

Conservation Planning

Planning for the future . . .
in
Indiana



Put Planning
First!

**Your Land
Your Investment
Your Plan**

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. After soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources on your property are inventoried and evaluated, the NRCS Planner will review several alternatives for you to consider. The alternatives you decide 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 and goals,
- An aerial photo or diagram of your farm,
- A soil map and soil description of your property,
- Resource inventory data which can include forage or crop production potential, or potential livestock carrying capacity,
- A list of your treatment decisions,
- The location and schedule for applying conservation practices you want to install on your land, and
- A plan of operation and maintenance of your conservation systems or practices.

Together we can find solutions to meet **your** land management **goals**.



A Conservation Plan combines your farming experience with the science-based knowledge of the conservation planner.



FREE Planning Assistance

Contact your local USDA Service Center to begin the conservation planning process.

For contact or program information, go to the Indiana NRCS website.

www.in.nrcs.usda.gov



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was created to help people like you identify opportunities on private lands. As a federal agency, NRCS utilizes its Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) budget to offer its services at no cost to the landowner. The NRCS client base is made up of individuals who want to learn the best way to manage their land.

Benefits of a Conservation Plan

- Identifies problems or potential problems overlooked on a day-to-day basis.
- Protects soil along with the farm's productivity.
- Helps comply with environmental regulations.
- Qualifies you for various USDA programs that can help you install your Conservation Plan.
- Flexible to your changing farm operational goals.
- Sets up a reasonable schedule for applying needed conservation practices that fits your timetable.
- Provides for on-site Technical Assistance.

Let us help
you help
your land.



Conservation Plans are now **required** in Indiana for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Examples of resource problems or concerns that a conservation plan can address include:

SOIL being washed into streams,

WATER quality problems from soil and nutrient runoff,

ANIMAL operations not being managed properly,

PLANTS not suited, unproductive, or not meeting land user's objectives; invasive species; declining wildlife habitats, and

AIR transporting livestock odors or soil particles.

Whether your land management plans include more recreational opportunities, lowering production costs, or increasing crop yields, NRCS can custom design a conservation plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you develop wildlife habitat, construct a livestock water facility, create a grazing plan, install buffers, manage conservation tillage, or apply other enhancements on your land.

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