

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Natural Resources Conservation Service



What does NRCS do?



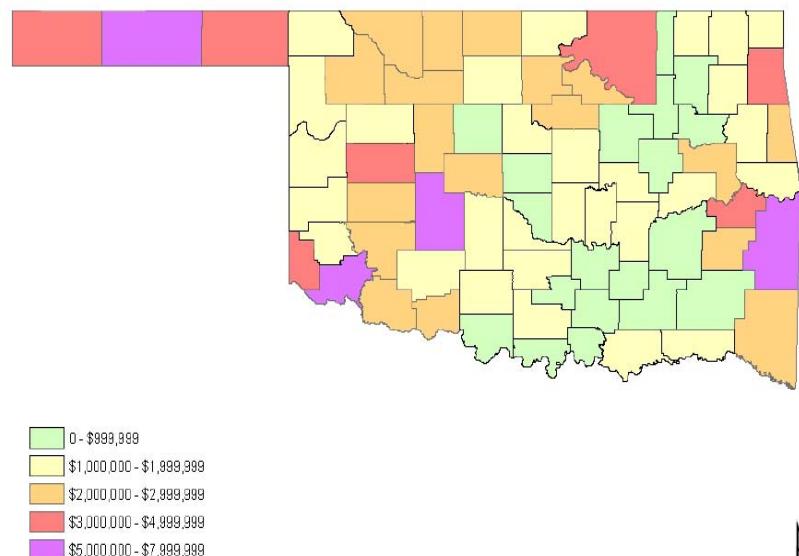
Clean water, abundant wildlife, and productive agriculture are interconnected. Conservation doesn't have man-made boundaries.

That's why NRCS is addressing natural resource priorities on a landscape scale. Our conservation solutions benefit both landowners and the environment, provide wildlife habitat and improve agricultural production.

How do we do this? Overview...

- In the last 10 years over **\$150 million** has been provided to Oklahoma producers through financial assistance programs to apply conservation practices in Oklahoma. (EQIP, WHIP, CSP, CCPI)
- These practices have improved conservation activities on over **5 million acres**.

Obligations for Conservation Implementation from 2001 to 2011



Conservation Technical Assistance - CTA

- Technical and agronomic services to landowners.
- Weed and grass identification
- Herbicide recommendations
- Pond and Fence placement
- Engineering-structural practices



Environmental Quality Incentives Program – (EQIP)

- Voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, plants, animals and air.
- **Eligibility** – Agricultural Producer: Person, Legal entity, Indian tribe or joint operation engaged in agricultural production.
 - Have control of land for contract period.

EQIP

- Provides payment assistance to eligible participants for the protection of their natural resources.
- Typically pays % cost share up to a maximum average cost that is calculated by averaging the receipts from across the state
- Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher and Beginning Farmer/Rancher option. Receive a higher % cost share.

Historically Underserved

- Socially Disadvantaged
 - American Indians or Alaskan Natives
 - Asians
 - Blacks or African Americans
 - Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders
 - Hispanics

<http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Historically Underserved – cont.

- Beginning Farmer/Rancher :
 - Have not operated a farm or ranch, or have operated farm or ranch for less than 10 years.
- Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher
 - Have direct or indirect gross farm sales less than the current indexed value in each of the previous 2 years.
 - Have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50% of county's median household income in each of the previous 2 years.

EQIP

Practices may include

Prescribed Burning



Brush Management



EQIP

Grass Plantings

Bermuda



Native



EQIP

Ponds



Pest Management



Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

- The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary conservation initiative that enables the use of conservation programs along with the resources of eligible partners to provide financial and technical assistance to owners and operators of agricultural lands.

CCPI - continued

- After announcement, eligible producers located in an approved project area may submit an application for any of the following available programs, which may be approved for assistance:
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

CCPI - continued

- Proposals submitted by eligible partners are evaluated and competitively ranked for consideration of NRCS program to support the project.
- **Eligible Partners** -Federally recognized Indian Tribes, State and local units of government, producer associations, farmer cooperatives, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) with a history of working cooperatively with producers.

Current CCPI in Oklahoma

- Sugar Creek CCPI
- Kiowa CD CCPI (2009-2014) 7 Counties adjoining the Comanche and Apache tribes. Brush Control, Erosion Control, and Fencing are some of the practices offered.

Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations.
- CSP provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.
- Gives opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP

- Eligibility: Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program.
- Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.
- Ineligible Land: Public land including land owned by Federal Government or local unit of government. Also land enrolled in other easement programs.

CSP-Benefits

- CSP provides participants with two possible types of payments.
- An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities.
- A supplemental payment may be earned by participants receiving an annual payment who also adopt an enhancement to treat current and additional resource concerns.

Grassland Reserve Program

- Voluntary program to help protect valuable grasslands from conversion to other land uses.
- In 2011 Oklahoma received 1.8 million dollars towards funding this program in eastern Oklahoma.



GRP

- Enrollment options include: 10, 15, or 20 year rental agreements.
- Each county has set dollars per acre value assigned to it.
- Landowner/Operators can still hay or graze the offered acres as long as they agree to a Prescribed Grazing Management plan.

GRP

- Cost share payments are available to assist with resource concerns on the offered acres.
- Offered in the past to counties and areas that are open grasslands in jeopardy of urban expansion.

WRP at a Glance...

- Provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agricultural production.

Enrollment Options

Permanent Easement

100% of easement and restoration cost

2. 30-year Easement

75% of easement and restoration cost

3. Restoration Cost-Share Agreement

No easement

Up to 75% of Restoration Cost

4. *30 Year Contract on Acreage Owned by Indian Tribes*

Permanent Easements

195 contracts 45,699 acres

30 year Easement

8 contracts 3,888 acres

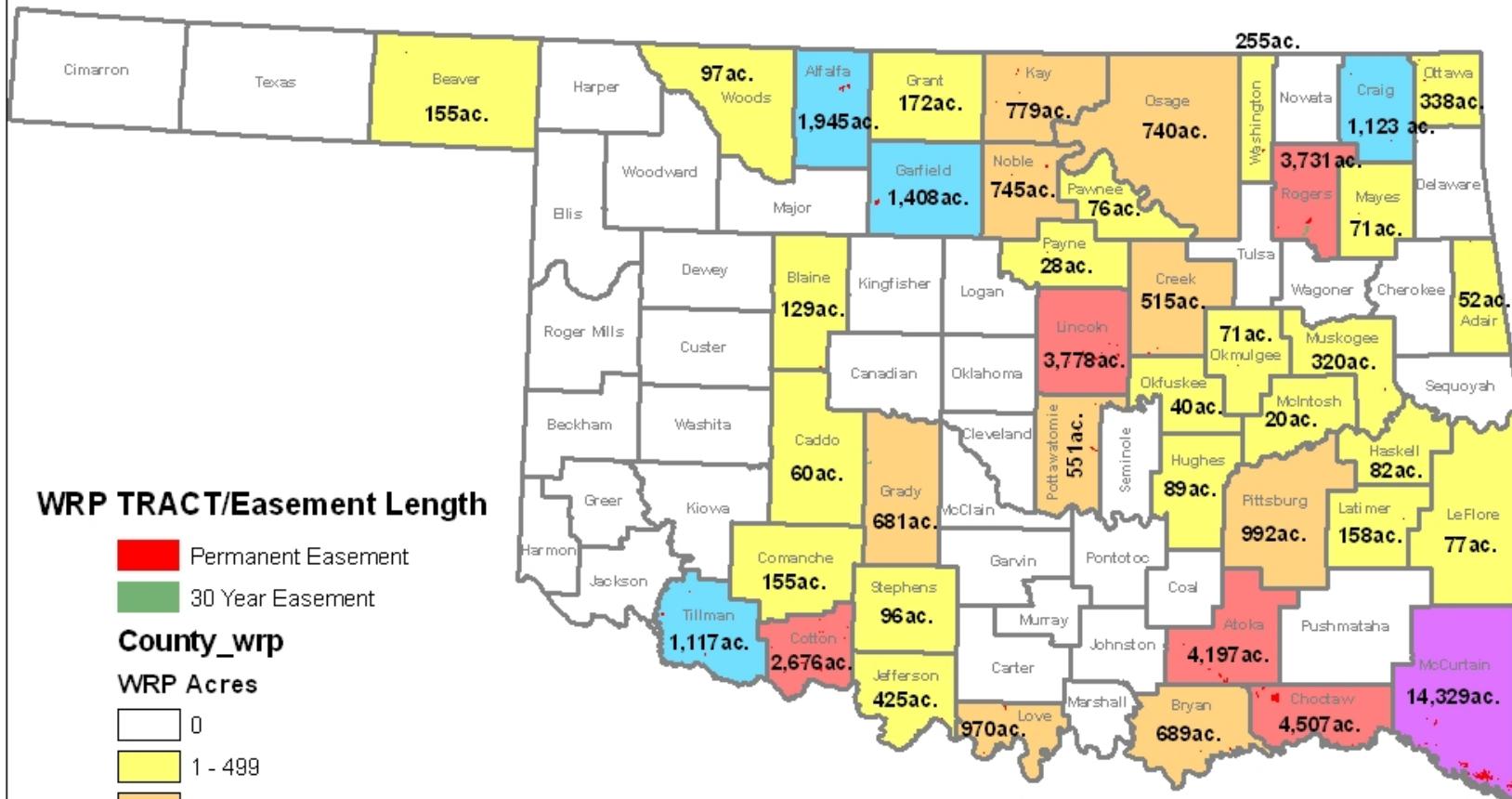
10 Year Restoration Cost-share

43 contracts 5,351 acres





Oklahoma WRP 1996-2010



WRP TRACT/Easement Length

- Permanent Easement
- 30 Year Easement

County_wrp

WRP Acres

- 0
- 1 - 499
- 500 - 999
- 1,000 - 1,999
- 2,000 - 4,999
- 5,000 - 14,329



Questions?

For more information

<http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Or one of your local Field Offices