



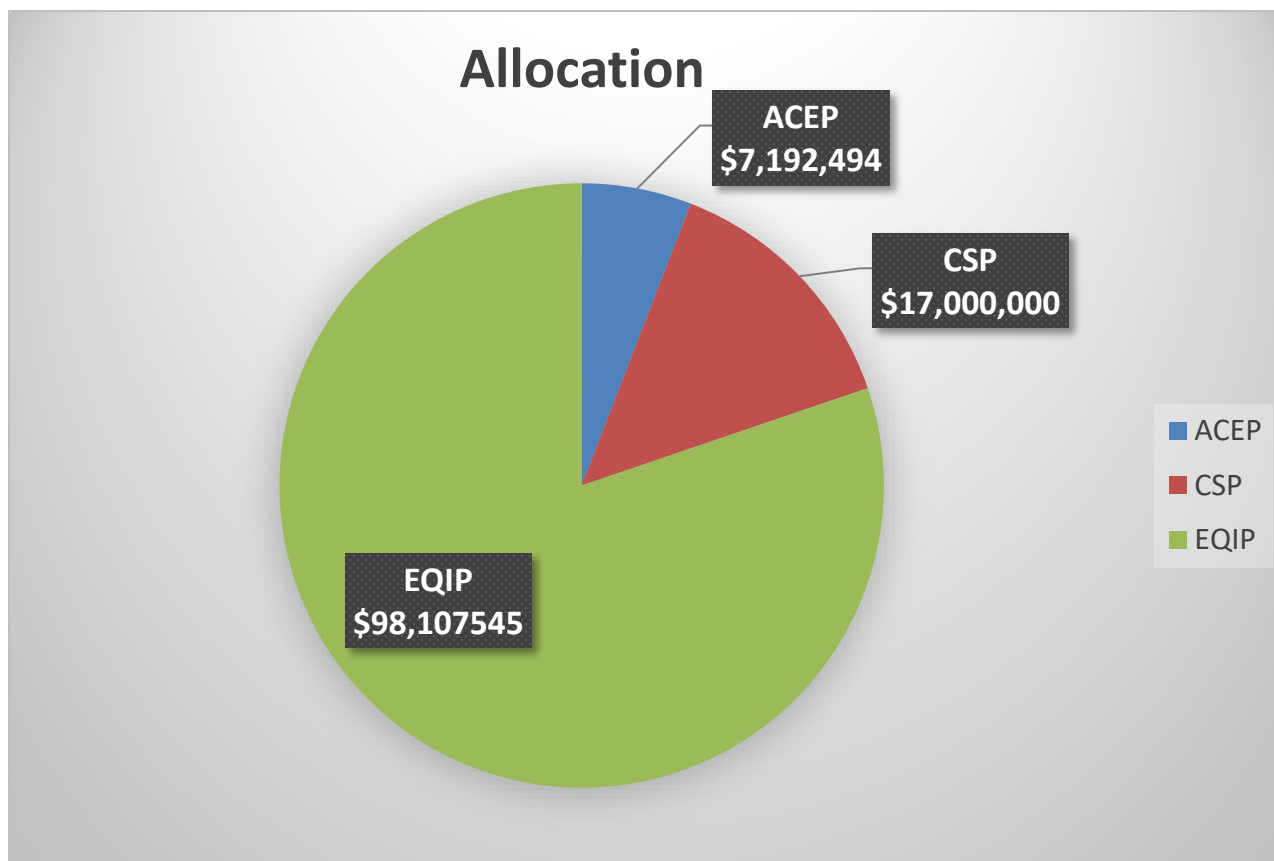
United States Department of Agriculture

FY2023 Texas NRCS Program Summary

May 16, 2023

Stacy Riley
Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

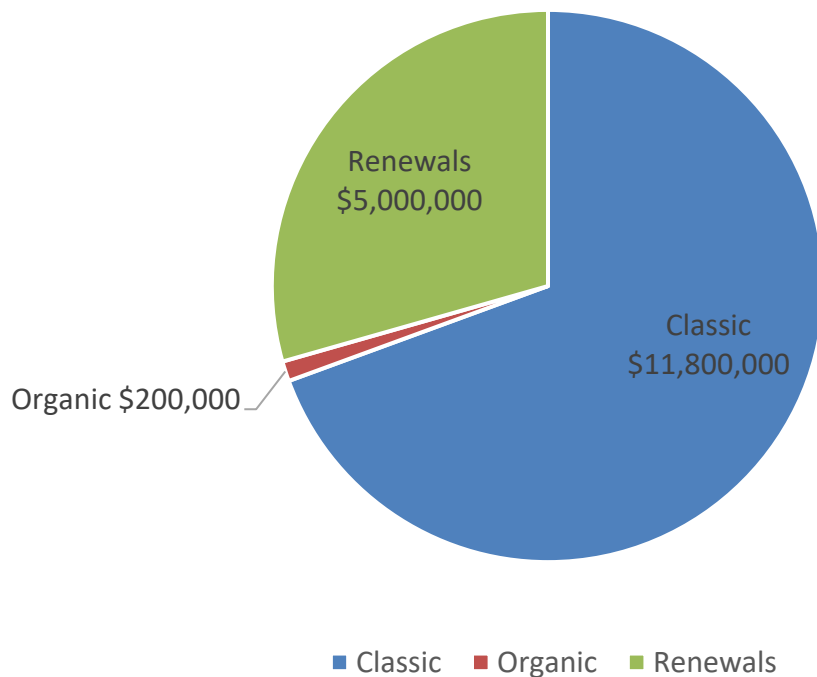
FY2023 Farm Bill Allocations



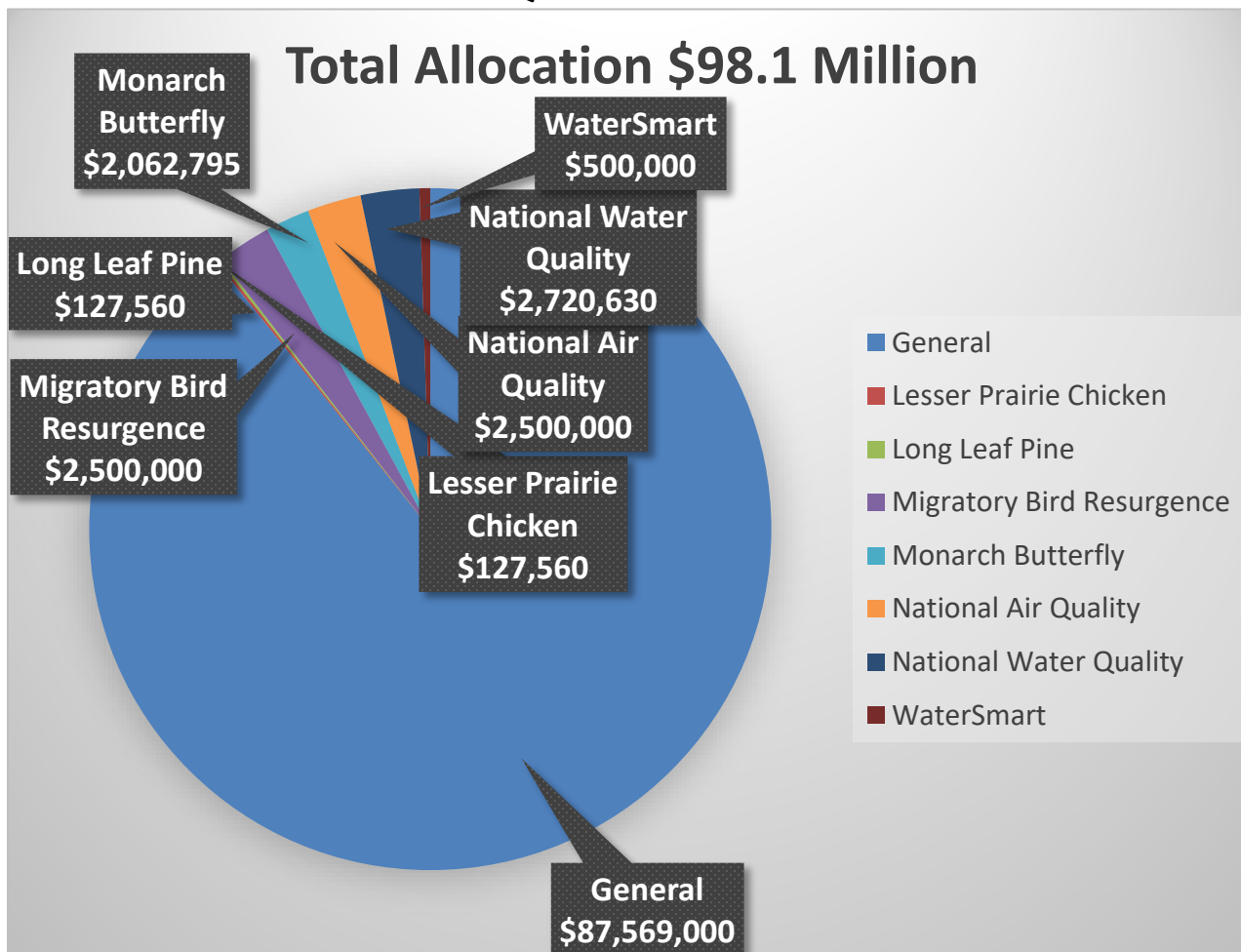


FY2023 CSP Allocations

Total Allocation \$17.0 Million



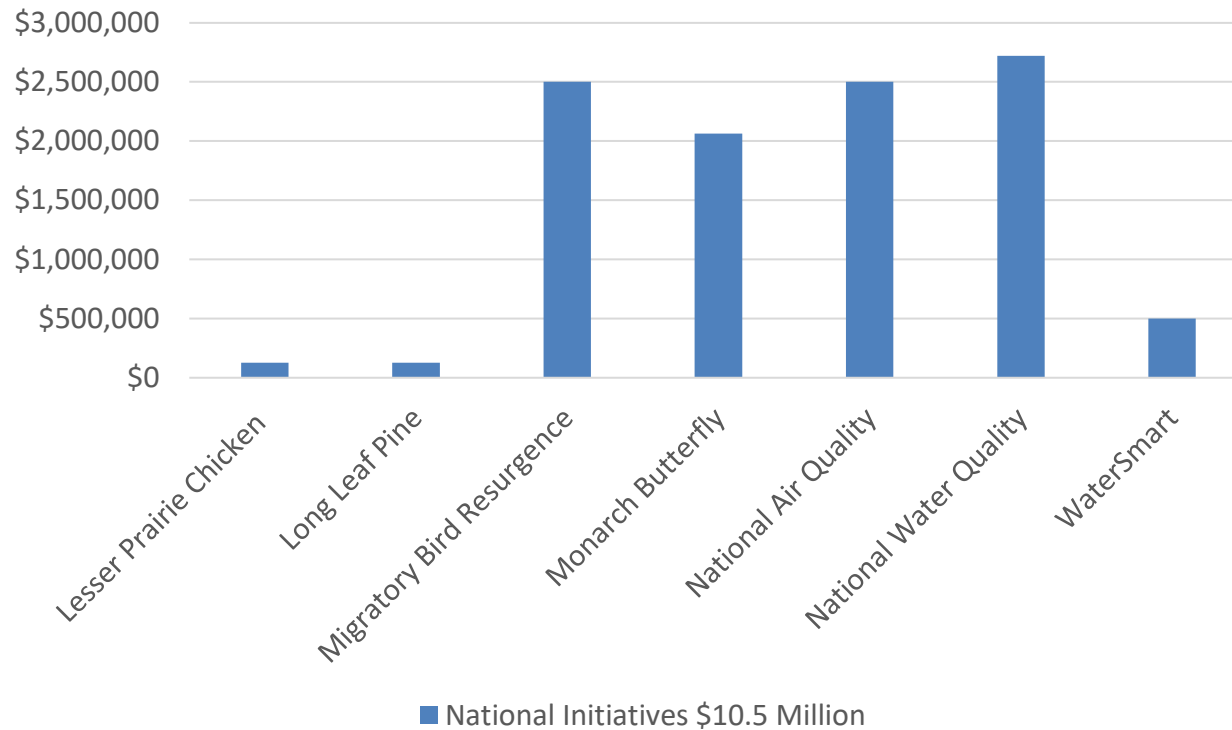
FY2023 EQIP Allocations





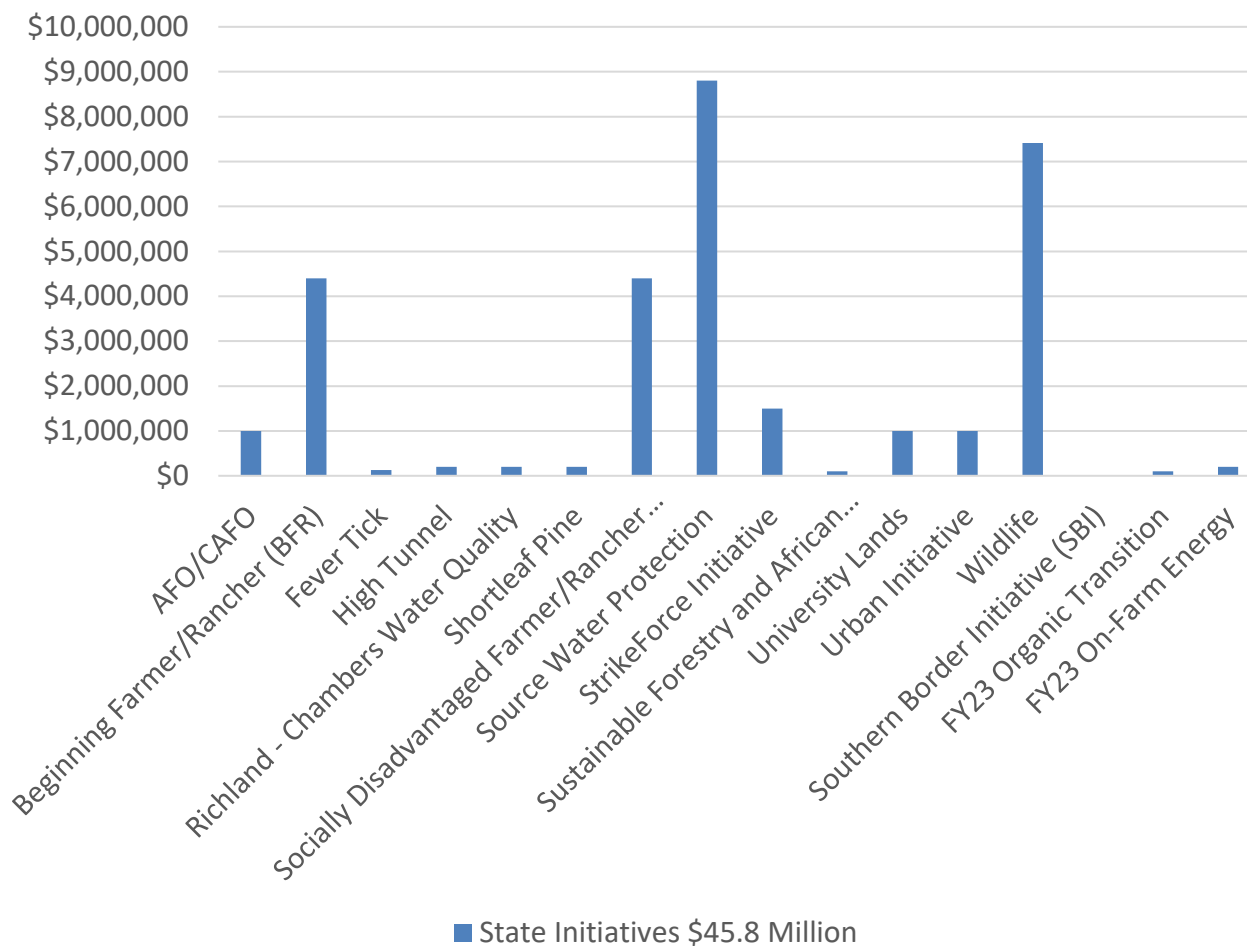
FY2023 EQIP: National Initiatives

National Initiatives \$10.5 Million



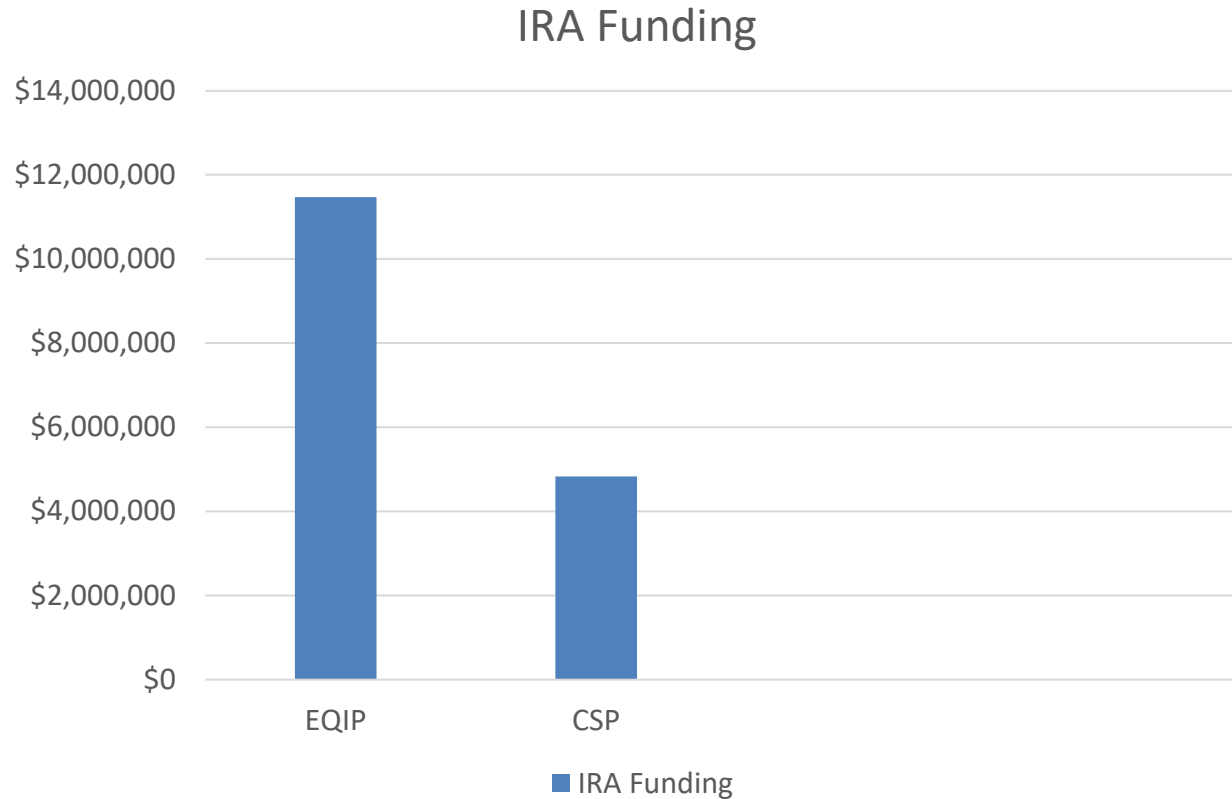
FY2023 EQIP: State Initiatives

State Initiatives \$45.8 Million





FY2023 Inflation Reduction Act





FY2023 Financial Assistance Program Batching

Program	Description	Application Batching Date	Obligation Target Deadline
CSP	CSP Renewals	4/28/2023	12/30/2023
CSP-GCI	CSP-GCI	10/14/2022	12/16/2022
CSP	CSP Classic	2/24/2023	7/28/2023
EQIP	General EQIP	11/4/2022	3/31/2023
EQIP	IRA	5/19/2023	ACT NOW
EQIP	NWQI	6/15/2023	ACT NOW
EQIP	Organic Transition Initiative	6/15/2023	8/1/2023
EQIP	Migratory Bird Resurgence Initiative	6/15/2023	8/1/2023
EQIP-CIC	EQIP-CIC	1/6/2023	6/2/2023
RCPP-EQIP	NRCS - NFWF Pecos Partnership	11/4/2022	3/31/2023
RCPP-EQIP	Hill Country Headwaters Conservation Initiative	5/5/2023	8/25/2023
RCPP-CSP	NRCS - NFWF Pecos Partnership and Hill Country Headwaters	2/24/2023	7/14/2023
RCPP: LM	Texas Coastal Prairie Initiative	11/4/2022	3/31/2023
RCPP: LM	Restoring Perennial Flow in Comanche Springs and Greater Big Bend Partnership	2/24/2023	8/25/2023



Easements

Easement Component Program	Allocation	Batching Date	Applications
Wetland Reserve Easements	\$3,123,895	11/04/2022	28
Agricultural Land Easements	\$4,068,599	11/04/2022	32
Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership	Existing Agreement	11/04/2022	3
Wetland Reserve Easements (IRA)	To be determined	3/17/2023	1
Agricultural Land Easements (IRA)	To be determined	3/17/2023	25



RCPP IRA FY 2023

- Stay Tuned!!



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

- Funding Opportunity Closed 4/24/2023 FY 2023
- Selections will be made by May 24, 2023, and awards executed by 9/30/2023



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS, Climate and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



- Signed into law by President Biden in August 2022
- The IRA provides NRCS with \$19.5 billion in **additional** funds for its **existing** conservation programs:
 - \$8.45 billion Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - \$4.95 billion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - \$3.25 billion Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - \$1.4 billion Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - \$1 billion Conservation Technical Assistance
- **The IRA does not create any new programs** – it gives NRCS additional funds to **expand its existing climate efforts** and satisfy unmet demand
- IRA funds begin in **fiscal year 2023**; all IRA funds must be spent by **September 30, 2031**

NRCS, Producers and the IRA



- Agricultural producers can play a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon, and deliver lasting solutions to the climate crisis
- NRCS supports farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in meeting their conservation goals, ***regardless of the size, location, and type of operation***
- **IRA provides an opportunity to expand this support, with a focus on climate change mitigation**

The IRA Focuses on Mitigation

USDA United States Department of Agriculture			
Natural Resources Conservation Service			
Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation Activities List ⁽¹⁾ FY2023			
Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name ⁽²⁾ (units)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Bundle and Enhancement Activity
Soil Health	327	Conservation Cover (acres)	(B000BF1) Buffer Bundles*
			(B000CP124) Cropland soil health management system*
			(B000CP125) Climate smart advanced soil health*
			(E327A) Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects
			(E327B) Establish monarch butterfly habitat
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (acres)	(E328A) Resource conserving crop rotation
			(E328B) Improved resource conserving crop rotation
			(E328C) Soil health crop rotation
			(E328F) Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			(E328G) Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement
	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (acres)	(E329A) Intertillage to improve soil health
			(E329B) Perennial grain crop conservation rotation
			(E329C) No till to reduce soil erosion
			(E329D) No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
			(E329E) No till to increase plant-available moisture
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	(E329F) No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			(E329G) No till to reduce energy
			None Available
	340	Cover Crop (acres)	(E340A) Cover crop to reduce soil erosion
			(E340B) Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			(E340C) Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter
			(E340D) Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health
			(E340E) Cover crop to minimize soil compaction
	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (acres)	(E340F) Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients
			(E340G) Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
			(E340H) Using cover crops for biological strip till
			(E345A) Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion
			(E345B) Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter
Field Borders	386	Field Border (acres)	(E345C) Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture
			(E345D) Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content
			(E345E) Reduced tillage to reduce energy use
			(E386A) Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field
			(E386B) Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of a field
	412	Grassed Waterways (acres)	(E386C) Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of a field
			(E386D) Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field
			(E386E) Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
			(E386F) Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
			(E386G) Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field
Mulching	484	Mulching (acres)	(E484A) Enhance a grassed waterway
			(E484B) Mulching to improve soil health
	585	Strategic Grazing (acres)	(E484C) Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
			(E484D) Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch
	601	Vegetative Barriers (feet)	None Available
			None Available
	603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (feet)	None Available
			None Available

- The IRA directs NRCS to use the additional funds specifically for **climate change mitigation**.
- Mitigation activities **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage**.
- FY23 list of **NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities**: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf
- NRCS is continually evaluating mitigation activities and IRA implementation approach and will update them as appropriate.
 - [Federal Register notice](#) (Nov. 21, 2022)

Facilitating Practices Enable Mitigation

EXAMPLES ONLY!!

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Access Control (472)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crops (340)
Pest Management Conservation System
(595)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Stream Crossing (578)
Fence (382)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Brush Management (314)
Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
Prescribed Grazing (528)

- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to *facilitate a mitigation practice*.
- Here are some examples of conservation systems that include mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.
- This list is not all inclusive, just examples



Conservation Systems' Multiple Benefits



- Conservation systems may also provide other benefits besides climate change mitigation:
 - Reducing risks and vulnerabilities and building resilience to climate change impacts (***climate change adaptation***)
 - Addressing other resource concerns like soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and air quality
- Although many conservation practices can provide other benefits, **practices without mitigation benefits are not eligible for IRA funding unless they are needed to facilitate a mitigation practice.**

For Interested Producers



- Everyone has a part to play when it comes to delivering climate solutions, regardless of the size, location, or type of your operation
- If you've never applied, NRCS can help
- If you've applied before, and were not approved due to limited funding, try again in upcoming years!
- NRCS is also working hard to improve producer access to its programs and provide financial and technical assistance to improve your farm, ranch, urban operation or forest land
- Contact NRCS at your [local service center](#)

IRA and Other Climate Efforts

- Supporting [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry \(CSAF\)](#) is a priority, including recent efforts to [improve nutrient management](#), [support soil carbon monitoring](#) and [streamline cover crop enrollment](#). Visit farmers.gov/climate-smart to learn more.
- [NRCS's Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) identifies climate vulnerabilities and actions to integrate climate change into NRCS programs, operations and decision-making.
- [USDA Climate Hubs](#) develop and deliver science-based information and technologies
- The [Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities](#) opportunity invests \$3.1 billion for 141 projects designed to expand markets for American producers who produce climate-smart commodities



IRA and Other Conservation Efforts

- [Western Water and Working Lands Framework for Conservation Action](#) – identifies six major conservation challenges related to water supply in the West, guidelines for identifying vulnerable agricultural landscapes, and 13 strategies for delivering NRCS assistance for responding to the challenges. Funding from the IRA will support the climate-mitigation related strategies outlined in the framework.
- [SMART Nutrient Management](#) – NRCS is streamlining, using existing tools, and standing up new initiatives to expand the availability of nutrient management assistance for producers for the 2023 crop year. Funding from the IRA will support producers implementing nutrient management climate-mitigation strategies.





In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
 - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 - (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender