru members – priority asks to Congress and agencies like USDA to improve federal food & farm policy
A COMPREHENSIVE piece of legislation **reauthorized** about every 5 years that covers **MANY** federal farm, food, forestry, and rural policies and programs under the jurisdiction of the **U.S. House Committee on Agriculture** and the **U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**.
How the Pie is Sliced
2018 Farm Bill Spending

Projected 10 Year Farm Bill Spending in Billions

- **Title I: Commodity Programs**
- **Title XI: Crop Insurance Subsidies**
- **Title II: Conservation Programs**
- **Title IV: Nutrition**
- **Everything Else: $6.7B**

Total: $663.8 billion
What kinds of programs can I use?

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Reserves marginal, erodible land

- While CSP and EQIP are working lands programs, CRP land is set aside, with some exceptions.
  - One of these exceptions is new Grasslands Program

- 2018 Bill included new conservation buffer initiatives.

- Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
EQIP is a cost-share program for individual land conservation practices.

EQIP participants can install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices –
- Improving irrigation efficiency
- Restoring pasture
- Nutrient and pest management

50% of national funding is set aside for livestock.

EQIP Organic Initiative

Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- CSP helps farmers put in place comprehensive, ongoing, advanced conservation projects.
- Address water quality or soil erosion;
- Provides increased biodiversity and wildlife and pollinator habitat;
- Sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gases to mitigate climate change
CSP can be a natural next step for EQIP users.

CSP has existed in its current form since 2003 – the 2018 Farm Bill brought many changes to CSP.

2018 bill increased payments for:

- cover crops
- crop rotations
- advanced grazing management

2018 Farm Bill created a separate funding pool for organic farms – not yet implemented.
CSP (continued)

- CSP is meant to reward early and comprehensive adopters.
- Written to allow farmers to keep renewing as long as they are still doing best practices.
- Conservation is not a “one-and-done” deal.
- Administered by NRCS
Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)
Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)

- Helps landowners and trusts place lands into long-term easements, protecting from development, other threats.

- Created in 2014 by combining 3 programs:
  - Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
  - Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)
  - Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

- Administered by NRCS
Updated FREE Grassroots Guide to Farm Bill Programs for Farmers and Organizations

https://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassroots-guide/
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