

## *Reasons to respond to the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Survey*

The CEAP Survey conducted by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), aims to collect data on conservation practices across the United States. This survey is part of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), which evaluates the environmental benefits of conservation efforts on agricultural lands.

Survey participation is greatly appreciated and encouraged because the data collected are an important resource to inform NRCS efforts to:

- Improve the effectiveness of voluntary conservation practice implementation on cultivated cropland.
- Evaluate and identify the resources agricultural producers may need in the future to further conserve soil, water, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources on their land.
- Inform technical and financial assistance programs delivered by NRCS to help agricultural producers plan and install conservation practices on cultivated cropland.

Findings will be published in a CEAP Cropland Assessment report, which will share trends in conservation practices and associated outcomes across the nation's cultivated cropland. Findings from Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Cropland Assessments allow NRCS and other conservation stakeholders to evaluate conservation successes, identify potential improvements, and set targeted, measurable goals for the future. Specifically, findings will be used by USDA, conservation partners, policy makers, and others to:

- Assess the status of voluntary conservation efforts across cultivated cropland at both national and regional scales.
- Identify conservation successes and priority areas to improve the effectiveness of voluntary conservation practice implementation on cultivated cropland.
- Evaluate the resources agricultural producers may need in the future to further conserve soil, water, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources.
- Inform technical and financial assistance programs delivered by NRCS to help agricultural producers plan and install conservation practices on cultivated cropland.

**Participation in the survey is confidential**, and data will only be published in aggregate form to **ensure no individual respondent or operation can be identified**.

### **Why is CEAP Important?**

- **Community:** Gives producers an opportunity to provide a complete and accurate picture of the conservation practices they use on their working lands that not only provide benefits for their operation but also for their surrounding community.
- **Science:** Helps establish the scientific understanding of effects of conservation practices and agricultural land management at the regional and watershed scales.
- **Policy:** Provides policymakers with valuable information needed to prioritize programs and practices that producers can use to address resource concerns.
- **Outcomes:** Provides data and science-backed findings to guide effective conservation actions.

## *Delta Region (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Flood Mitigation:** Conservation practices help manage water flow and reduce flood risks reducing financial losses.
  - **Soil Fertility:** Implementing conservation techniques enhances soil productivity and operational sustainability.
- **Community Support:** Your participation strengthens regional conservation efforts and builds resilient communities.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Supports flood mitigation, irrigation efficiency, and soil health practices.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Encourages sustainable rice and cotton farming practices.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Projects focus on wetland restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Delta region have benefited from conservation programs, leading to improved land productivity and resilience.

## *Eastern Mountain Region (Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Erosion Control:** Implementing conservation practices helps mitigate soil erosion on hilly terrains prone to erosion.
  - **Water Quality Improvement:** Conservation efforts contribute to cleaner water sources by reducing sediment and nutrients in runoff.
- **Tailored Assistance:** Your input guides NRCS in providing region-specific support and resources.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Supports drought management, erosion control, and forest health.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Encourages sustainable grazing and water conservation practices.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Initiatives focusing on wildfire resilience and habitat restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Eastern Mountain region have successfully adopted conservation practices, leading to improved soil health and water quality.

## *Great Lakes Region (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Wetland Protection:** Conservation efforts help preserve vital wetland ecosystems.
  - **Wildlife Habitat:** Implementing conservation practices supports biodiversity.
- **Resource Allocation:** Your input ensures efficient use of conservation resources.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with erosion control, wetland restoration, and forest management.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes practices enhancing biodiversity and water quality.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Collaborative efforts for watershed protection and habitat restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

### ***Local Impact***

In the Great Lakes region, conservation programs have led to healthier ecosystems and enhanced wildlife habitats.

## *Heartland Region (Illinois, Missouri)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Soil Erosion Control:** CEAP assessments guide the adoption of practices that improve soil organic matter and structure.
  - **Nutrient Management:** Data from CEAP support strategies that optimize fertilizer use, reduce costs and have a positive environmental impact.
- **Resource Allocation:** Your feedback ensures targeted conservation efforts.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with nutrient management, cover crops, and conservation tillage.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes sustainable practices enhancing soil fertility and water management.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Initiatives targeting nutrient runoff reduction and wetland restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Heartland region have benefited from many of the conservation programs. CEAP findings have led to the adoption of conservation practices that improve soil health and water quality.

## *Mountain Region (Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Erosion Control:** Conservation practices help prevent soil erosion.
  - **Water Conservation:** Efficient water use supports sustainable agriculture in arid regions.
- **Weather Adaptation:** Your feedback aids in developing weather-resilient practices.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Supports drought management, erosion control, and forest health.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Encourages sustainable grazing and water conservation practices.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Initiatives focusing on wildfire resilience and habitat restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Mountain region have adopted conservation practices, leading to improved water use efficiency and soil conservation.

*Northeastern Region (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont)*

***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Soil Fertility:** Conservation practices enhance soil health and productivity.
  - **Water Quality:** Implementing conservation techniques reduces nutrient runoff.
- **Program Improvement:** Your input helps refine conservation programs to better meet regional needs.

***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with nutrient management, soil erosion control, and irrigation systems.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes practices enhancing soil health and water quality.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Projects targeting habitat restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Helps protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

***Local Impact***

In the Northeast, conservation programs have led to improved soil health and water quality.

## *Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region.
  - **Soil Erosion Control:** Conservation practices help mitigate wind and water erosion.
  - **Water Management:** Efficient water use supports sustainable agriculture in the region.
- **Resource Allocation:** Your feedback ensures targeted conservation efforts.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Supports drought management, wind erosion control, and irrigation efficiency.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Encourages sustainable grazing and soil health practices.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Projects targeting habitat restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Northern Plains have benefited from conservation programs, leading to improved land productivity and water management.



## *Northwest Region (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region
  - **Erosion Control:** Conservation practices help prevent soil erosion and keep productive farmland sustainable.
  - **Water Conservation:** Efficient water use supports sustainable agriculture in arid regions.
- **Weather Adaptation:** Your feedback aids in developing weather-resilient practices.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with irrigation efficiency, soil erosion control, and forest management.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes practices enhancing soil health and water quality.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Collaborative efforts for habitat restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Northwest region have adopted conservation practices, leading to improved water use efficiency and soil conservation.

## *Pacific Region (California, Hawaii, Nevada)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region
  - **Irrigation Efficiency:** Conservation practices help optimize water use in irrigation systems and reduce loss through runoff and evaporation.
  - **Soil Health:** Implementing conservation techniques enhances soil fertility and provides for more sustainable systems.
- **Policy Influence:** Your input helps shape future conservation policies and programs.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with irrigation efficiency and soil erosion control.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes practices enhancing soil health and water quality.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Collaborative efforts for habitat restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

In the Pacific region, conservation programs have led to improved water use efficiency and soil health.

## *Southern Region (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region
  - **Water Quality Improvement:** Conservation practices reduce nutrient runoff into waterways improving water quality and reducing nutrient input needs.
  - **Pollinator Support:** Implementing conservation techniques supports pollinator populations.
- **Community Engagement:** Your participation strengthens regional conservation efforts.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with irrigation efficiency, nutrient management, and erosion control.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes practices enhancing soil health and water quality.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Projects targeting habitat restoration and water quality improvements.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

In the Southeast, conservation programs have led to enhanced water quality and biodiversity.

## *Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma, Texas)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region
  - **Erosion Control:** Conservation practices help mitigate wind and water erosion and save valuable soil needed for sustainable production.
  - **Water Efficiency:** Efficient water use supports sustainable agriculture in arid regions.
- **Weather Resilience:** Your feedback aids in developing weather-resilient practices.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Supports drought management, wind erosion control, and irrigation efficiency.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Encourages sustainable grazing and soil health practices.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Initiatives focusing on water conservation and habitat restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

Farmers in the Southern Plains have adopted conservation practices, leading to improved water use efficiency and soil conservation.

## *Upper Midwest Region (Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin)*

### ***Why Should You Tell Us About Your Conservation Efforts?***

- **Producer's Story:** The producer gets to tell their story of how they are helping to address their operation's resource concerns and the resource concerns of the region
  - **Soil Health Enhancement:** Conservation programs promote practices that improve soil structure and fertility leading to sustainable production.
  - **Nutrient Management:** Efficient nutrient application reduces costs and environmental impact.
- **Policy Influence:** Your feedback shapes future conservation policies and programs.

### ***NRCS Conservation Programs That Support the Region's Resource Concerns***

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Assists with nutrient management, cover crops, and conservation tillage.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Promotes sustainable practices enhancing soil fertility and water management.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Initiatives targeting nutrient runoff reduction and wetland restoration.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP):** Collaborative efforts for wetland restoration and water quality improvements.

### ***Local Impact***

In the Upper Midwest, conservation practices have led to increased crop yields and reduced input costs.