

State Technical Committee Meeting
April 18, 2023, at 10 a.m.
Richmond NRCS State Office
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209
Richmond, VA 23229

Agenda

10:00-10:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist
10:05-10:35	FY23 Programs Update Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Technical Service Providers (TSP)	Nizhoni LaFrance-Pettigrew, Acting ASTC-Programs
10:35-10:50	Urban Agriculture Activities People's Garden Initiative Virginia Partnerships and Technical Assistance Notice of Funding	John Womack, ASTC-Partnerships & Initiatives
10:50-11:00	Watershed Programs and Rehabilitation Update	Mat Lyons, State Conservation Engineer
11:00-11:10	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Tara Bowley, Farm Service Agency
11:10-11:20	Africulture/Equity Agreement	Michael Carter, Jr., Africulture
11:20-11:30	Water Quality Monitoring of Ag Watersheds	James Weber, USGS Hydrologist
11:30-11:40	New Conservation Practice Standard (CSP) Overview	Chris Bradshaw, Acting State Resource Conservationist
11:40-11:50	Questions and Answer Session	ALL
11:50-12:00	Closing Remarks	Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist

State Technical Committee Meeting
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1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209
Richmond, VA 23229

10:00-10:05 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist

Dr. Martinez Martinez said thank you to participants and leadership. He gave a brief history of NRCS/SCS going back to the 1930s.

Virginia is utilizing every conservation tool in the toolbox to address conservation needs across the state, along with national initiatives. Partners are submitting strong projects. Conservation is working.

10:05-10:35 FY23 Programs Update – Nizhoni LaFrance-Pettigrew, Acting ASTC-Programs

Nizhoni gave a 10-year lookback showing contracts and dollars allocated, and showed the FY23 allocation and the statutory % of breakdown across initiatives.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- Showed what the EQIP breakdown is for FY23.
- The contact for this is Ron Wood, at ron.wood@usda.gov

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Still within the ranking period for classic CSP.
- The contact for this is Dana Bayless – acting CSP program manager, at dana.bayless@usda.gov

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- Processing 8 applications \$3.2M, for this year.
- 146 recorded easements to date
- Jennifer Templeton – acting easement specialist starting next Monday.
- The contacts for this are – Diane Dunaway, diane.dunaway@usda.gov, and Letitia Holder, letitia.jackson@usda.gov

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- NFO is expected in 30 days.
- The contact for this Courtney Kidwell (effective April 24, 2023), at courtney.kidwell@usda.gov

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

- April 14th-May 29th Grants.gov
- Managing 12 grants with several partners for \$12 Million
- The contact for this is Debbie Bullock at debbie.bullock@usda.gov

FY20223 Program Planning

- Local work groups

- Program development committee
- State Technical Committee

Technical Service Providers (TSP)

- Let us know if you know someone who wants to be a TSP.
- The contact for this is Stacey Bradshaw until April 21, 2023.
- Clarification for slide, those were for planning, CPA and DIA's there are several other TSPs; too many to list for those for practice implementation.

10:35-10:50

Urban Agriculture Activities – John Womack, ASTC-Partnerships and Initiatives

- John gave an introduction about his new position. He thanked everyone. He is involved with public affairs, peoples garden and partnership initiatives.

Richmond Urban Service Center – 1 of 17 Nationwide; NRCS and FSA collaborative venture to standup an urban service center. Hope to have an urban conservationist on board in the next 4-6 weeks. The location is still to be determined. The goal is to have a dedicated office for the City of Richmond to work with urban clientele.

People's Garden Initiative

- This initiative came along with the Urban Ag Offices.
- FY21 – Fairfield School and Future Gardens
- FY23 – City of Richmond – Richmond Grows Gardens – 22 other groups.
Groundworks RVA – Hillside Micro Farm
Fit4Kids – partnering with 12 elementary schools, gardens, nutrition training
Kinfolks – MLK Gardens and Charles Gilpin Farms

Virginia Partnerships and Technical Assistance Notice of Funding

- Notice of Funding Opportunity on grants.gov
- Build partnerships that address on of three priorities:
 - o TA
 - o Climate Smart Ag practices
 - o Underserved Communities
- Build TA capacity to get more done on the ground.
- The deadline is May 28, 2023.
- \$1Million – cooperative agreements 1-3 years, \$25k-\$300k no match required.
- Timeline to award will be mid-to-late June with final agreements by September.
- State Agencies, non-profits, etc.... in the NFO who is eligible.
- *Question from Attendee: Are other states following this as well? Answer: Yes*

10:50-11:00

Watershed Programs and Rehabilitation Update – Mat Lyons, State Conservation

- Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) – Hurley, Virginia – working through the last of the permitting. Looking at debris removal and streambank restoration.
- Beaver Creek – FONSI signed – ready to move ahead.
- Cherrystone 1 and 2A – NRCS received design funding; local sponsor Pittsylvania County.
- Johns Creek 1 – funded, local sponsor Mountain Castle SWCD.
Partnering with DCR, they will provide TA to SWCD adding capacity for Engineering. NRCS will provide funds, they will provide design.

- Beaver Creek 1 – design funding approved for that project.
NRCS is doing a great amount of work across the state in partnership with dam sponsors for many years. NRCS is trying to build staffing capacity, will be hiring two new members.

11:00-11:10

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Tara Bowley, Farm Service Agency

- Tara introduced herself and thanked the group for the continued partnerships.
- CRP General Signup – ended April 7th.
- Grasslands Signup – April 17th-May 26th.
 - o Voluntary to protect grasslands, contracts 10-15 years, rental payments and cost share, contracts effective October 1st.
 - o Land ownership requirement – should have owned land for at least 12 months, except if inherited.
 - o Operated for at least 12 months, and evidence they will operate for contract length – lease or statement.
 - o Eligible land – permanent cover with <5% tree cover.
 - o Expiring CRP or GRP is eligible.
 - o **NEW CHANGE – Now land that is under EQIP contract can be offered in Grasslands CRP. More details to come.**
 - o Ineligible – forest or woodland or under easements with resource conserving measures
 - o Applications are accepted, NHQ sets a ranking threshold, and contacts producers to let them know of acceptance. After acceptance, then referred to NRCS for conservation planning.
 - o Rental rates based on NASS rate including climate smart incentives.
 - o Ranking subfactors reviewed.
 - o CP88 – CRP Practice to be planned.
 - o Allows for haying and mowing during primary nesting season April 15th-August 15th, but can be grazed. Can be managed as a wildlife area, but those offers may rank lower and not be accepted.
 - o Maintain cover, keep invasives species out, not develop the land.
 - o NRCS – verified the participants have the cover they indicated in the ranking.
 - o Planning – 528, 511, others needed to facilitate main practices and address resource concerns.
 - o Several site visits over the life of the contract as per the FSA/MOA.

11:10-11:20

Africulture/Equity Agreement Update – Michael Carter, Jr.

- Mr. Carter introduced himself.
- Century Farm in Central Virginia (Orange County)
- Education for Africulture (target is socially disadvantaged farmers via grant dollars)
- Growing for Farmers – African American Farmers across Virginia - succession planning - kids
- Workshops for new and beginning farmers, AARP and Association for study of African American Life and History – Africulture series 2022 – over 400 participants.
- Carter Farm Volunteer Day – March 5th.
- American Farmland Trust partnership – Women in Ag workshop 2022.
- Agroforestry and Silvopasture with Virginia Tech May 2022
- Taste of Africa – Juneteenth 2022 – highlighting conservation easements
- Student group visits – 2022

- UVA DINE/ ARAMARK / 4P Farm Tour – 2022
- Looking toward GAP certification for African American Farmers in Virginia, now only 2 in the state.
- Niche growing and marketing for ethnic crops that are drought and insect resistant.
- Socially Disadvantaged – Thomas Brice in Louisa, Virginia.
- Teaching a course at UVA – Africulture – Spring of 2023
- Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you.

11:20-11:30

Water Quality Monitoring of Ag Watersheds – James Weber, USGS Hydrologist

- Jimmy Webber – meeting water resource needs for Virginia.
- Monitor water quality of agricultural watersheds.
 - o Shared interest with EPA to better evaluate the effects of conservation practices on water quality.
 - o Outreach opportunities to connect the results, people and the management we see on the landscapes.
 - o Need for more research in the intermediate level 5-10 mile² watershed level.
 - o Ag practices and impacts are not the only changes that are happening across the landscapes.
 - o Needs to be a partnership effort to see the whole scope, bring additional fund sources, and priorities from those partners.

11:30-11:45

New Conservation Practice Standard (CSP) Overview – Chris Bradshaw, Acting SRC

- Reviewed process and chain of review
 - o HQ to states; states to State Technical Committee; State to HQ
- Adoption of Conservation Practices – effort underway to get on 5-year rotation for review and updates.
 - o Ecological (11); Engineering (10)

Questions and Answer Session – no additional questions.

Nizhoni – Local Work Group Process

- Virginia Bulletin – locally led process.
- Feedback from the committee and local groups is essential.
- Guide available on the NCPP webpage.
- Virginia will be in a pilot project to make sure data is consistent.
- Martinez – 41 offices with a District Conservationist, to work directly with SWCD to assess local conditions in their Districts, how are the programs implemented, are they effective.
- Local Workgroup – subcommittee of State Technical Committee.
- Listening sessions – questions, surveys, etc...
- New Farm Bill –
- IRA – Inflation Reduction Act
- FTE – 165 hoping to get to 190 max.
- Ground up approach.
- What if a community is not in a SWCD? Cities are not in SWCDs.
- In some areas – 13 Cities not covered by an SWCD, but they do have access to SWCD funds. If there is a way to coordinate, we are happy to communicate. Dr. Kendall Tyree.

- NRCS has a service center that covers the cities, with staff. We are trying to secure space for an urban office in Richmond, this is key. This office will also help with other cities across the state. The other connection, outreach and education. People's Garden Initiative – opportunities for education for soil health, learn about what we do with conservation, crops, water quality etc... USDA Grants are coming to Richmond. Targeting with Richmond but moving to other cities.
- Urban Ag Subcommittee will be meeting soon; this is led by FSA.

11:50-12:00 noon Closing Remarks – Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist

Attached presentations include details that may change in the future (e.g. staffing numbers, financial assistance summaries, accomplishments, etc.). For up to date information, please reach out to the USDA NRCS Team.



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Virginia State Technical Committee Meeting

April 18, 2023

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Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist



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Financial Assistance Programs Updates

Nizhoni LaFrance-Pettigrew, Acting ASTC-Programs



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FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

10-year Commitment to Conservation

More than **7,400** conservation contracts obligated since 2013 to provide **\$287 million** in financial assistance for implementing conservation practices on **1.3 million acres**

\$134 million in total active funding for natural resource protection on more than a **469,126 acres** of Virginia land



The chart above reflects payments made (light green) and remaining obligations (dark green) not yet paid. Funding for the current fiscal year was as of April 2023, however obligations are expected to reach \$40 million. The chart does not reflect funding for easement programs.

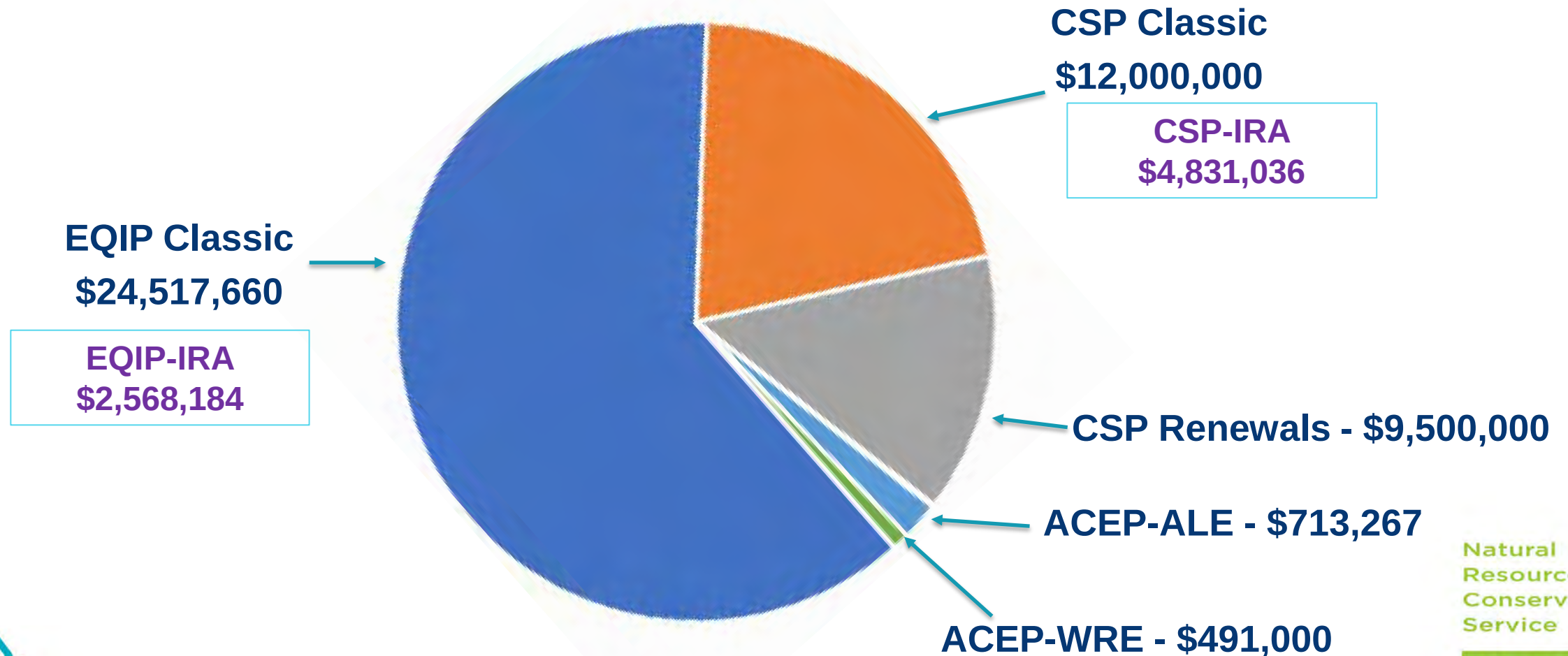
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FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

EQIP, CSP, ACEP Program Budget

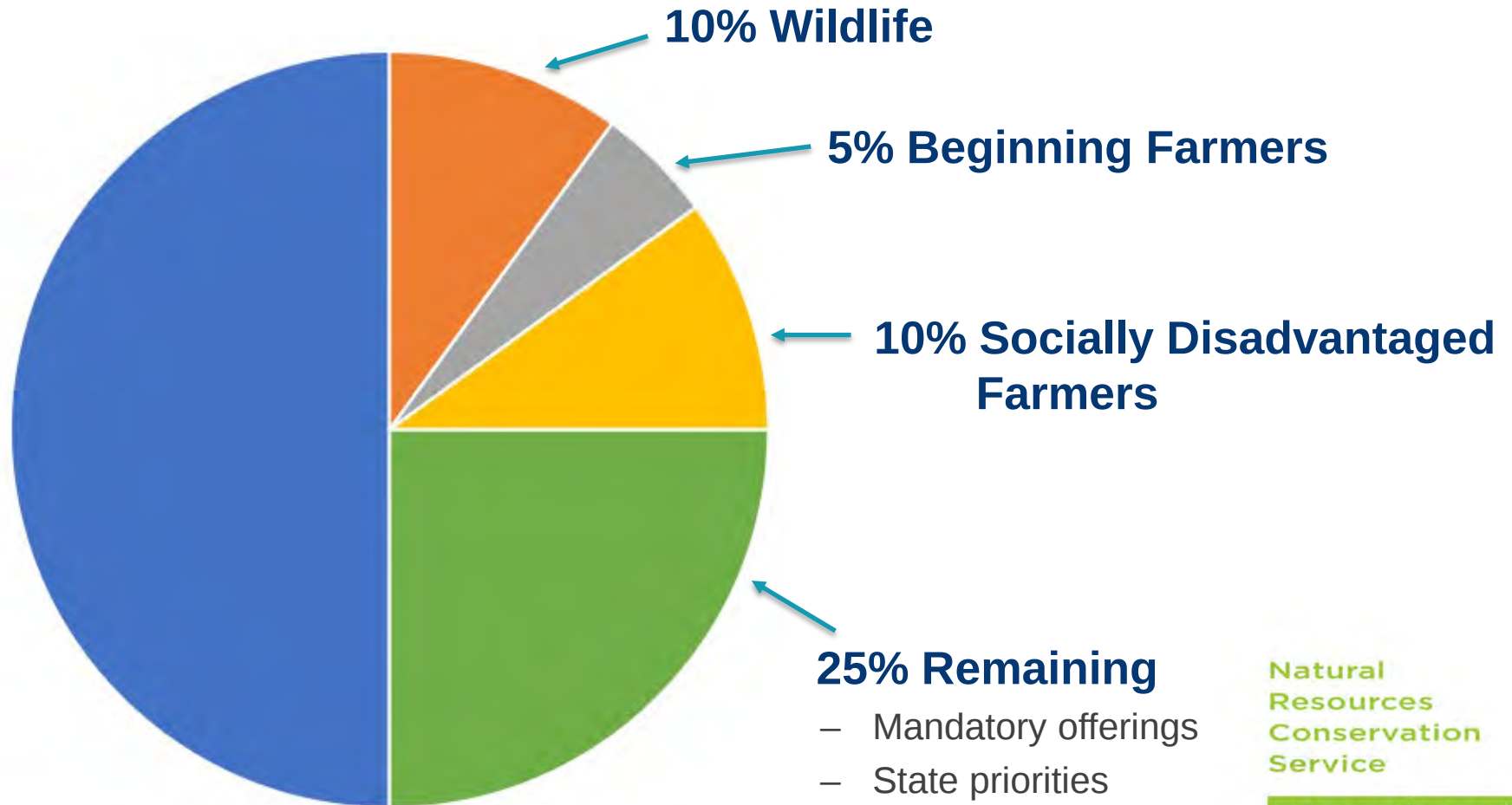


FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

EQIP Statutory Requirements / FY23 Funding Allocation

Total Allocation
\$24,517,660

50% Livestock



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FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

❖ EQIP Classic

- 43 contracts obligated for \$1.9 million (9% obligated)
- 78 applications at approved status for \$6.6 million

❖ EQIP Classic – New Fund Pools

- Urban Agriculture

❖ EQIP – Conservation Incentives Contract (CIC)

- 14 applications preapproved for \$1,324,804



FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

❖ CSP Renewals

- Obligated 122 contracts for \$7.6 million covering 46,617 acres
- FY24 Renewal applications deadline April 28, 2023

❖ CSP Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)

- Obligated 14 contracts for \$39k

❖ CSP Classic

- Received 266 applications
- Ranking deadline is May 26, 2023
- Preapprovals will be completed in June



FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- Currently processing and evaluating 8 ALE applications with funding requests for \$3,230,000 on 2,199 acres.
- 11 ACEP-ALE acquisitions underway
- 2 ACEP-WRE restorations in progress
- 146 existing recorded easements totaling 17,112 acres of land protected and monitored.

Contact:

Diane Dunaway, Easement Program Manager - Diane.Dunaway@usda.gov

Leticia Jackson-Holder, Realty Specialist - Leticia.Jackson@usda.gov



FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

Regional Conservationist Partnership Program (RCPP)

❖ RCPP Classic Project Proposals – FY2024

- Notice of Funding Opportunity expected within next 60 days
- Internal review of program is ongoing with input from RCPP program staff AND partners

❖ RCPP Renewals

- Four RCPP proposals awarded as renewals
 - The Nature Conservancy – Clinch Powell Watershed Partnership (\$1,989,091, multi-state)
 - Sustainable Chesapeake –
 - Engaging Small AFOs in the Nutrient Management Planning (\$4,575,000, multi-state)
 - Chesapeake Bay Farm Stewardship & Preservation (\$6,079,870; pending negotiation)
 - Virginia Marine Resources Commission – Oyster Bottom Restoration through Aquaculture (\$851,999)

❖ RCPP Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

- HFRP offers financial assistance to help landowners restore, enhance and protect privately-owned forests through conservation easements.
- An easement application is currently being processed for Grayson County to conserve 997 acres of forested land with an estimated cost of over \$1 million.

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FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

Conservation Innovative Grants (CIG)

- ❖ **2023 Virginia CIG Notice of Funding Opportunity posted April 14, 2023 on grants.gov and closes on May 29, 2023.**
 - The recommended proposals topics are Soil Health and Forestry.
 - Grants will be awarded for projects between one- and three-years duration with maximum awards of \$200,000 for each priority topic.
 - We anticipate receiving 5 proposals for review and hope to make selections for each topic by June 15, 2023.
- ❖ **Currently managing 12 CIG's totaling \$1.1 million with various partners like Virginia Tech, Sustainable Chesapeake, Virginia State University, Virginia Department of Forestry, Water Science Institute and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.**



Contact:

11 **Debbie Bullock, CIG Program Manager (Program Contact), debbie.bullock@usda.gov**

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FY23 Financial Assistance & Program Updates

FY24 Program Planning

❖ Local Working Groups (LWG)

- Conservation partners at the field level such as FSA County Committee, SWCD Board, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Department of Forestry, agricultural producers, etc.

❖ Program Development Committee

- NRCS staff representatives from the Field, Area and State Office Staff who provide their input on program decisions.

❖ State Technical Committee

- Diverse groups served by USDA including representatives from federal, state and local conservation agencies, tribal governments, agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations, agribusiness partners, and other professionals who represent disciplines in agriculture and conservation.
- Subcommittees
 - Source Water Protection
 - Urban Ag



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Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Practice Name	Practice Code	Practice Type	Current # Certified TSPs	Current # TSP Applicants
CNMP Design and Implementation Activity	101	DIA	0	
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	102	CPA	0	
Forest Management Plan	106	CPA	15	1
Grazing Management Plan	110	CPA	1	
Soil Health Management Plan	116	CPA	1	
Agricultural Energy Design	120	DIA	0	
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	138	CPA	2	
Transition to Organic Design	140	DIA	2	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	144	DIA	0	
Pollinator Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	148	CIA	1	
Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity	157	DIA	3	
Feed Management Design and Implementation Activity	158	DIA	0	
Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity	159	DIA	1	
Prescribed Burning Design and Implementation Activity	160	DIA	0	
Pest Management Conservation System Design	161	DIA	1	
Soil Health Management System Design	162	DIA	0	
Irrigation Water Management Design	163	DIA	2	
Improved Management of Drainage Water Design	164	DIA	0	
Forest Management Practice Design	165	DIA	14	1
Conservation Plan	199	CPA	3	

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Urban Agriculture Activities, People's Garden Initiative, Notice of Funding Opportunity

John Womack, ASTC-Partnerships and Initiatives



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Richmond Urban Service Center

- **Dedicated office focused on urban agriculture and urban farmers**
- **Staffed by NRCS and FSA**
 - Offer has been made for NRCS Urban Conservationist position
- **Goal to provide one-stop shopping for urban services.**
- **Working with partners and conducting GIS analysis to identify best location for customers.**



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People's Garden Initiative



People's Gardens can include gardens that:

- produce food,
- provide greenspace,
- serve as healing gardens, or
- improve environmental quality.

Each garden affiliated with the PGI **must** incorporate all the following components:

- Provide a benefit and be accessible to the community;
- Be collaborative, within the community or with USDA;
- Educate the community about food production, food preparation, or environmental stewardship; and
- Incorporate sustainable practices.

Priority will be given to gardens that:

- provide community members an opportunity to participate **and**
- that address food insecurity **and**
- have high potential for long-term viability.



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People's Garden Initiative - FY23

City of Richmond – Richmond Grows Garden

- Supports 22 garden sites across the city

Groundworks RVA – Hillside Micro Farm

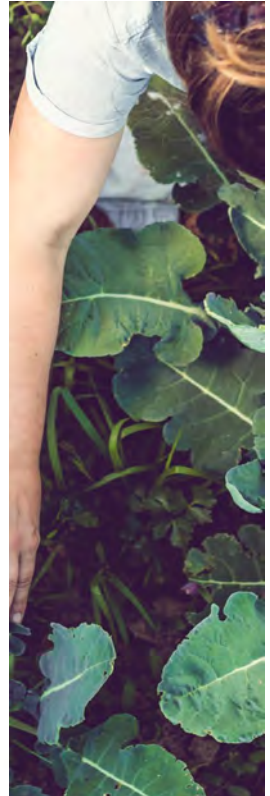
- Provides food and learning opportunities for neighbors in the Hillside Community.

Fit4Kids

- Supports 12 sites in partners with local school and provides education opportunities on gardening and nutrition.

Kinfolks

- Support for MLK and Charles Gilpin Farm sites. “Keepin it Real Healthy” whole Body wellness Campaign and “Kitchen Table Conversation” healthy Education Cooking Classes.



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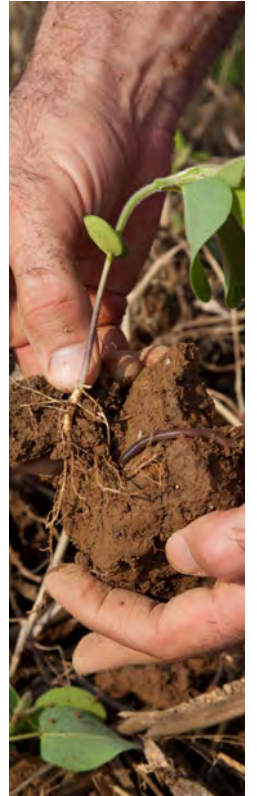
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Notice of Funding Opportunity

Virginia Conservation Partnership and Technical Assistance Agreements

- Agreements are to build partnerships that address at least one of the three priorities below:
 - Provide technical assistance in the delivery, development, promotion, and support of soil, water and wildlife conservation programs to Virginia's farmers, ranchers, and landowners,
 - Support delivery of Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry conservation practices and show quantifiable carbon sequestration and/or greenhouse gas reductions,
 - Reduce barriers to programs and improve support to underserved farmers, ranchers, and landowners

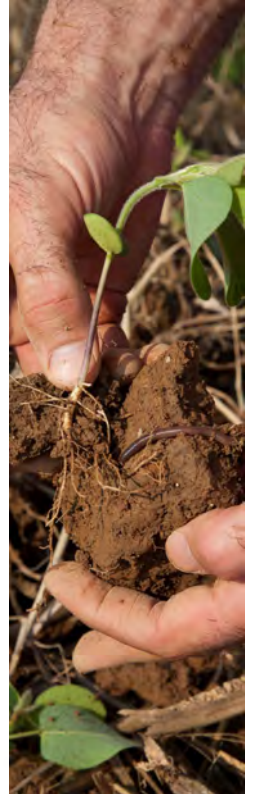


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Notice of Funding Opportunity

- **Emphasis will be placed on projects that:**
 - **Build technical capacity to implement Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) conservation programs and provide conservation technical assistance.**
 - **Increase assistance for climate-smart agriculture and forestry to support producers in building resiliency across their operations.**
 - **Leverage innovative partnerships to expand NRCS's ability to get conservation on the ground effectively and efficiently.**



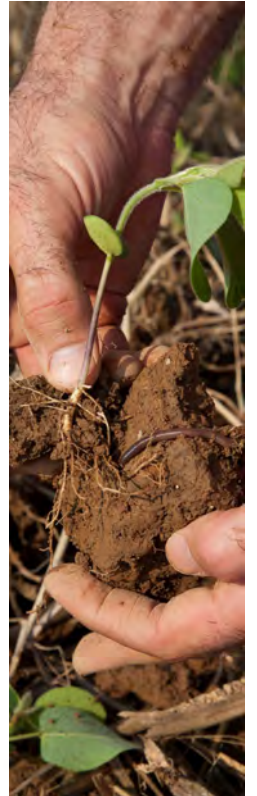
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Notice of Funding Opportunity

- **Deadline to apply on Grants.gov is May 28, 2023**
- **Approximately 1 million available**
- **Cooperative Agreements, 1-3 years in length**
- **Estimated \$25,000-\$300,000 per agreement**
- **No match is required**



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Mathew Lyons, PE, State Conservation Engineer



Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) Buchanan County Update



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Town of Hurley (Buchanan County) EWP



- Received notification of EWP funding approval for the approved sites on January 12, 2022 and initiated weekly coordination with FEMA.
- The EWP agreement was finalized on March 15, 2022.
- Buchanan County is currently working through the design, permitting and scheduling for the approved sites.





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Mathew Lyons, PE, State Conservation Engineer



Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Update



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Beaver Creek 1 Dam Rehab Plan

- **Sponsor:** Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority
- **Consultant:** Schnabel Engineering
- **Funding:** \$341K (original cooperative agreement) + \$199K Amendment 1 + \$176,000 Amendment 2
- **Agreement Date:** July 31, 2020 (expires April 28, 2023)
- **Status:** Final environmental assessment complete. Authorization in process.



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Cherrystone Creek 1 and Cherrystone Creek 2A

Sponsor: Pittsylvania County

Consultant: Schnabel Engineering

Design funding

Cherrystone Creek 1 - FY22 Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding

- \$824,300 for the cost of the design and local project administration costs
- Cooperative agreement signed 3/30/22
- Final design due 2/18/24

Cherrystone Creek 2A - IIJA funding

- \$790,000 for the cost of the design and local project administration costs
- Cooperative agreement in process
- Cooperative agreement signed 6/8/22
- Final design due 4/28/24

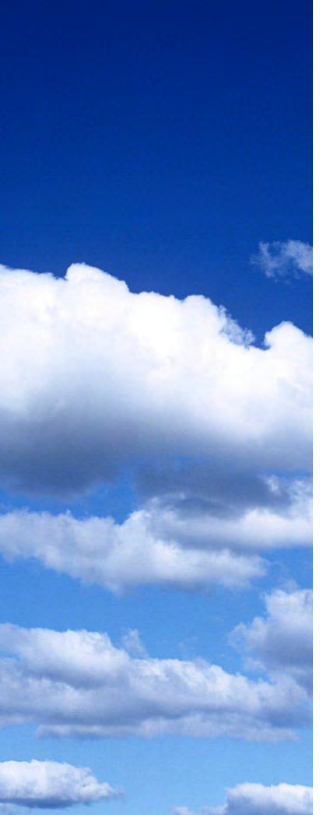


Johns Creek 1 Dam Rehab Design

Watershed Plan Supplement/Environmental Assessment
completed August 2019

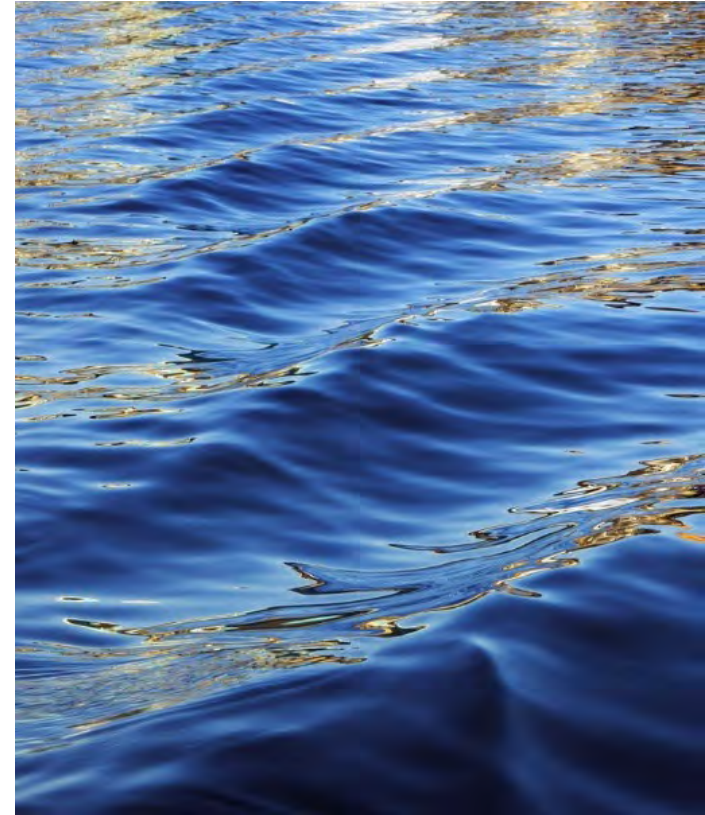
- **Sponsor:** Mountain Castles SWCD
- **Consultant:** DCR will assist/TBD
- **Funding:** \$865,000 for the cost of the design and local project administration costs
- **Status:** Cooperative agreement in process.





FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Updates

Tara Bowley, Farm Program
Specialist



CRP Updates

CRP General Signup - Ended on April 7, 2023

Grassland CRP Signup – Started yesterday, April 17, and runs through May 26, 2023

CRP Continuous/CREP Signup - Ongoing



Grassland CRP

- Voluntary program
- Helps protect grassland
- Emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and land under greatest threat of conversion
- Contract period is 10 or 15 years
- Provides rental payments and cost-share assistance
- Accepted contracts for this signup period will become effective 10/01/2023



Grassland CRP Program Eligibility

Eligible Participants

Individual	Trust – Revocable
General Partnership	State and local government
Joint venture	Churches, charities, and non-profits
Corporations or organizations	Limited liability company
Public school	Limited partnership
BIA or Indian represented by BIA	Limited liability partnership
Trust – irrevocable	Limited liability limited partnership
Individual operating as a small business	Estate
Indian tribal venture	

2-CRP(Rev. 6) Par. 126A

Land Ownership Requirement

An owner is eligible to submit an offer for grassland CRP if they have owned the land for 12 months before the close of signup.

Exceptions:

- Land acquired as a result of death
- Land acquired under circumstances other than for placement in CRP
- Expiring CRP

Operator Requirements

An operator is eligible to offer land for enrollment in grassland CRP if **both** of the following are met:

- operated the land for 12 months before the close of signup.
- provides satisfactory evidence that control of the land will continue uninterrupted for the CRP-1 period.

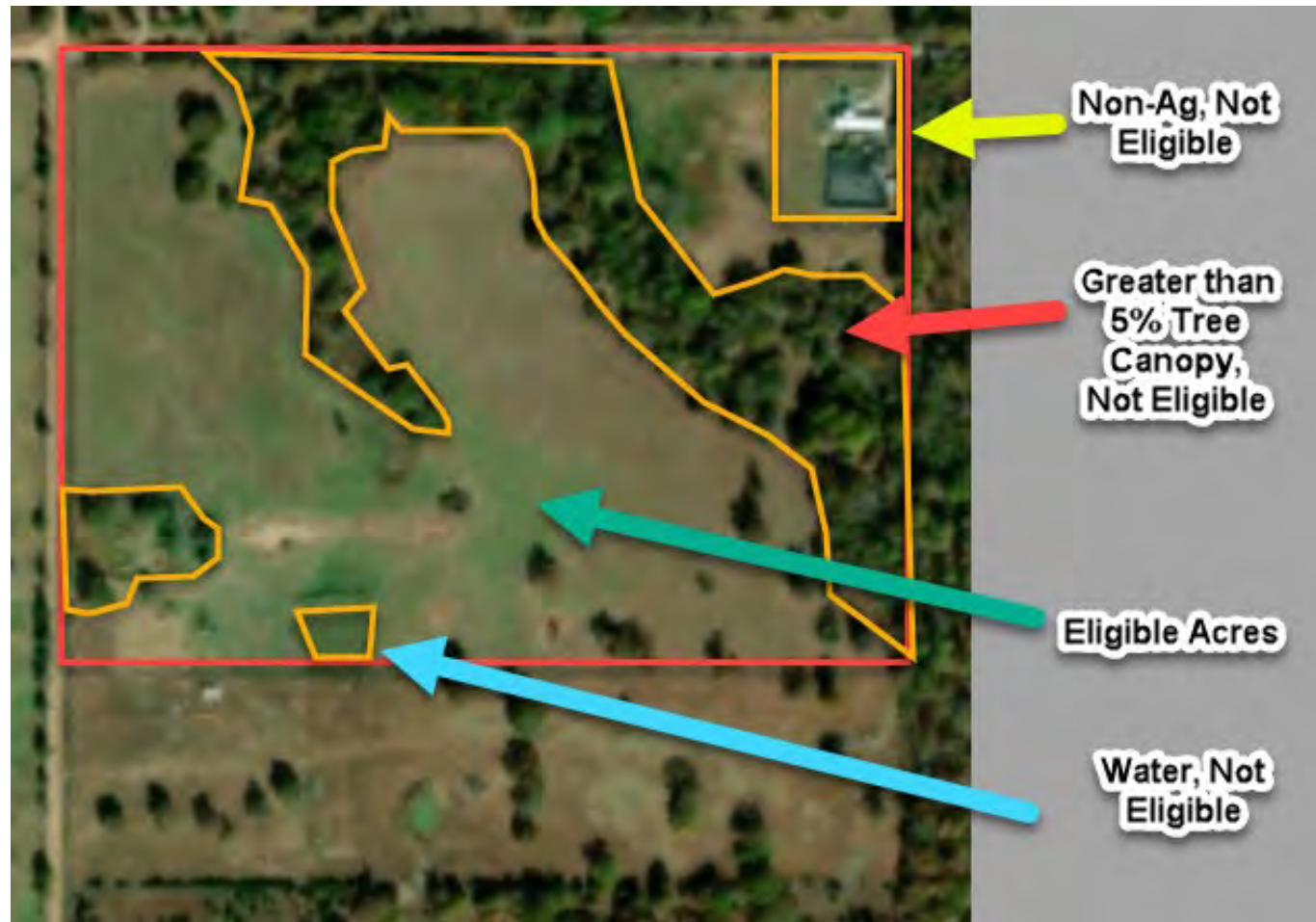
Eligible Land

- Classified as cropland or rangeland, **and** has a permanent cover established.
- With less than 5% tree canopy interspersed throughout offered acreage
- Expiring CRP or expiring GRP.

Unlike with General CRP offers, cropping history is not required.



Eligible Land



Ineligible Land

- Forest or woodland
- Land under easement with a resource conserving measure



2-CRP(Rev. 6) Par. 263C

Grassland CRP Offer Process

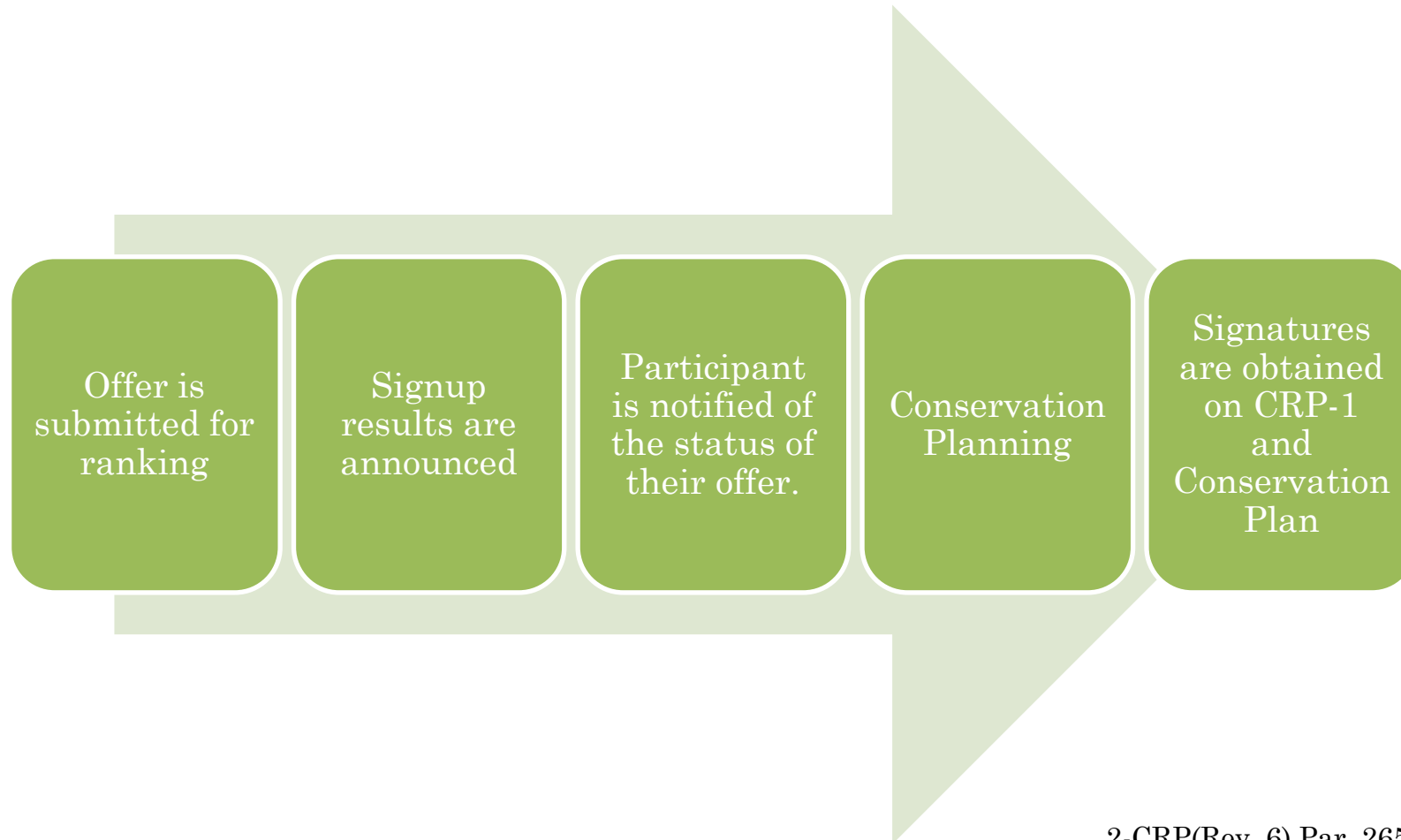
Owner and/or operator sign:

- CRP-1,
- CRP-2G
- CRP-2G-1 (if applicable)

Only 1 signature is required to submit an eligible offer



Grassland CRP Offer Process



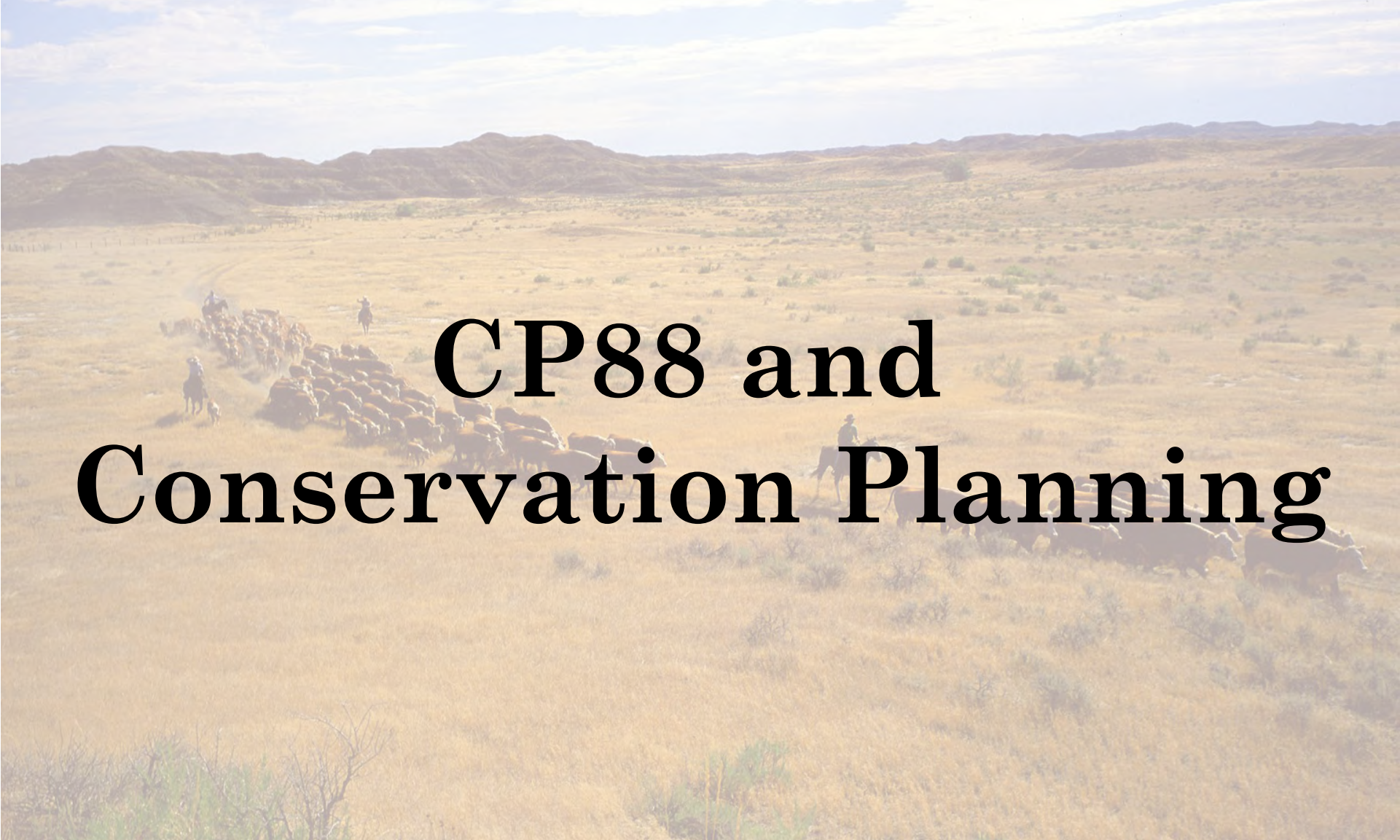
2-CRP(Rev. 6) Par. 265B, Steps 10-17

Grassland CRP Rental Rates

- Market grazing value of the land
- Based on 75% of the NASS pastureland rental rates
- Include climate-smart incentive rate of 5%

Grassland Ranking Factors

- F1 Current and future use (30 points)
- F2 Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Veteran or
Underserved Producer (20 points)
- F3 Maximizing grassland preservation (35
points)
- F4 Vegetative cover (30 points)
- F5 Environmental factors (45 points)
- F6 Small Scale Livestock Operation (10
points)
- F7 Cost (25 points)



CP88 and Conservation Planning

Grassland CRP Practice CP88

CP88 allows for:

- Grazing
- Haying or mowing
- Harvesting for seed production
- Maintaining existing cover
- Fire pre-suppression, fire-related rehabilitation, and construction of fire breaks.



2-CRP(Rev. 6) Par. 271A

Grassland CRP Practice CP88

Producers must:

- maintain cover and keep free of noxious and invasive species (no C/S available).
- Complete an annual acreage certification for acres enrolled
- Not cultivate land
- Not develop land (housing, oil field, wind turbines etc.)

Conservation Planning Overview

After acceptance:

- Producer indicates they want to continue with offer
- Offers are delivered to NRCS
- NRCS completes a site visit



Conservation Planning Overview

NRCS meets with participant in the field to:

- Verify the cover meets the offered points
- Complete forage, infrastructure, and livestock inventories.

If the cover isn't what was offered:

- Explain the issue with the participant
- Document the findings
- Gather GPS points, if applicable
- Provide to FSA:
 - Signed status review form
 - Shapefiles, if applicable
 - Maps and other information



Conservation Planning Overview

- Conservation plans must include:
 - Applicable system management items
 - 528, if grazed
 - 511, if hayed
 - 472, 315, and/or 645 if being managed as wildlife habitat.
 - Facilitating practices
 - 382, 614, 533, 642, etc.
 - Applicable vegetation management items
 - 315, 314, 338, others





Cost Share Policy

- Authorized when installation:
 - Promotes common grazing activities
 - Prevents degradation of environmental benefits
 - Is included in conservation plan
 - Is based on a resource concern as determined by NRCS or TSP
 - Is the most effective and cost-efficient alternative.

Cost Share Policy

Eligible Components:

- Permanent internal fence
- Wells, pipelines, spring developments, and water facilities
- Fuel break
- Livestock trails and walkways
- Prescribed burning



2-CRP(Rev. 6) Exhibit 11, Par. E

Site Visits

- To develop conservation plan
- To certify to the installation of a completed component
- As requested by FSA
- Before the last 2 years of expiration



2-CRP(Rev. 6) Par. 601



NRCS Cooperative Agreement 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

EVENTS, workshops, VISITS

WHAT WE Did & What we Do

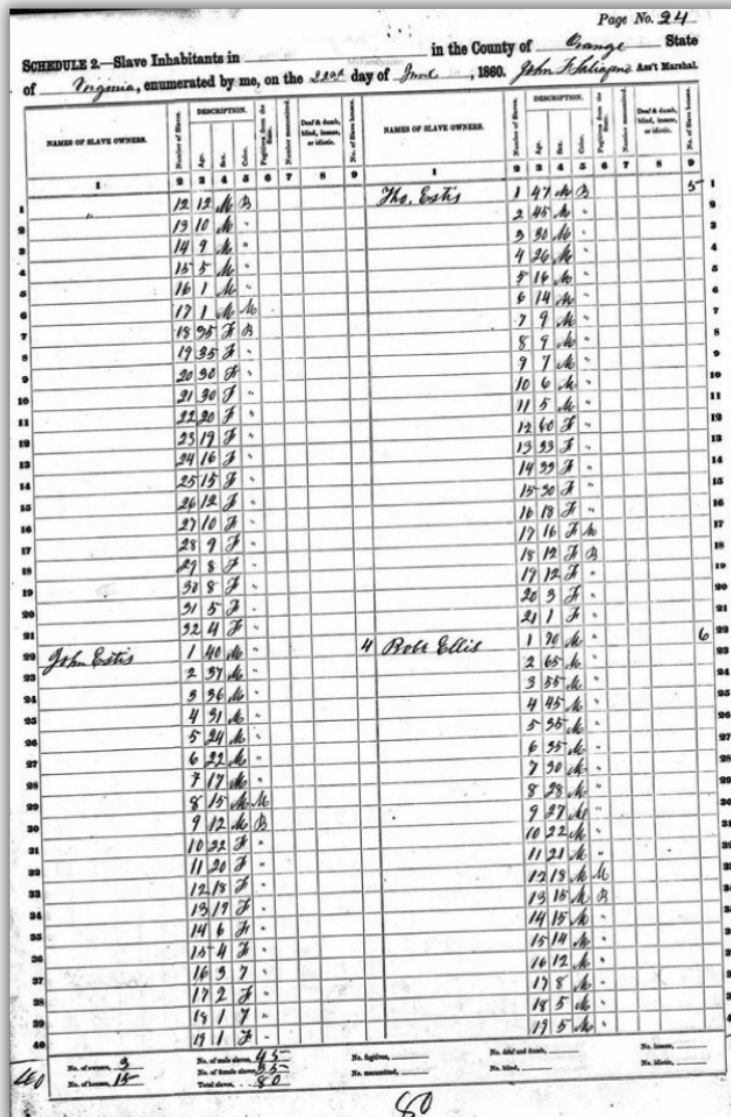
Presented By

Michael Carter Jr.



WE GROW FARMERS

DA DADA DA – DA DA

[illegible]

Ex and
delivered
2
granted
Aug 3rd
1919

Whereas Mrs. C.D. Goodwin, the Ex of the late John W. Goodwin, became purchaser of a certain tract of land August 10th, 1907, sold by John G. Williams, trustee, for certain indebtedness, the same tract was then in the possession of B.S. Cooper and on which he then resided, reference is hereby made to the deed of the said John G. Williams, trustee to the said Mrs. C.D. Goodwin, for further information; and whereas the said Mrs. C.D. Goodwin, did agree by contract with Robert Cooper, wife of B.S. Cooper, to remain on the place for 2 years and should have also the privilege of selling the place, by paying to the said Caroline D. Goodwin, the purchase money \$715.00 and accruing interest until paid, and whereas the said Roberta Cooper did sell to Jeff Shirley, Nov. 5th, 1910 the said tract of land, Now Therefore This Deed made and entered into this the 21st day of January, 1913, between Caroline D. Goodwin, of the first part and Jeff Shirley and Catherine Shirley, his wife, of the second part.

Witnesseth: That for the sum of \$722. is hereby acknowledged, the said Carol unto Jeff Shirley and Catherine Shirley land containing 180 acres, be the same Va. and on which the said Shirley now As witness the following signature are

for same to granted 4/5/15

J. F. Lumsden
 To #149
 John Lewis Carter.

This Deed, made and entered into this 10th day of April 1915, between J. F. Lumsden ~~his wife~~ (deceased), parties of the first part, and John Lewis Carter, party of the second part, all of Orange County, Virginia,

WITNESSETH:

That for and in consideration of the sum of \$257.50 two hundred and fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents, cash paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said first parties have granted, bargained and sold and doth hereby convey with General Warranty of Title unto the said second party, a certain lot of land situated in Orange County, Virginia, near Tatum in Taylor District, adjoining the lands of Lewis Powell, J. T. Payne and others, being a part of tract has been known as the Lancaster Tract and is bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stone North of a small branch corner to Lewis Powell, thence S. 11° E. 16 3/4 poles to a stone by a white oak tree corner to Lewis Jackson; thence S. 89° E. 48 poles to center of road one pole east of Lewis Jackson's corner





WE ARE NOT ONLY A RECIPIENT OF A COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT BUT WE ARE ALSO A USER OF NRCS EQIP
PROGRAMS

—MICHAEL CARTER JR
CARTER FARMS & AFRICULTURE



January 2022
Carter Farms Fencing and Pump Station



February 2022
Greenhouse Installation at
Carter Farms



The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
ASALH Richmond, Virginia presents:
THE CULTIVATE SERIES

AFRICULTURE

THE DEEP HISTORY BETWEEN
PLANTS AND AFRICA

with Virginia Farmer Michael
Carter of Carter Farms

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

TIME: 7P ET | 6P CT | 5P MT | 4P PT

WHERE: VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM



Farmer & Student of the Earth
Michael Carter



Registration Link:

<https://aarp.cventevents.com/CultivateFEB>

Workshops for new and beginner
farmers

AARP (American Association of
Retired Persons) &
Association for the study of
African American Life and History
(ASALH)

5 part

Africulture series 2022

Over 400 participants



March 5, 2022
Carter Farm Volunteer Day





April 2022
Carter Farms hosted Women in Agriculture Workshop
With
American Farmland Trust





May 2022
Seeding of the back fields



Some Workshops for new and beginner farmers Agroforestry May 2022

What to do with Big Momma/Granddaddy's land?

AGROFORESTRY AND SILVOPASTURING WITH VA TECH

Income opportunities and options for landowners

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 : 4PM TO 6PM
FOOD WILL BE SERVED

(VEGAN AND NOT SO VEGAN FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE)

The 2022 Socially Disadvantaged farming forum will address a variety of forest farming topics, including opportunities for generating agricultural income while conserving and rejuvenating forested land, heirs' property, forest management, silvopasture, ecological grazing, conservation easements and other income generating programs. This will be a hybrid event, it can be attended both in person or via zoom. Dinner will be served at the event at Carter Farms, 26273 Carters Lane, Unionville VA.

Join Dr. John Munsell of Virginia Tech as well as representatives from USDA and other conservation organizations to learn more about what can be done with your properties.

REGISTER HERE:
<https://bit.ly/CarterFarmsAgroforestrySilvopasturing>

SPONSORED WITH SUPPORT FROM USDA NIFA BEGINNER FARMER AND RANCHER GRANT, FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AGENCY (NCRS).





Taste of Africa **JUNETEENTH EXPERIENCE**

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022
11AM - 4PM EST

CARTER FARMS
26273 Carters Lane
Unionville, VA 22567

- ✂ REPRESENTATION BY UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS, REGIMEN 25
- ✂ MAKE YOUR OWN MUSICAL INSTRUMENT WORKSHOP WITH DR. DENA JENNINGS
- ✂ TASTE OF AFRICA – COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SAMPLES FROM
EAST AFRICA, WEST AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
- ✂ PLANT & PAINT ART WORKSHOP ✂ 3 MOON BOUNCES
- ✂ GAMES ✂ CHILDREN'S FACE PAINTING
- ✂ VEGAN FOOD ✂ NON VEGAN FOOD ✂ WINES BY SWEET VINES FARM AND WINERY

REGISTER HERE:

<https://bit.ly/Juneteenth2022CarterFarms>



*a*friculture

Juneteenth 2022





Juneteenth 2022





Juneteenth 2022





Student Group Visits 2022





Student Group Visits 2022





Student Group Visits 2022



UVA DINE / ARAMARK/ 4P Farm tour organized by Carter Farms and Africulture
June 2022



UVA DINE / ARAMARK/ 4P Farm tour organized by Carter Farms and Africulture
June 2022



UVA CHEF / ARAMARK/ 4P Farm tour organized by Carter Farms and Africulture
June 2022





Assisting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Thomas Brice Louisa, VA.





Beginning Farmer Ethnic Vegetable Field Day
With
Future Harvest Casa



Ethnic Crop
Production and
Marketing
at Carter Farms

August 13th, 2022
12-5PM

 Featuring 
A Taste of Africa



Edna Lewis dinner at Runk Dining Hall UVA inspired by chef farm tour September 2022

HARVEST
TABLE
CULINARY GROUP

A SOUTHERN MENU INSPIRED BY EDNA LEWIS
Edna Lewis was a chef and restaurateur known for bringing seasonal Southern cuisine to menus across the United States. Lewis was born and raised in Freetown, VA, a farming community established in Orange County in the 1860s by eight recently emancipated families, including her grandparents Chester and Lucindy Lewis. These dishes are inspired by her work and her story.

FROM THE OCEANS
Shrimp and Bloody Butcher Red Grits
Butter-Poached Shrimp, Grit Cake, Brown Butter Sherry Flambé

FROM THE GARDEN
Field Peas, Gumbo, and Greens with Charleston Gold Rice
Tomato Stew featuring Black-Eyed Peas, Nigerian Spinach, Fried Sage

FROM THE FARM
Roasted Quail, Country Ham, and White Grape Sauce
Quail, Cured Virginia Country Ham, Concord Grape, Buttered Green Beans, Orange County Spoon Bread

Fried Rabbit
Buttermilk-Marinated Rabbit, Green Tomato Chowchow, Savory Potato Soufflé, Mustard Greens

OLD-FASHIONED DESSERT
White Pound Cake with Fruit Sauce
Classic Pound Cake, Mixed Fruit Sauce, Freshly Whipped Cream, Ghanaian Basil

Featured Local Partners on Next Page



FEATURED LOCAL PARTNERS

Real Roots Food Systems RVA | Richmond, VA
Providing Sage, Green Tomatoes
Instagram: @realrootsfoodsystems

Don "Farmer D" Haight | Culpeper County, VA
Providing Honey, Tomatoes, Hot Peppers

Carter Farms | Orange County, VA
Providing Ghanaian Basil, Nigerian Spinach
thecarterfarms.com

Slade Farms | Surry County, VA
Providing Elephant Garlic
sladefarms.com

Fitrah Farm | Gordonsville, VA
Providing Eggs
fitrahfarms.com

Goldman Farm | Charlotte County, VA
Providing Potatoes, Corn, Mustard Greens
4pfoods.com/farmers/goldman-farm

Purple Mountain Grown | Takoma Park, MD
Providing Cornmeal
purplemountaingrown.net

This event presented with gratitude to the local growers who chose to partner with us, to Michael Carter Jr. and to 4P Foods who connected us to a network of growers with a purpose, to our chefs for the hours of preparation and care that went into each dish, and finally, to our guests who chose to join us and learn about the many ways that food matters.





dnal Lewis dinner at Runk Dining Hall UVA inspired by chef farm tour





UVA Teaching opportunity

AAS 3559 / ETP 3559
***AFRICULTURE: The African Roots of US Agriculture
& the Challenges and Innovations of Today's Black Farmers***
Spring 2023

Mr. Michael Carter, Jr.

Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
New Cabell 303

Course Description:

Led by a practicing farmer-activist, Michael Carter, J. of Carter Farms in nearby Orange County, Virginia, we will examine how principles, practices, plants and people of African descent have shaped US agriculture, and thus, the lives of all Americans. By examining a wide range of history, laws, attitudes, cultures and traditions, we will see how many US staple commodities and practices have their roots in Africa and observe cultural similarities between indigenous cultures around the world. While evaluating realities of today's Black farmers and the innovations they devise to survive in a system stacked against them, we will look for solutions to an array of challenges in environmental and agricultural sciences faced by today's Black farmers.

* This course is funded by a grant awarded to the *Environmental Thought & Practice Program* by the Jefferson Trust

Africulture 2022- 2023

Conducted over 75 one on one visits, consultations, and advisement via in person meetings on their farm, our farm, phone calls, text, emails, social media messaging, etc.

Shared NRCS programs and services with over 300 farmers, at conferences such as VABF (Va. Assoc. of Biological Farmers) and Future Harvest Casa and workshops and events at Carter Farms and around the state..

Assisted more than 10 farmers on applying for EQIP program services.

Guided 6 farmers in receiving their Farmer Tract Number via FSA to be eligible to apply for EQIP program services.



thecarterfarms.com



carterfarmsva@gmail.com



[carterfamily farms](https://www.facebook.com/carterfamilyfarms)



[@carterfarmsva](https://www.instagram.com/carterfarmsva)



carterbrothers.net



learnafriculture.net



learnafriculture@gmail.com



CARTER
FARMS



*Carter
Brothers*

 africulture

contact us



THANK YOU!

MEDASSE | AKPE | ASANTE

Carter farms, carter brothers & aficulture





United States Department of Agriculture

Water Quality Monitoring of Ag Watersheds

James Weber, USGS Hydrologist



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Planning efforts to monitor water-quality responses in small agricultural watersheds

The USGS and EPA are planning a new water-quality monitoring effort of agricultural watersheds that could help:

Evaluate the water-quality effects of agricultural conservation practices

Increase educational and outreach opportunities with local communities

These study objectives could be met by:

Monitoring water-quality responses in small agricultural watersheds

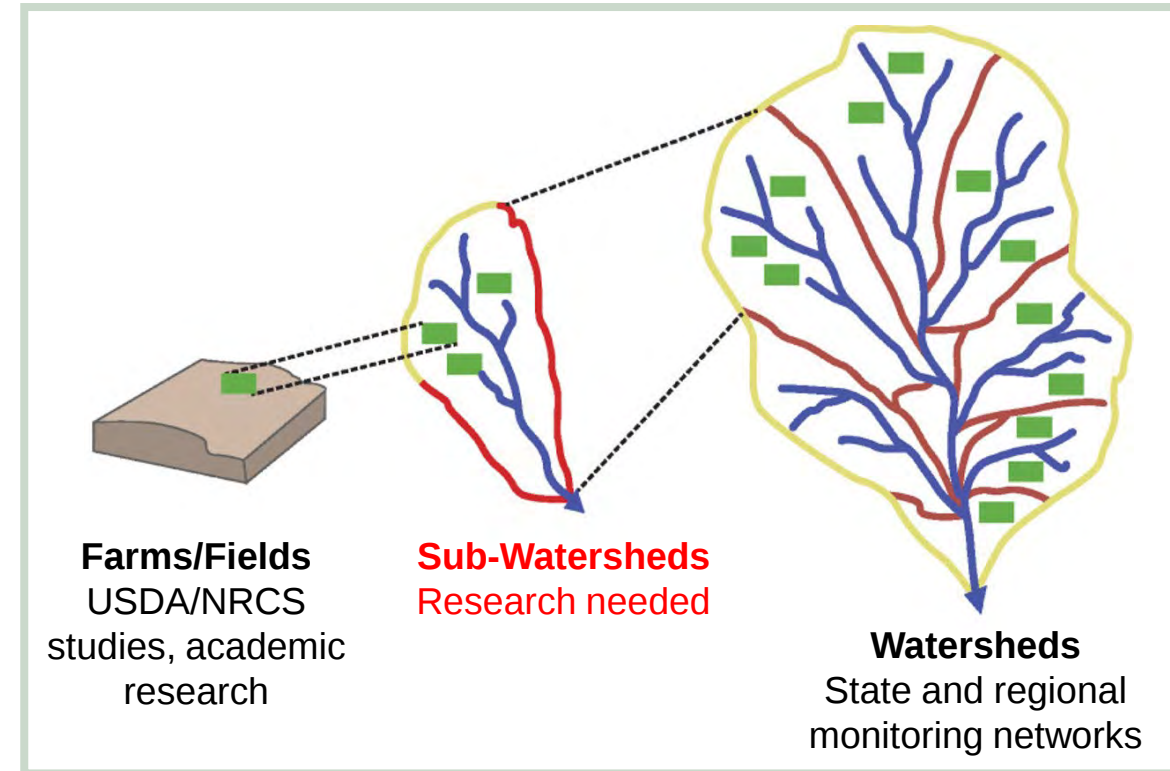
Analyzing water-quality responses with landscape changes

Establishing a coordinated multi-partner effort

We are looking for collaboration to:

Identify study locations (based on conservation-practice implementation) and plan study outcomes

Secure additional funding to initiate the monitoring effort and address partner needs



Contact me for more information

Jimmy Webber
jwebber@usgs.gov



United States Department of Agriculture



New Conservation Practice Standard (CSP) Overview

Chris Bradshaw, Acting State Resource Conservationist



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Conservation Practice Adoption Process

The process to review NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and supporting documents is on a 5 year schedule.

- NRCS discipline leads at HQ review conservation practice standards and supporting documents internally and make proposed edits.
- NRCS HQ post proposed changes to the Federal Register for public comment.
 - NRCS in Virginia will email the State Technical Committee to alert you when proposed edits to conservation practices have been posted to the Federal Register.
 - This is your chance to make comments and have input for the proposed edits for conservation practices.
- After public comment is received, NRCS HQ will respond to comments and post revised national standards for states to adopt.
- Notices are sent to states with practices / edits that are available for adoption by states.



Conservation Practice Adoption Process (continued)

States receive the National Handbook of Conservation Practice Notice which outlines the conservation practice standards that need review by states to edit to existing standards; for consideration to adopt new standards; for consideration to adopt interim standards, and notification to archive outdated materials.

State discipline leads on the State Engineer's staff and the State Resource Conservationist's staff are assigned conservation practice standards to review based on their discipline, such as agronomy, forestry, biology, or engineering etc.

Generally practice updates are made, adopted, and uploaded to the FOTG to coincide with the beginning of the next fiscal year.



Current Virginia Workload

NHQ review, Fed. Register complete, & posted for State action.

VA SRC Staff is reviewing these ecological sciences practice standard revisions to update these existing VA standards on the FOTG.

- CPS(324) – Deep Tillage
- CPS(390) – Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- CPS(394) – Firebreak
- CPS(396) – Aquatic Organism Passage
- CPS(592) – Feed Management
- CPS(644) – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- CPS(645) – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- CPS(647) – Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt.
- CPS(658) – Wetland Creation
- CPS(659) – Wetland Enhancement
- CPS(666) – Forest Stand Improvement



Current Virginia Workload(continued)

NHQ review, Fed. Register complete, & posted for State action.

VA Engineering Staff is reviewing these engineering practice standard revisions to update these existing VA standards on the FOTG.

- CPS(326) – Clearing and Snagging
- CPS(356) – Dike and Levee
- CPS(362) – Diversion
- CPS(443) – Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- CPS(453) – Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment
- CPS(457) – Mine Shaft and Adit Closing
- CPS(378) – Pond
- CPS(578) – Stream Crossing
- CPS(606) – Subsurface Drain
- CPS(635) – Vegetated Treatment Area



Current Virginia Workload(continued)

NHQ review, Fed. Register complete, & posted for State action.

VA NRCS staff are reviewing these standards which currently are not adopted in Virginia.

- CPS(336) – Soil Carbon Amendment
- CPS(376) – Field Operations Emission Reduction
- CPS(379) – Forest Farming
- CPS(383) – Fuel Break
- CPS(399) – Fishpond Management
- CPS(548) – Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment
- CPS(550) – Range Planting
- CPS(660) – Tree/Shrub Pruning

- CPS(627) - Wastewater Treatment Milk House
- CPS(656) – Constructed Wetland
- CPS(423) – Hillside Ditch
- CPS(630) – Vertical Drain



Federal Register Process

Virginia NRCS will continue to alert State Technical Committee members when NRCS practices are on the Federal Register for public comment.

This is your chance to provide input and make comments about the conservation practice standards.

Additionally, you may also signup to receive emails yourself through the Federal Register website at: [Federal Register Link](#)

By using the saved-search customized subscription you can subscribe to be notified for specific topics/terms like “NRCS”.





United States Department of Agriculture



Question and Answer

???



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Closing Remarks

Dr. Edwin Martinez Martinez, State Conservationist



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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, USDA, its Mission Areas, agencies, staff offices, 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.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Mission Area, agency, or staff office; the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY); or the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877- 8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or*

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

*(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov
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