



United States Department of Agriculture

State Technical Committee Meeting

Houston County Government Building
2030 Kings Chapels Road
Perry, GA 31069

09 January 2024, 09:30 AM – 02:00 PM

Time	Topic	Presenters
09:00 AM	Registration & Refreshments	
09:30 AM	Opening Comments & Introductions	Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS Georgia State Conservationist
10:00 AM	Financial Assistance Program Update (EQIP, CSP, & RCPP)	Lee Green, NRCS EQIP Program Analyst
10:30 AM	TST Update	Tracy Cole, NRCS State Resource Conservationist
11:15 AM	Soils Update/Mitigation Bank	Gary Hankins, NRCS State Soil Scientist
11:30 AM	Emergency Practices, Updates	Diane Guthrie, NRCS State Conservation Engineer
12:00 PM	Break For Lunch	
01:00 PM	Farm Service Agency Updates	Arthur Trip, FSA State Executive Director
01:15 PM	Risk Management Agency Updates	RMA Representative
01:30 PM	Easements Watershed Protection Program	Sharon Swagger, NRCS ASTC-Easements & Watershed Programs
01:45 PM	Open Discussion/Q&A	STC Members & Guests
02:00 PM	Closing Comments/STC Meeting Adjourned	Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS Georgia State Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Georgia State Office
355 East Hancock Avenue - Athens, GA - 30601-2775
Voice: 706-546-2272 Fax: 855-417-8490

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Georgia State Technical Committee Meeting (GA STCM)

09 January 2024

09:30 AM – 02:00 M

Perry, GA & MS Teams

Presenters: Terrance O. Rudolph, Lee Green, Tracy Cole, Gary Hankins, Theresa Windham, Sharon Swagger, Nick McGhee, and Jeanne Lindsey

Attendees: Justin Smith, Brad Alexander, Tansel Hudson, Charlie Grace, Taylor Sills, Mallory O'Steen, Erin Cork, Mark McCann, Jack Lewis, Krisha Whiting, Cassidy Lord, J.T. Pynne, Janice Lester, Tonya Jenkins, Amanda Smith, Joy Hinkle, Mitch Attaway, Mary Gazaway, Tyler MacMillan, Kristian Varsa, Theresa Windham, Kia Bates, Teri Nehls, Amie Robyn, Arthur Tripp, Jeanne Lindsey, Jay Ivey, and other guests.

Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS, Georgia State Conservationist: Welcome and opening comments.

Lee Green, NRCS, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs: Discussed conservation program overview, EQIP updates for FY23/FY24, IRA investments, EQIP funding pools for FY23/FY24, EQIP announcement dates, RCPP updates, CSP updates, IRA updates, GCI updates, and CSP signup for FY24.

Tracy Cole, NRCS, State Resource Conservationist: Discussed updates regarding FOTG, conservation practice standards, Wildlife Habitat Planting (420), interim agronomic practices adopted in FY22/23, agronomic practices contracted in FY23, upcoming NRCS trainings in FY24, practices that may have standards revised in FY24, additional activities planned for FY24, partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities, Grazing Lands updates, forestry/wildlife conservation practices adopted in FY23, and upcoming updates for FY24.

Gary Hankins, NRCS, State Soil Scientist: Discussed project updates, tree site index, soil consideration sheets, FOTG/soils information, Georgia soil surveys, soil manuscript access, conservation compliance updates, National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program, and credit release schedule.

Theresa Windham, FSA, District Director 2: Discussed overview of FSA programs, Farm Loans, Farm Programs, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program, Cost Share Programs, Livestock Forage Programs, Disaster Assistance, Conservation Reserve Programs, Working Grasslands Program, and FSA career opportunities.

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- Comments from Committee Member: Discussed Emergency Relief Program.
- Arthur Tripp, FSA, State Executive Director: Discussed Emergency Relief Program, payments to farmers, and Farm Loan Sessions.

Sharon Swagger, NRCS, ASTC-Easements & Watershed Programs: Discussed Easements and Water Resources team, Easement programs, Watershed programs, ACEP, FY23 Easements, Easement totals, WFPO, Watershed Operations Program Cost Share, Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and Watershed Programs projects.

Nick McGhee, NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, PMC Manager: Discussed updates regarding Plant Materials Programs, conservation plants, conservation plant technology, grazing lands, cropland work, wildlands, wetland plants, cover crops, grazing lands, upcoming demonstrations, current projects, and Georgia Native Seed Network.

- Comments from Committee Member: Discussed CSP-GCI.

Jeanne Lindsey, RMA, Senior Risk Management Specialist: Discussed Federal Crop Insurance Program, CY21-23 insurance experience, traditional row crops, new program changes, specialty crops, WFRP, Apiculture, Written Agreements, Micro Farm overview, Livestock Risk Protection, HIP-WI, and Tropical Storm Option overview.

Questions and Comments from the Committee / Open Discussion

Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS, Georgia State Conservationist: Closing statements. The next GA STC meeting will take place on 16 April 2024.

Meeting was adjourned.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Program Overview

Presented by:

Lee Green

EQIP Program Analyst

Acting Assistant State Conservationist for
Programs



Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that help producers make conservation work for them. Together, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while also improving agricultural operations.

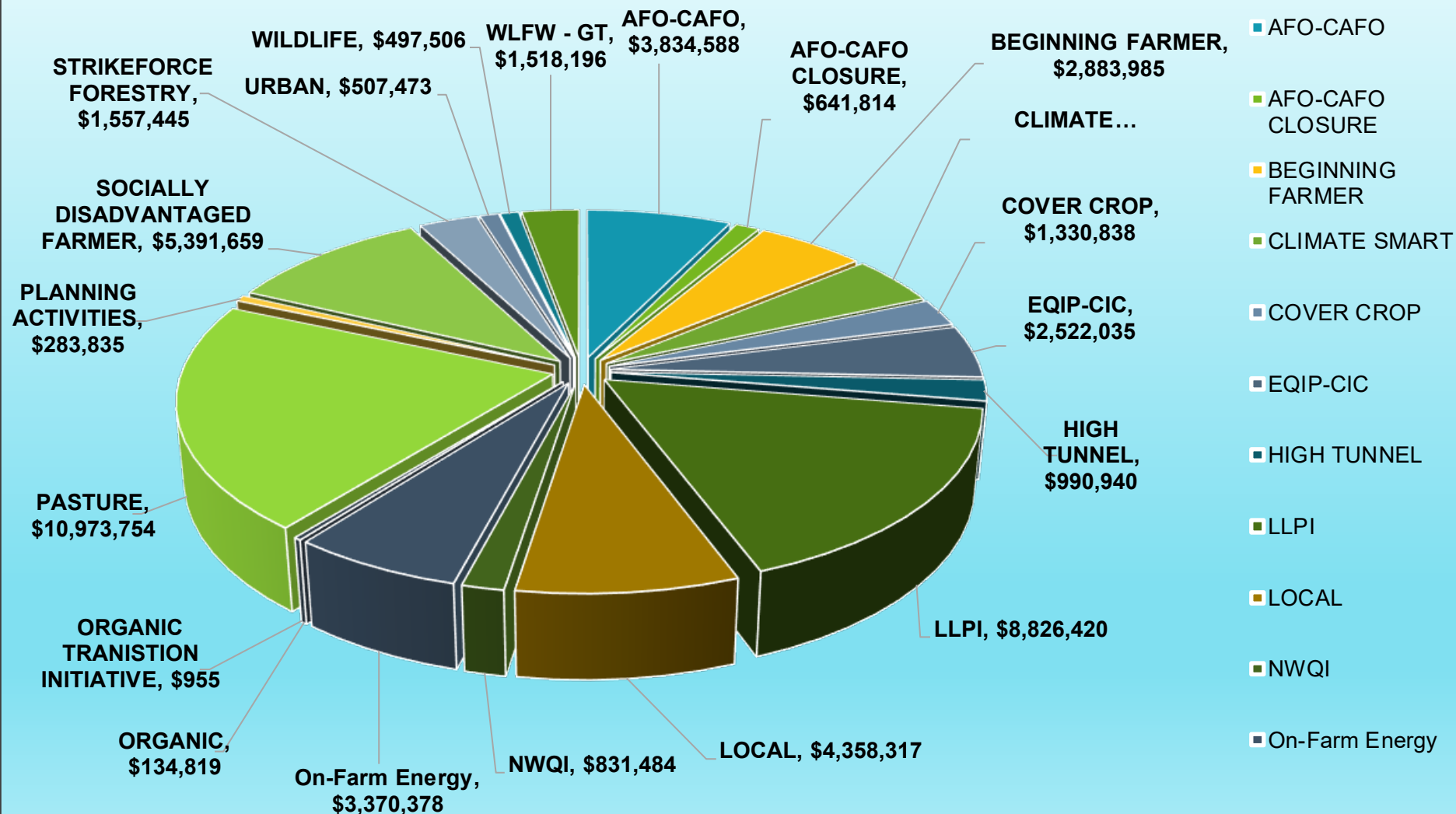
Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices, or activities like conservation planning, that address natural resource concerns on their land. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented.



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Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) FY 2023

\$52.8 Million for Classic EQIP
126,809 Acres



Inflation Reduction Act Investments

The Inflation Reduction Act provides an additional \$19.5 billion over five years to support USDA's conservation programs that yield climate change mitigation benefits. Implementation began in 2023. These investments mean that more producers will have access to conservation assistance and include:

\$8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

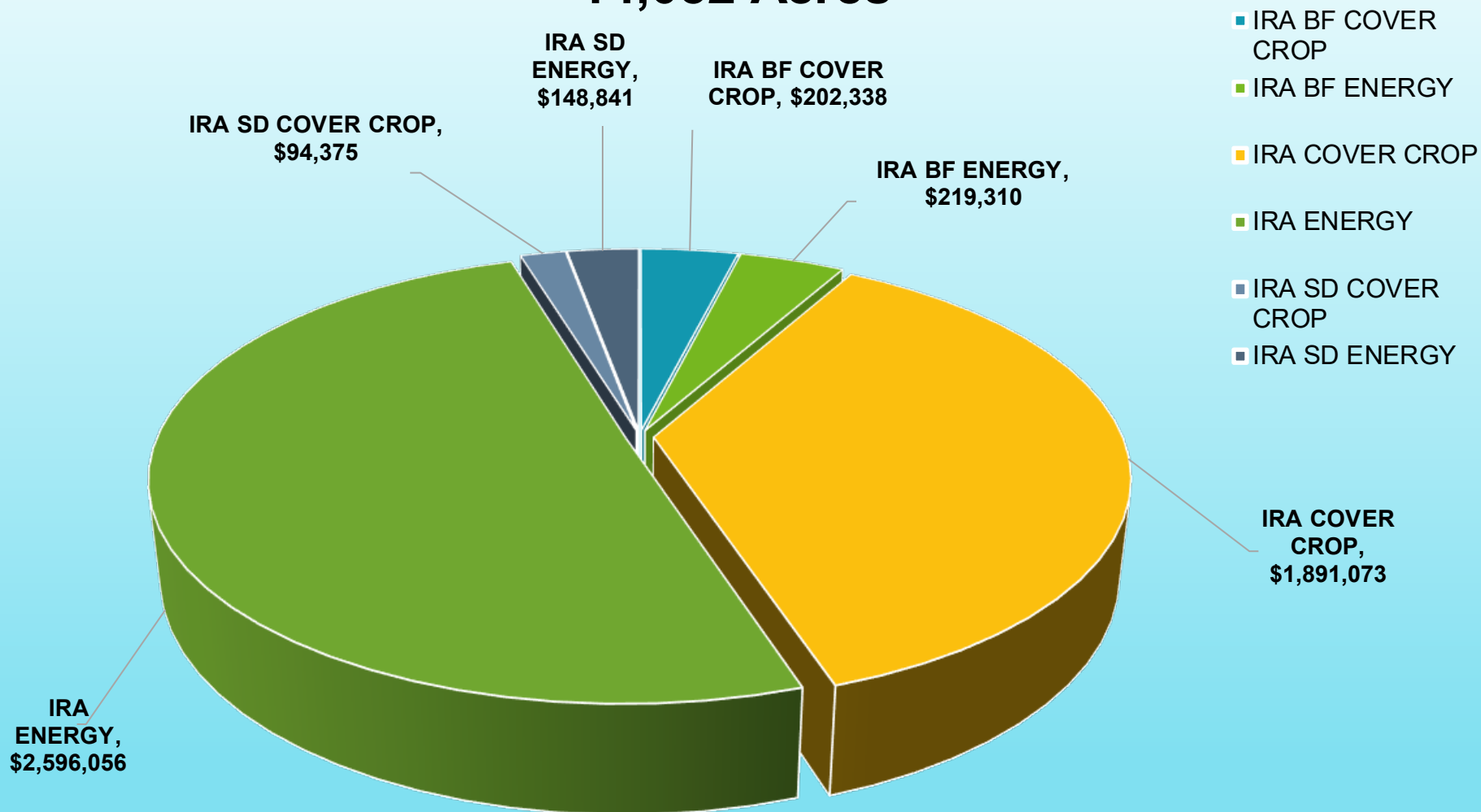
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Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) FY 2023

\$5.1 Million for EQIP Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
14,052 Acres



FY23 EQIP Funding Pools

Strikeforce Forestry	Advanced Animal Mortality Initiative	Longleaf Pine Initiative
Terrestrial Wildlife	Planning Activities: (CPA, DIA, CEMA)	National Water Quality Initiative
Aquatic Wildlife	Organic Transition	Climate Smart GRAZING
Urban Ag Initiative	Organic Transition Initiative	Seasonal High Tunnel
AFO-CAFO Waste Storage Facility Closure Initiative	On-Farm Energy	Cropland Irrigated
Working Lands for Wildlife - GT	BF EQIP-Cover Crop Initiative	Cropland Non-Irrigated
Working Lands for Wildlife - GWW	EQIP-Cover Crop Initiative	Forestry
EQIP-CIC Pastureland (Livestock Operations)	SD EQIP-Cover Crop Initiative	Pasture
EQIP-CIC Cropland (Conventional & Organic)	SD Cropland Irrigated	BF Cropland Irrigated
EQIP-CIC Forestry & Wildlife	SD Cropland Non-Irrigated	BF Cropland Non-Irrigated
AFO-CAFO	SD Forestry	BF Forestry
BF AFO-CAFO	SD Pasture	BF Pasture
SD AFO-CAFO		

FY24 EQIP Funding Pools

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE	ORGANIC (TRANSITION/CERTIFIED)	NORTHERN BOBWHITE
LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE	SMALL SCALE (URBAN)	TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE
WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE - GT	MCINTOSH SEED GRAZING & FORESTRY	AQUATIC WILDLIFE
ACT NOW CLIMATESMART ENERGY	ACT NOW CLIMATESMART SOIL HEALTH COVER CROP	ACT NOW CLIMATESMART ENERGY
ACT NOW CEMAS, DIAS	ON-FARM ENERGY	AFO-CAFO WASTE STORAGE FACILITY CLOSURE INITIATIVE
AFO-CAFO	STRIKEFORCE FORESTRY	IRRIGATION (CROPLAND IRRIGATED
BF AFO-CAFO	SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL	CLIMATESMART GRAZING AND PASTURE
SD AFO-CAFO	SMART SOIL HEALTH (CROPLAND NON-IRRIGATED)	CLIMATE SMART AGROFORESTRY
EQIP-CIC Pastureland (Livestock Operations)	EQIP-CIC Cropland (Conventional & Organic)	EQIP-CIC Forestry & Wildlife
CROPLAND SOIL EROSION (CSE)	GRAZING WATER QUALITY (GWQ)	

EQIP Announcement Dates

- Fiscal year 2024 EQIP sign-up was announced on October 2, 2023.
- The application cutoff date to be considered for fiscal year 2024 EQIP was November 17, 2023.

Note: Although the fiscal year 2024 EQIP application cutoff date has passed, customers are still encouraged to apply for financial assistance any time of the year.

RCPP Updates

**2 RCPP projects have been funded and
will be implemented at the end of 2024**



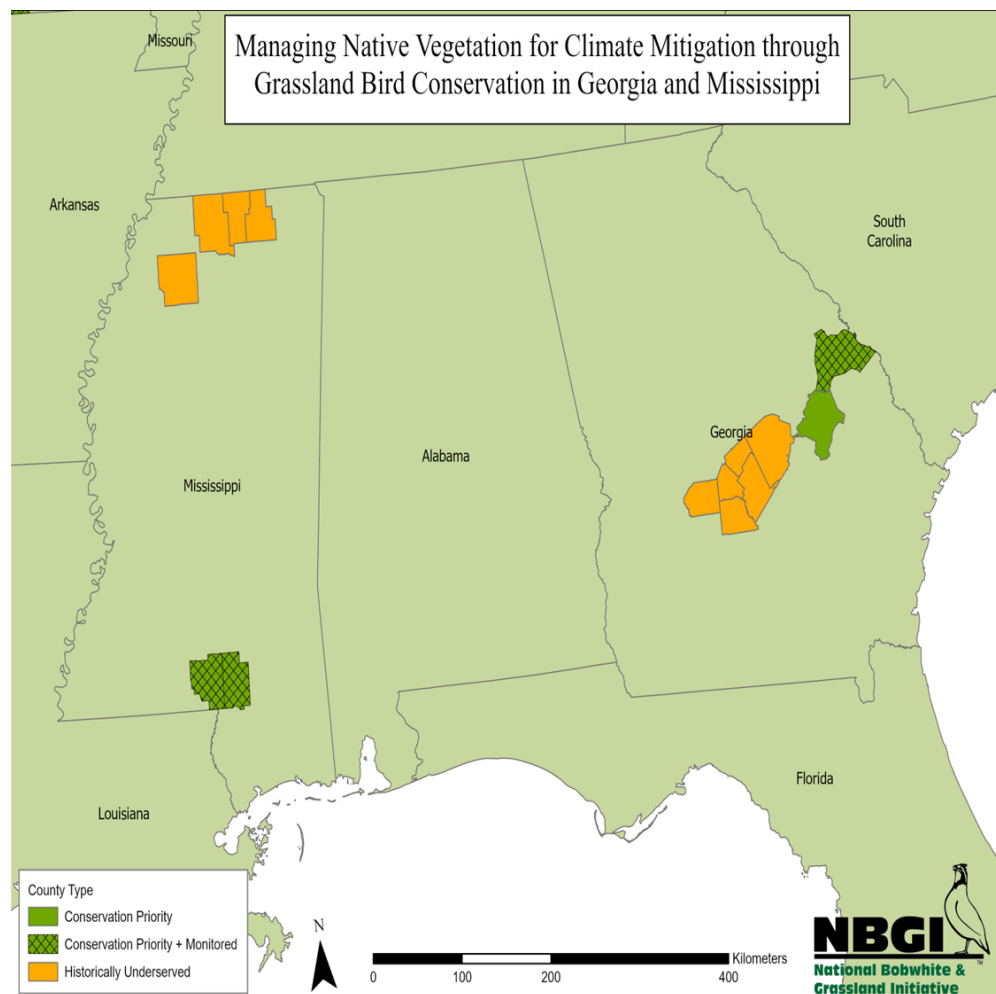
Overview

- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns.
- Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

Project 2945

Managing Native Vegetation for Climate Mitigation through Grassland Bird Conservation in Georgia and Mississippi

Their focus will be on improving the populations of northern bobwhite and a suite of grassland birds. Through priority counties, they will work to localize conservation to increase the occupancy of these birds at the county scale.



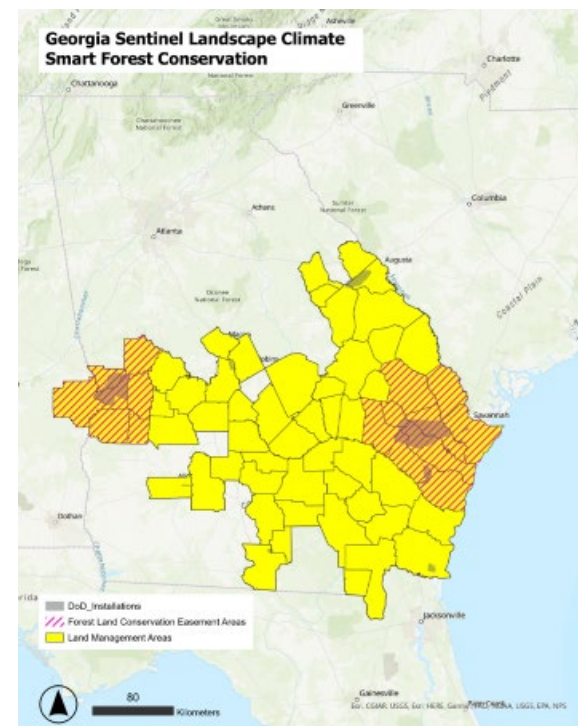
Program delivery

- They plan to use NRCS Climate Smart practices to rebuild open pine communities, production edges, idle areas, and open spaces that have reverted to trees in GA and MS.
- Practices as follows: 327 (MS) conservation cover , 386 Field border (Both), 420 Wildlife habitat planting (Both), 612 Tree shrub establishment (MS – Shortleaf Pine), 645 Upland wildlife habitat (Both), and 666 Forest land improvement (Both). Site preparation and maintenance of native plants

3077 Georgia Sentinel Landscape Climate Smart Forest Conservation

Goal 1: Addressing Air, Water and Plant Resource Concerns in the Chattahoochee, Flint, Altamaha, and Ogeechee River Basins The objective is to preserve existing longleaf forest lands through forest conservation easements of up to 5000 acres paired with prescribed fire cost-share of 10,000 acres.

Goal 2: Addressing Climate and Wildlife Habitat Resource Concerns by providing additional resources across the Georgia Sentinel Landscape to implement and educate producers concerning Climate Smart Mitigation Activities.



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Program delivery

These actions will improve climate resilience and promote forest health through forest conservation easements and practices such as:

- Prescribed Burning(338), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Early Successional Habitat Development(647), Restoration of Rare and Declining Natural communities and Riparian Forest Buffer (391).

Producers will be addressing climate and wildlife habitat resource concerns within the Georgia Sentinel Landscape with practices such as:

- Forest Stand Improvement(666), Mulching(484) and Tree/Shrub Establishment(612).

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Updates



CSP Programs

CSP Classic and IRA-CSP Classic

CSP Renewals and IRA-CSP Renewals

CSP Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)



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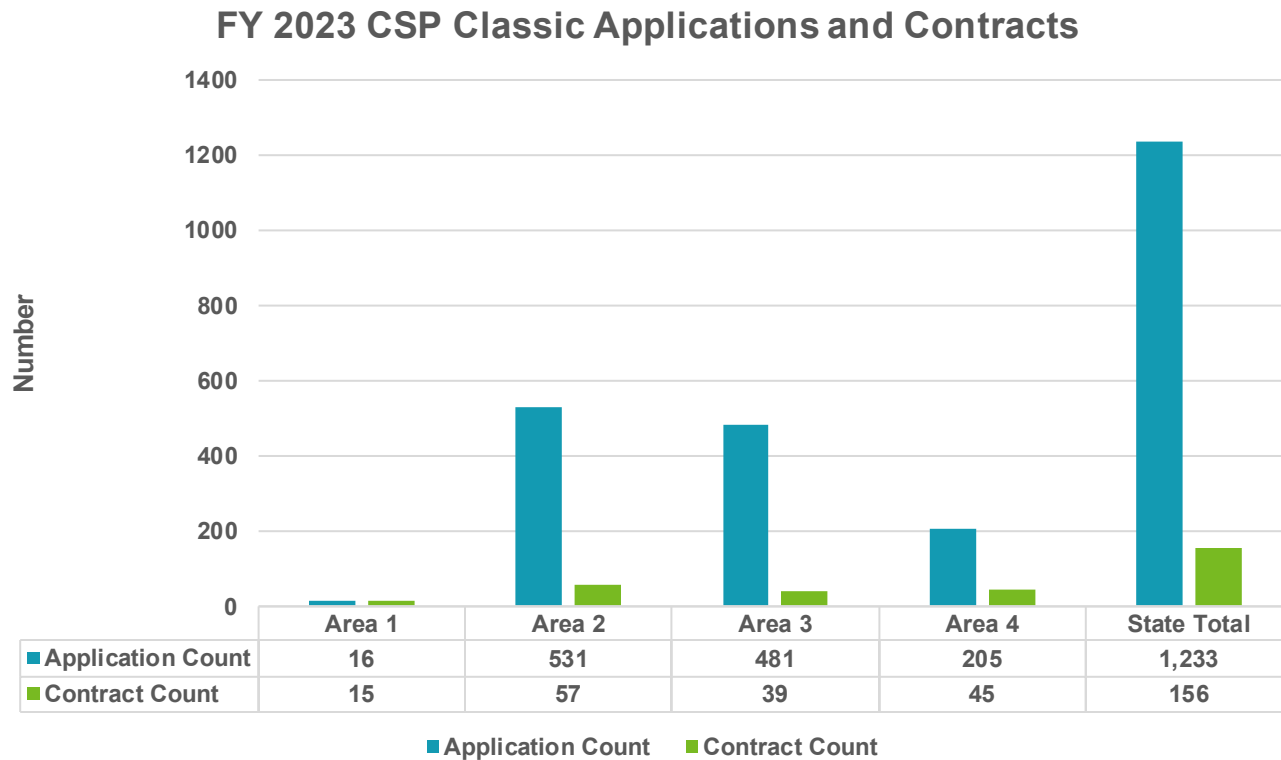
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.



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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic



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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Focuses on a specific set of core eligible conservation activities that provide climate change mitigation benefits.

CSP Classic and CSP Renewals are eligible for possible funding opportunities.

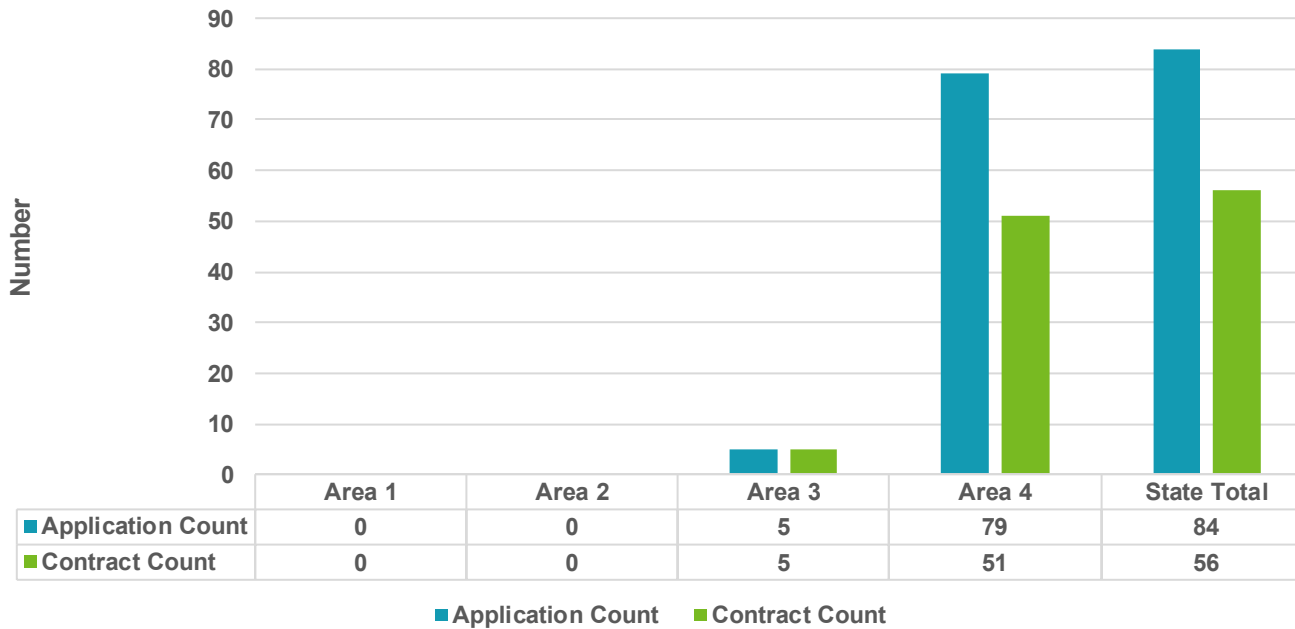


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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – CSP Classic

FY 2023 IRA-CSP Classic Applications and Contracts

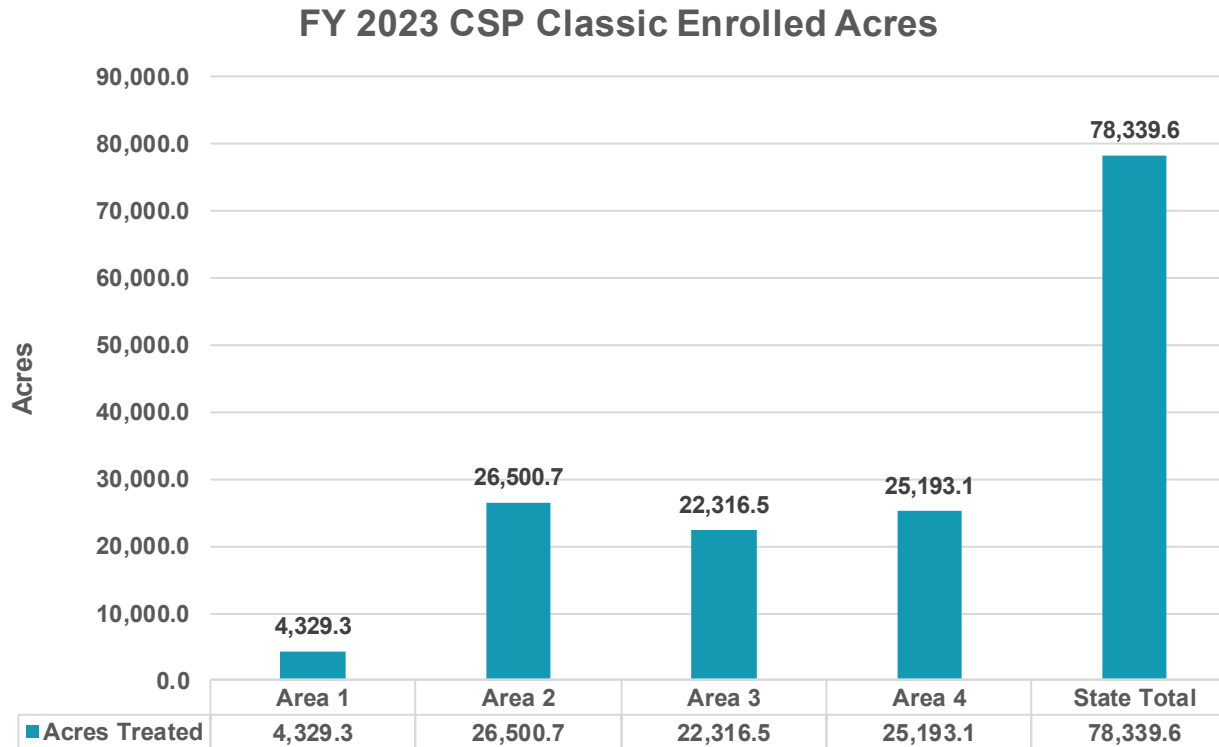


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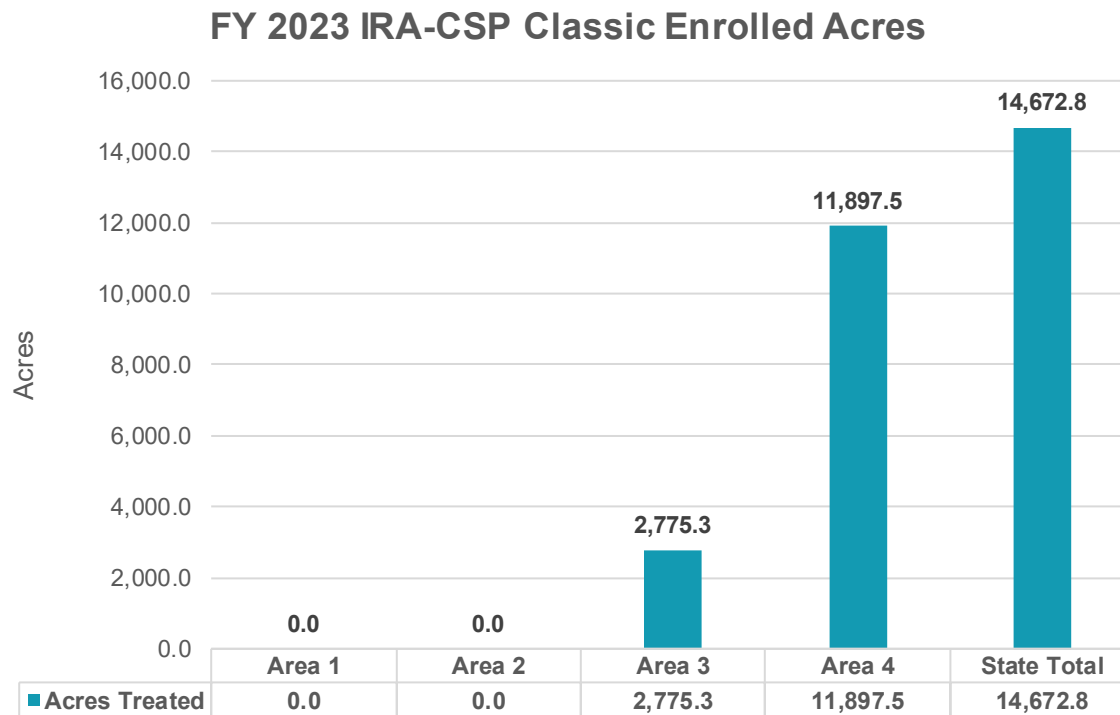
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic



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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – CSP Classic



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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic

FY 2023 CSP Classic Obligations



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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – CSP Classic

FY 2023 IRA-CSP Classic Obligations



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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Renewal

During the first half of the fifth year of the existing contract term, NRCS may allow a participant to apply and compete to renew their contract for an additional 5-year period.

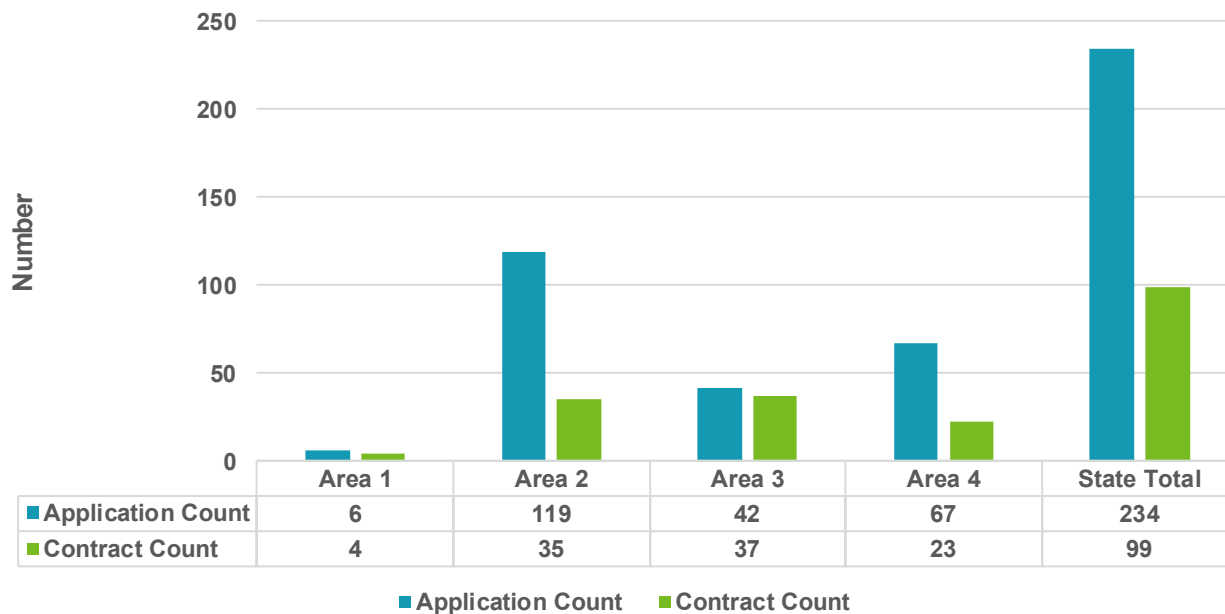
For FY 2023, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was not available for Renewals.



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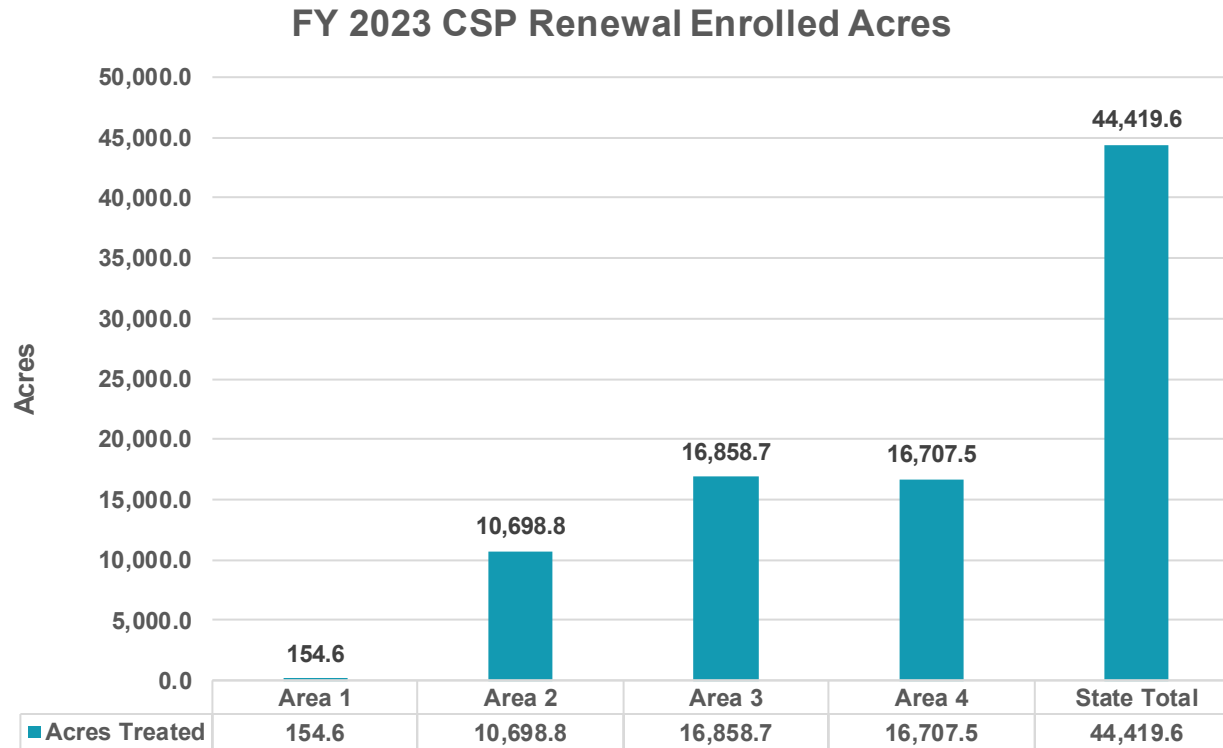
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Renewal

FY 2023 CSP Renewal Applications and Contracts



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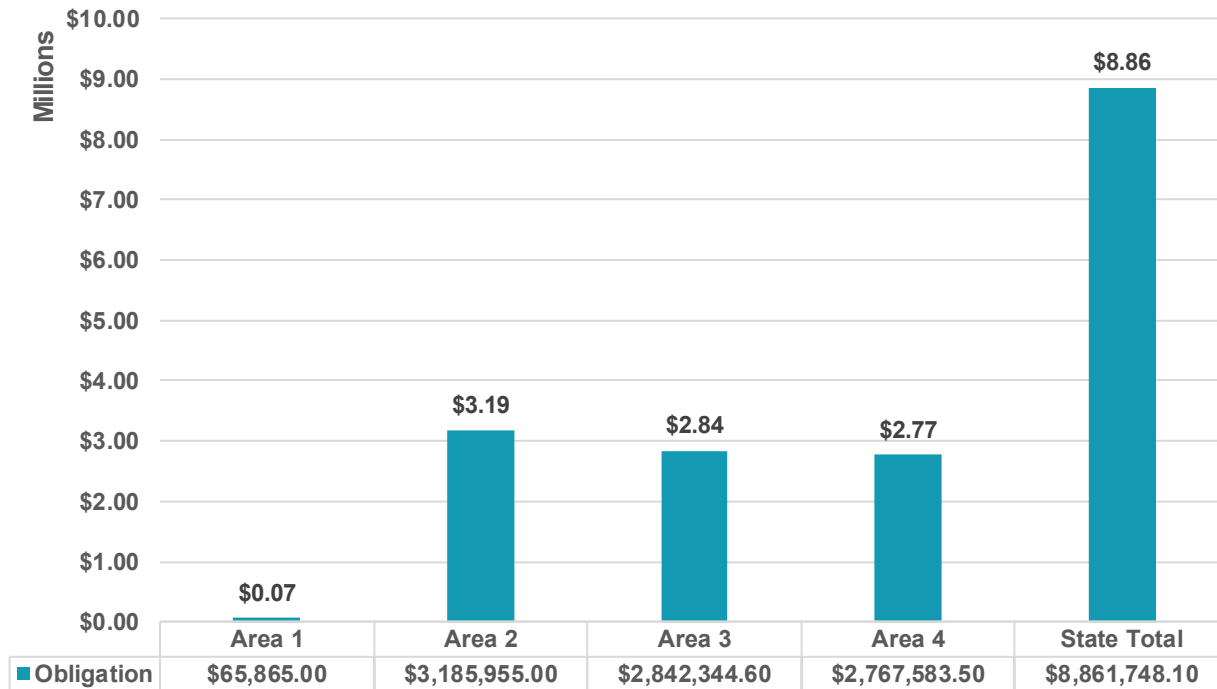
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Renewal



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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Renewal

FY 2023 CSP Renewal Obligations



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Grassland Conservation Initiative

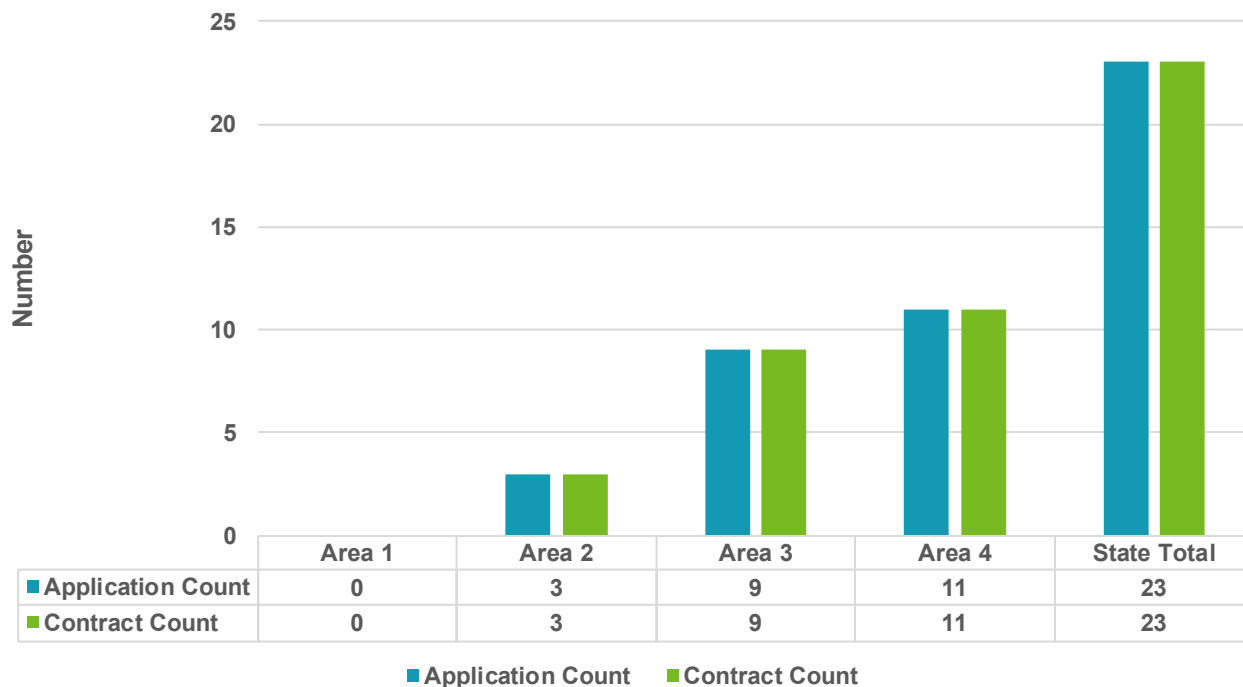
The purpose of the grassland conservation initiative (GCI) is to assist producers in protecting grazing uses, conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources, and achieving related conservation values by conserving eligible land through grassland conservation contracts.



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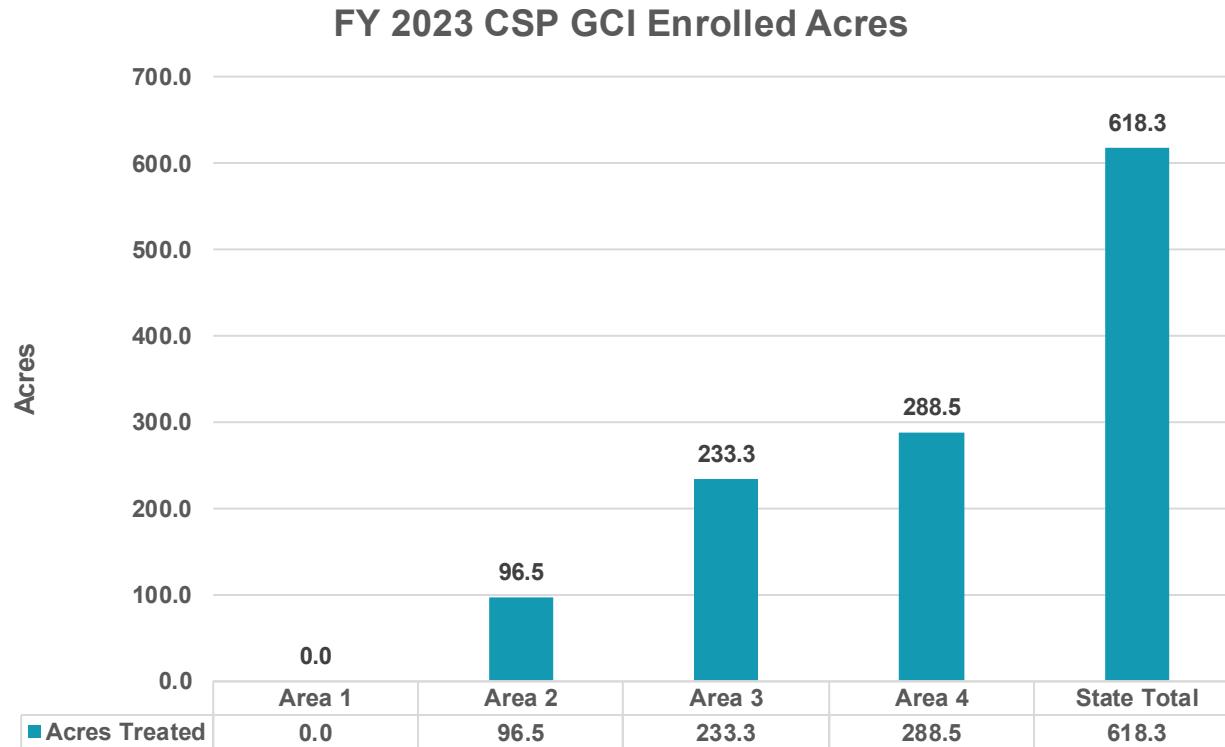
CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)

FY 2023 CSP GCI Applications and Contracts



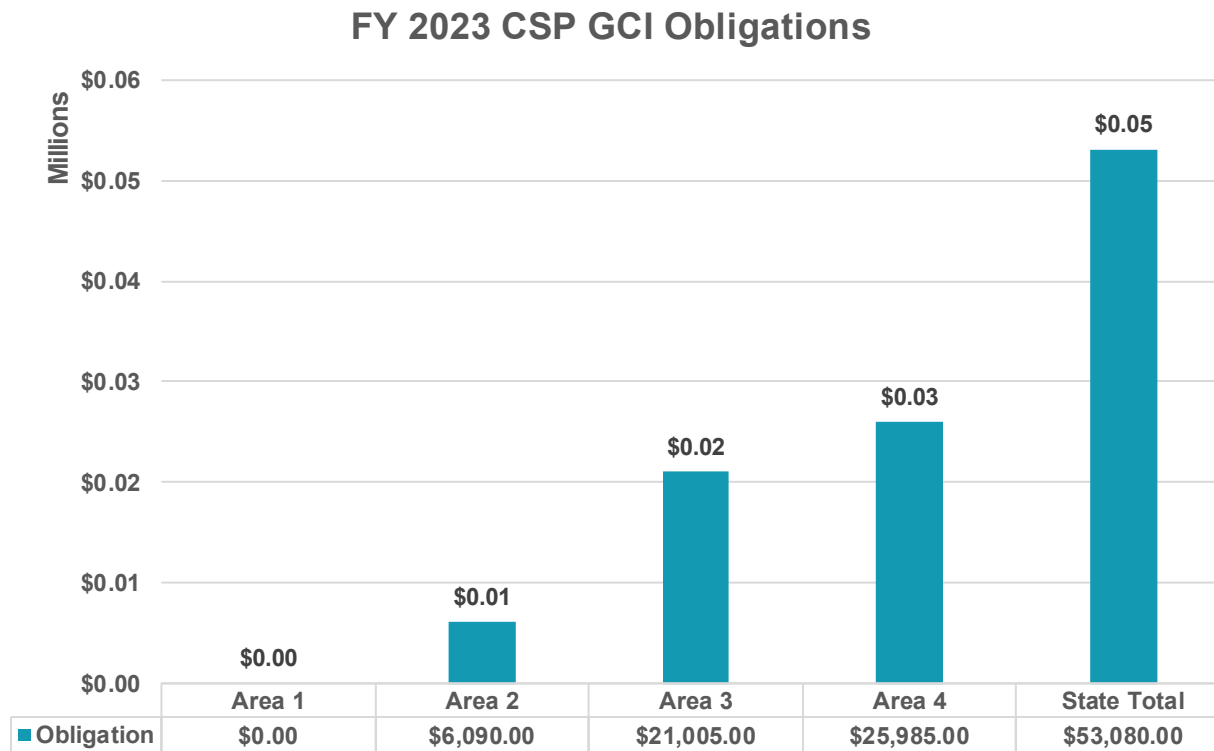
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CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)



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CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI)



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FY 2024 CSP Signup

CSP Renewal

- 2024-1 Signup: FY2019 Contracts set to expire December 31, 2023.
- Sign-up Deadline: April 14, 2023
- Obligation Deadline: December 22, 2023

CSP-GCI

- Application Deadline: To Be Announced (TBA)
- Obligation Deadline: TBA

CSP-Classic

- 2024-1 Signup Announcement: TBA
- Sign-up Deadline: TBA
- Obligation Deadline: TBA



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Questions??????



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FY 2024 State Technical Committee



FOTG/Conservation Practice Standards Overview



Field Office Technical Guide | GA



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Section 2 - Natural and Cultural Resources Information



Section 3 - Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria



Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents



Section 5 - Conservation Effects



Section 1 - General Resource References

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Document Title	Type	Pub Date	End Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract	Size	Info
☐ Introduction to Section I		2020-04-30	--	--	General References	Introduction to Section I	87 kB	

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Water Harvesting Catchment (636)

Water Well (642)

Watering Facility (614)

Well Decommissioning (351)

Wetland Creation (658)

Wetland Enhancement (659)

Wetland Restoration (657)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
(644)

Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and
Renovation (380)

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)

Woody Residue Treatment (384)

	Document Title	Type	Pub Date	End Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract	Size	Info
☐	420 GA CPS Wildlife Habitat Planting 2020		2020-12-03	--	--	vegetation, habitat improvement	--	115 kB	
☐	420 GA IR Native Grasses 2023		2023-01-30	--	--	--	--	967 kB	
☐	420 GA IR Wildlife-Habitat-Planting 2020		2020-12-03	--	--	wildlife habitat, vegetation	--	305 kB	
☐	420 GA GD Pollinator Habitat 2020		2020-12-07	--	--	vegetation, wildlife habitat	--	4.7 MB	
☐	420 GA GD Monarch-Habitat 2023		2023-02-24	--	--	Technical Guide	--	921 kB	



Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
WILDLIFE HABITAT PLANTING

CODE 420

(ac)

DEFINITION

Establishing wildlife habitat by planting herbaceous vegetation or shrubs.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Improve degraded wildlife habitat for the target wildlife species or guild
- Establish wildlife habitat that resembles the historic, desired, and reference native plant community

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all lands where inadequate wildlife habitat is identified as a primary resource concern and a plant community inventory or wildlife habitat evaluation indicates a benefit in altering the current vegetative conditions (species diversity, richness, structure, and pattern) by establishing herbaceous plants or shrubs. The use of annuals that persist over the life of the practice, and annuals that serve as a nurse crop to support the establishment of the persistent vegetative species are appropriate under this conservation practice.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Identify the target wildlife species or guild and implement all vegetative establishment measures needed to meet minimum NRCS planning criteria of “50 percent of the habitat potential for the species of concern” (USDA NRCS 2003) as identified in a State-approved habitat evaluation protocol (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide). In most habitat evaluation protocols this is reflected by a score of at least 0.5.

Identify the target habitat conditions to be created with the establishment of selected plant materials. The targeted habitat conditions will include a description of plant species richness, diversity, pattern, and structure. The target conditions include species that do not require annual cultivation and annual planting.

Inventory or assess the adjacent plant communities to determine sensitivity to potential risk of introducing unwanted species (noxious, invasive, and aggressive natives) into sensitive adjacent habitats. This assessment includes risks associated with ingress and egress of people and equipment, and the introduction of new plant materials. Implement actions necessary to address identified risks.

Design wildlife plantings with respect to season of use, life history, home range, condition of adjacent habitats, and landscape context.

Evaluate the location and value of the habitat for the target species or guild, versus risks to nontarget species (e.g., predation of ground-nesting birds in linear and edge-of-field plantings, insecticide impacts on invertebrates, and potential of the new habitat to encourage use by unwanted wildlife). Adjust the species, location, or design accordingly.

Wildlife plantings can create safety concerns for humans and wildlife when such habitat is located near transportation and utility infrastructure. Locate plantings away transportation and utility infrastructure, when safety hazards to wildlife or humans is identified.

Use only species that are noninvasive and adapted to the site.

Native flora often provide greater ecological benefits relative to introduced species. When suitable, practicable, and available use native plant materials.

Seeding rates will be calculated on a pure life seed (PLS) basis.

Plant materials will meet State quality standards.

Additional Criteria for Establishing Habitat that Resembles the Historic/Desired/Reference Native Plant Community

Native wildlife are adapted to native flora. Most native wildlife respond favorably to creating habitat conditions that closely resembles those conditions that the wildlife species evolved. These historic conditions (commonly referred to as desired conditions, pre-European development conditions, or reference community conditions) include different disturbance regimes. Implement the following when the wildlife habitat establishment objective is to manage for native wildlife by establishing vegetative conditions that resemble the historic habitat conditions.

- Vegetative establishment efforts shall replicate native plant species richness within the targeted successional stage, as provided by an NRCS-approved data source (e.g., ESD, Natural Heritage Program, and NRCS reference sites).
- If available, maintain the integrity of the local genotype by using source-identified plant materials or local plant materials (e.g., use of local seedbank or harvest of plant materials from local native areas).
- Establish vegetation to create the targeted mosaic pattern (uniform, random, or clumped distribution).
- Following planting, utilize supporting conservation practices necessary to restore or mimic the natural disturbance regime identified and necessary to reach target conditions.

CONSIDERATIONS

Many grassland habitats historically lacked a woody component. Adding shrubs into these habitats can be detrimental to many native wildlife species.

Meeting the target conditions of a seral or late successional plant community on disturbed sites may require a staged approach to establishment of the target plant community. For example, a disturbed site may require 1–2 years of plantings of annuals or crops using standards CPSs Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328), or Cover Crop (Code 340) to build soil organic matter and control noxious grasses.

On native rangeland and native grassland, use of other standards (such as CPSs Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) and Prescribed Burning (Code 338)) may provide the same habitat functions and values necessary for the identified target species or guild but with less site disturbance and with less risk of introducing invasive species.

After the site and soils are suitable, the seral or late successional plant species are established.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Develop plans and specifications for each treatment unit according to the criteria. Include in the plan, a detailed implementation schedule with success criteria that covers the entire practice life-span.

The plan will—

- Include the target wildlife species or guild.
- Describe the important target biotic conditions such as species composition, age, structure, or density.
- Document baseline conditions and planned conditions using an approved wildlife habitat evaluation procedure.
- Identify control treatments for noxious, invasive, undesirable, and competing plant and animal species necessary to restore the site to the target conditions.
- As applicable, describe actions necessary to minimize impacts to nontarget wildlife species.
- Include a practice implementation schedule. The schedule will include activities and dates critical to practice implementation and all supporting standards (e.g., CPSs Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315), Brush Management (Code 314), Fence (Code 382), and Stream Crossing (Code 578)).
- Describe site/seedbed preparation methods.
- Provide fertilizer application methods and rates (if applicable).
- Provide planting methods and rates.
- Provide for supplemental water (if applicable).
- Provide for protection of plantings (if applicable).
- Provide a success criteria (target conditions) for the planting, including the target conditions and timeframes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance (O&M) plan will include all activities required to maintain the improved habitat conditions, including—

- Postestablishment assessment process.
- O&M schedule with consideration for adaptive management in the O&M plan.
- Identifying periods of the day or season to avoid disturbance with O&M activities.

REFERENCES

USDA NRCS. 2003. National Biology Manual, Section 511.04 (c), Resource management systems and quality criteria.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

420- Wildlife Habitat Planting Implementation Requirements

Producer: _____ Project: _____
Location: _____ County: _____
Farm No.: _____ Tract No.: _____

Description of Work:

The Practice Purpose(s):

- ☐ Improve degraded wildlife habitat for the targeted wildlife species.
- ☐ Establish wildlife habitat that resembles the historic, desired, and referenced native plant community.

Field Number/Location: _____ Acres Installed: _____ Planting Date: _____
Site Preparation: _____
Planting Method: _____



List site-specific requirements on the next page. Specifications are prepared in accordance with NRCS FOTG. Information listed in this Implementation Requirement is considered to be part of the conservation plan.

¹Bareroot, Container, Cutting, Seed; include size, caliper, height, and age as applicable.²Pure Live Seed (PLS) where available.³ Adjusted for width of maintenance equipment.

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CERTIFICATION OF PRACTICE

Description of the vegetation at the time of certification (e.g. percentage of desirable species, height, and condition).

Plant Species	Percentage of Species	Height and Condition

Photos (preferable before/after) as necessary to determine success of treatment.

Practice performed, to the extent shown above, meets NRCS practice standards and specifications:

Interim Agronomic Practices Adopted in FY 2022/2023

805 - Amending Soil Properties with Lime (small scale)

**808 (now 336)- Soil Carbon Amendment (compost/biochar)
(needs additional work on agronomic impacts)**

**812 - Raised Beds (where existing soil is unsuitable for crop
growth)**

821 – Low Tunnels

823 – Organic Management

Financial assistance available through EQIP

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Agronomic Practices Contracted in FY 2023

Practice	Planned in ____ Contracts in FY 2023
325 High Tunnel System	81
327 Conservation Cover	57
328 Conservation Crop Rotation	64
329 Residue Management- No-till/Strip-till	58
340 Cover Crop	234
342 Critical Area Planting	150
345 Residue Management- Reduced-Till	24
386 Field Border	5
393 Filter Strip	2
484 Mulching	156
590 Nutrient Management	169
805 Amending Soils With Lime	1
808 (now 336) Soil Carbon Amendment	4
821 Low Tunnels	8
823 Organic Management	1

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Trainings for NRCS Staff Coming in FY 2024

- Conservation Planning
- Soil Health
- HELC/WC
- RUSLE II
- CNMP
- Nutrient Management
- Organic
- WINPST

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Practices that may have Standards Revisions in FY 2024

- **340 Cover Crops** (amended implementation requirements earlier this year)
- **331 Contour Orchard**
- **345 Residue Management, Reduced-Till**
- **328 Conservation Crop Rotation**
- **325 High Tunnel System**

Additional Activities planned for FY 2024

- **Soil Health-multiple rainfall simulator demos each year**
- **Soil Health sampling agreement with Limestone Valley RC&D**
- **Soil Health Strategy**

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

Carbon Sequestration/GHG Mitigation

In Georgia:

27 Projects

41 Major Commodities

116 Practices

Outreach Activities

Each entity submitted their own proposal and activities vary greatly

NRCS has specific Climate Smart Funding Pools FY24-27 for climate smart practices

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

A Greener World

Accelerating Appalachia

American Forest Foundation

American Lamb Board

American Sustainable Business Institute Inc.

Archer-daniels-midland Company

Farm Journal

Florida A&m (specialty Crops)

International Fresh Produce Association

Low Carbon Technologies, Llc

National Association Of Conservation Districts

National Black Growers Council

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

Low Carbon Technologies, Llc

National Association Of Conservation Districts

National Black Growers Council

National Center For Appropriate Technology, Inc.

Oregon Climate Trust

Rodale Institute

South Dakota State University

Texas A&m University Kingsville

Th Cattle Company, Llc

Truterra, Llc

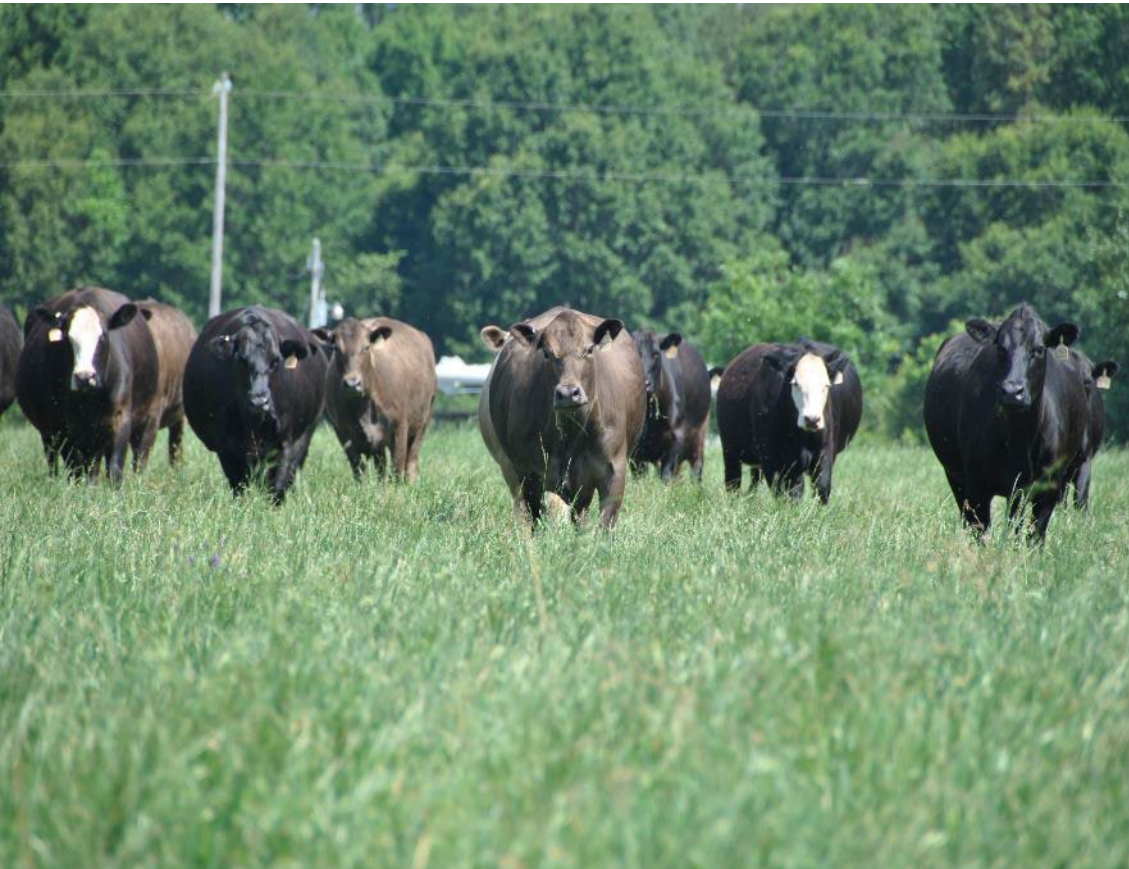
U.s. Cotton Trust Protocol, Llc

Yale University

2018
**FARM
BILL**



United States Department of Agriculture



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State Technical Committee Update – Grazing Lands

January 2024 - Philip Brown, USDA-NRCS State Grazing Specialist

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Grazing Lands Update

- **Practices**

- No significant changes to grazing related practices.
- 810 - Interim Conservation Practice Standard – Annual Forages for Grazing Systems – Adopted 2021
- Allows more flexibility utilizing annuals in grazing scenarios
- Can be implemented on Grazed Cropland and Pasture, land uses



2018
**FARM
BILL**

**Scenario for
stockpiling tall
fescue added**



**2018
FARM
BILL**

Grazing Lands Update

- **Training**

- Conservation Planning Course 2 –
March and July 2023
 - Foundational Course for Planner
Certification
- Soil Health and Sustainability Course
for Field Staff – October 2023
- Resource Concern Assessment –
 - Pasture Condition Scoring
 - Multiple sessions throughout 2023



2018
**FARM
BILL**

Conservation Practice Standard 512 – Pasture and Hay Planting

Tall Fescue Conversion

- Tall Fescue Toxicosis associated with Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue
- Through EQIP or Rolling Hills RC&D assistance in converting to a Novel / Non-Toxic Variety is available
- RC&D Project enrolled 320 acres

2018
**FARM
BILL**

CSP Enhancement 528P – Bale Grazing

- **Alternative Hay Feeding Strategy**
- **Concept originated in Upper Great Plains, and adapted for the Southeast out of the University of Kentucky**
- **National enhancement not entirely easy to follow. Built an excel calculator to facilitate easier planning**
- **Surprising amount of interest in the technique**
- **Feeding technique of setting bales on pasture in “bulk” quantities and feeding in a planned, controlled, sequential manner**
- **Distributes nutrients and organic matter across treated area**
- **Reduces traffic on saturated soils**
- **Reduces time and equipment operation associated with feeding events**

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Bale Grazing



United States Department of Agriculture

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E528P

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water.



Credit: Hay and Forage Grower Magazine

- Demo Site in Wilkes Co. – 2021
- 2022 Expanded to additional sites in Carroll, Washington and Bleckley Counties
- 2023 – Sites in Lincoln, Polk, and Irwin Co. added

2018
**FARM
BILL**





United States
Department of
Agriculture



2018
**FARM
BILL**



November 24, 2021



December 13, 2021

GEORGIA

Forage & Grassland Council

Summer Grassland Tour
2023

June 29

500 Marks Road, Mansfield, GA 30055

Forestry/Wildlife Conservation Practices Adopted in FY 2023

647 Early Successional Habitat Development and
Management

338 Prescribed Burning

391 Riparian Forest Buffer

394 Firebreak

-No state changes from the national standard update.

[Georgia | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS – USDA](#)

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Implementation Requirements Updated in FY 2023

666 Forest Stand Improvement

338 Prescribed Burning

647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

**420 Wildlife Habitat Planting (removed native grass
requirements in mixes)**

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Upcoming Conservation Practice Standard Updates in FY 2024

422 Hedgerow Planting

646 Shallow Water Development and Management

644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

659 Wetland Enhancement

390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer

381 Silvopasture

612 Tree and Shrub Establishment

427 Access Control

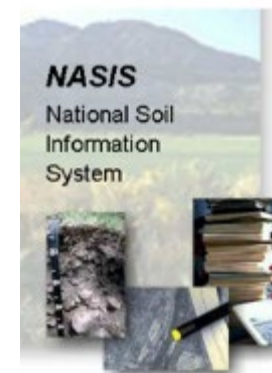
384 Woody Residue Management

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Questions

???

2018
**FARM
BILL**



State Technical Advisory Committee--Soils Update

Gary Hankins, State Soil Scientist
gary.hankins@usda.gov
706-546-2077

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nrcs.usda.gov

Georgia State Soils Staff

Gary Hankins, State Soil Scientist



Nelson Velazquez, Soil Scientist



Steve Lawrence, ACES Soil Scientist



Dee Pederson, Assistant State Soil Scientist



Jesse Gray, GIS Specialist



Quincy Kerbo, CTR Administrative Assistant



Dan Wallace, State Resource Inventory Coordinator



Debreanna Taylor, Pathways Student Soil Scientist



Projects Update

- NRI – Georgia's Land 5th Edition Coming Soon (*attached 4th Ed.*)
[GOVPUB-A57-PURL-gpo123840.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
- UGA Site Index Assistance (*3-year project, will improve site index and other forestry data*)
- Soil Health Assistance (*Rainfall Simulator, Soil Health Courses, Collaboration, etc.*)
- Web Soil Survey Customer Service Requests Soils in Conservation Planning (FOTG)
 - ✓ Soil Consideration Sheets
 - ✓ Soil Data Refresh Update (*No changes were uploaded that would affect programs during FY23*)



United States Department of Agriculture

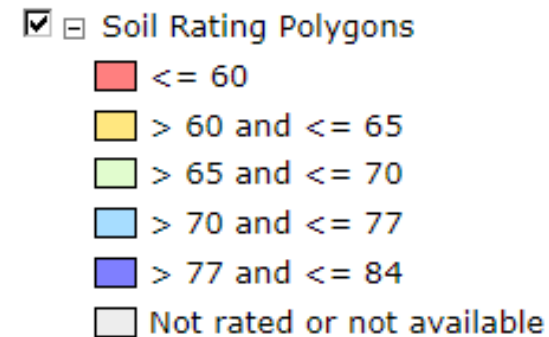
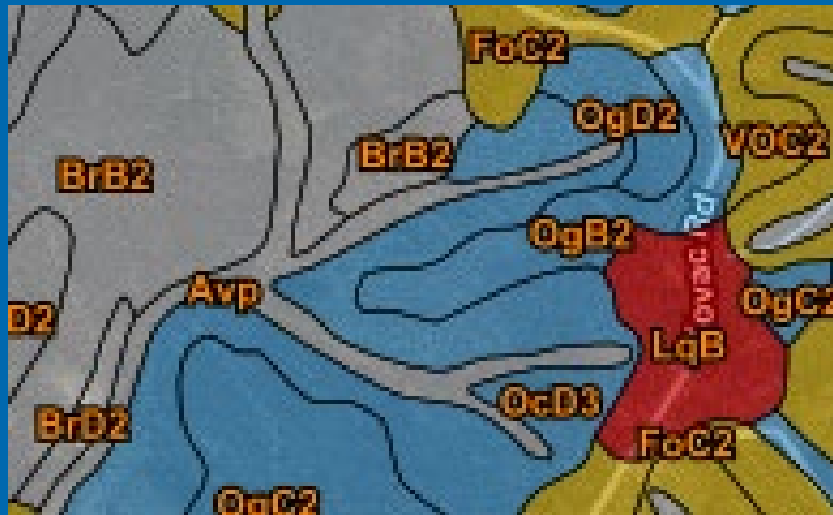
Georgia's Land: Its Use and Condition



Table of Contents

Topic	Page
Georgia Land and Surface Water Resource	1
Statewide Land Use 1982 to 2012	3
Cropland 1982 to 2012	5
Prime Farmland and its Use 1982 to 2012	7
Agricultural Soil Erosion 1982 to 2012	8
Forest 1982 to 2012	9
Conservation Reserve Program	11
Pasture 1982 to 2012	12
Developed Land 1982 to 2012	13
Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats	14
Conclusions	15
References	16
Appendix: Data Tables	17

Tree Site Index, Sample Report



Tables — Forest Productivity (Tree Site Index): longleaf pine (USDA 1929 (580)) — Summary By Map Unit

Summary by Map Unit — Bleckley, Dodge, and Telfair Counties, Georgia (GA610)
 Summary by Map Unit — Houston and Peach Counties, Georgia (GA640)
 Summary by Map Unit — Twiggs County, Georgia (GA289)

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating (feet)	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Avp	Alluvial land, wet		1,200.6	13.7%
FoC2	Faceville fine sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded	65	79.8	0.9%
LqB	Lakeland fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	60	91.4	1.0%
OgB2	Orangeburg loamy fine sand, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	77	235.4	2.7%
OcD3	Orangeburg sandy loam, 8 to 12 percent slopes, severely eroded	77	108.4	1.2%

Soil Consideration Sheets

Structure of Soil Considerations

Over 100 help sheets

Soils Items listed in CPS correlated to WSS items

Bottom table: How to navigate to information in WSS

Soil Report Considerations for:

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
ACCESS ROAD
CODE 560

Georgia NRCS – Athens, Georgia

Soil Concerns Stated in Standard	Web Soil Survey (WSS) Related Items
drainage outlets	drainage class (of proposed outlet location)
interaction with construction materials	soil reaction (pH)
rock areas	depth to bedrock (lithic bedrock)
very steep hillsides	slope
soils with weak bearing capacity	Unified Soil Classification
Spacing of Drainage Features Based on Soil Types (Unified classification)	Unified Soil Classification

Web Soil Survey Related Items	Soil Data Explorer Tab		
	Suitabilities and Limitations for Use	Soil Properties and Qualities	Soil Reports
depth to bedrock	Building Site Development: Unpaved Local Roads and Streets ¹	Soil Qualities and Features: Depth to a Selected Soil Restrictive Layer	Soil Qualities and Features: Soil Features
drainage class		Soil Qualities and Features: Drainage Class	
slope		Soil Qualities and Features: Representative Slope	AOI Inventory: Component Legend
soil reaction (pH)		Soil Chemical Properties: pH (1 to 1 Water)	Soil Chemical Properties: Chemical Soil Properties
Unified Soil Classification		Soil Qualities and Features: Unified Soil Classification (surface)	Soil Physical Properties: Engineering Properties

¹Each of these WSS items are considered and rated as a limitation in the interpretation: *Building Site Development – Unpaved Local Roads and Streets*.

Where to Find Soil Considerations

- eFOTG Section IV
- Considerations will be placed in appropriate folders
- Not all practice standards will have soil considerations
 - Farmstead Energy Improvement (374)
 - Air Filtration and Scrubbing (371)

FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

Welcome to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Select a state for documents.

State:

Document Tree Document Search Recently Changed

Keyboard navigation instructions

- Section I - General Resource References
- Section II - Natural and Cultural Resources Information
- Section III - Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria
- Section IV - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents**
- Index
- Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents
 - Access Control (472)
 - Access Road (560)**
 - Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)
 - Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste (591)

Access Road (560)

Documents (5)

Document Title	Type	Pub Date
560 GA CPS Access Road 2018		2018-4-20
560 GA SOW Access Road 2018		2018-4-20
560 GA OM Access Road 2018		2018-4-20
560 GA GD Access Roads SOILS 2017		2017-5-20
560 GA OTH Access Road QAP 2018		2018-4-20

Documents (5)



Section 1 - General Resource References



Section 2 - Natural and Cultural Resources Information



1. Soils Information



Catastrophic Mortality maps



Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) - 1990 Lists

Hydric Soils

Prime and other Important Farmland

Web Soil Survey

2. Climatic Data



3. Cultural Resources Information



4. NEPA and Special Environmental Concerns Guidance



5. Ecological Site Descriptions



Section 3 - Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria



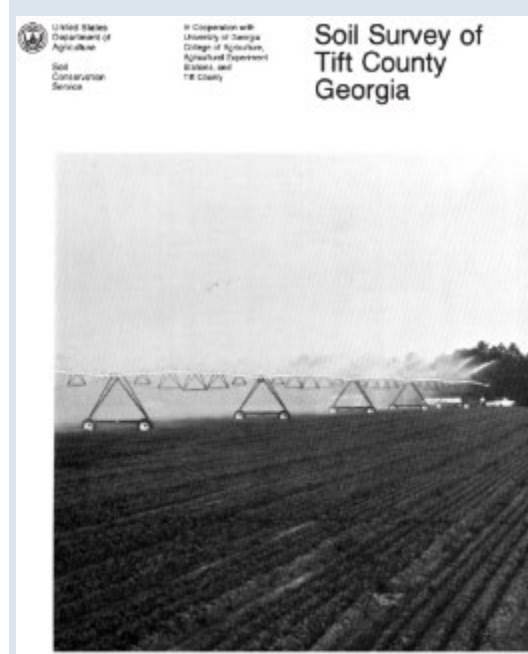
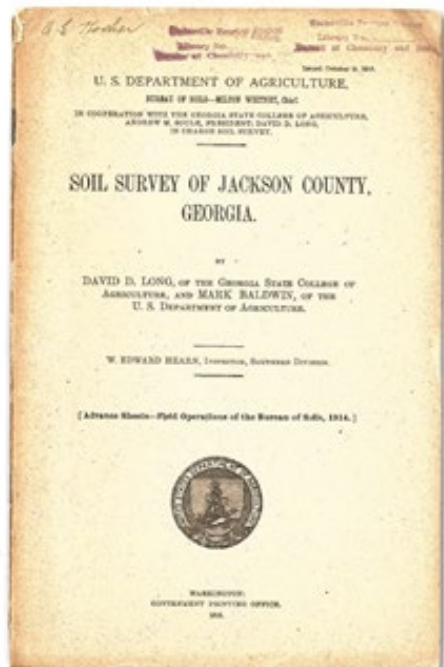
Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents



Section 5 - Conservation Effects



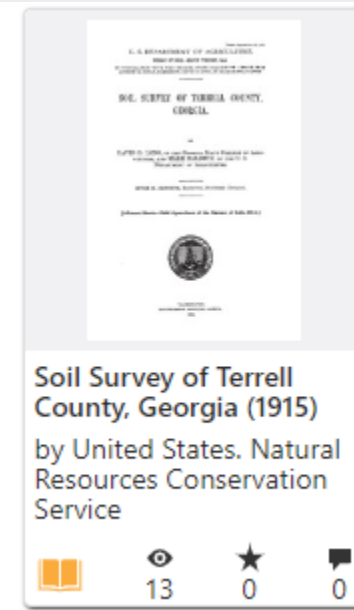
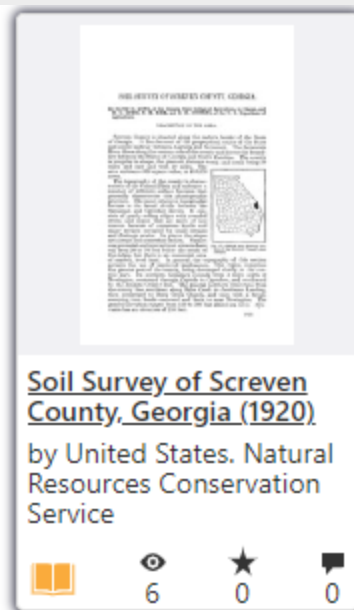
Georgia Soil Survey Information



- Published hard copy documents (100 years)
- Digitized soils information
- Historical CD's
- Web Soil Survey – only source of official soil survey information

Soil Manuscript Access

[USDA Soil Surveys : Free Texts : Free Download, Borrow and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)



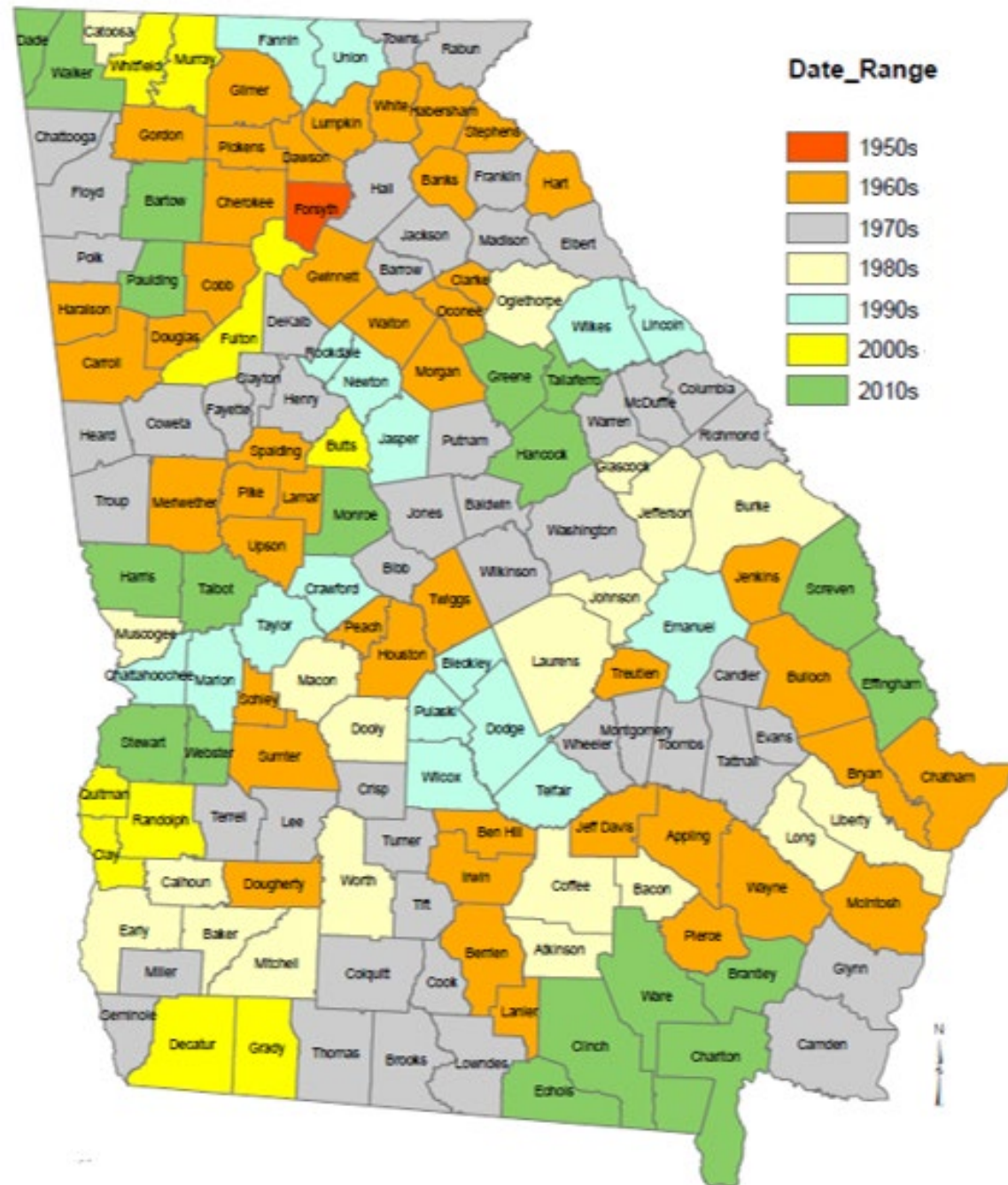
Soil Manuscript Access

- [georgia | Powered by Box](#)

➤ Refer to instructions on the PDF “How to Access Historical Soil Surveys on the new NRCS Website”

USDA	
georgia	
NAME	UPDATED ↓
 1_Index to files	Nov 8, 2022 by Tammy Umholtz
 morganGA1965	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 GA615	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 GA612	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 GA610	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 GA321	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 unionGA1950	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 townsGA1954	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever
 toombsGA1939	Jul 11, 2022 by Tammy Cheever

Soil Survey Areas



Conservation Compliance Update

- 774 Wetland Determinations Completed
- 823 HEL Determinations Completed
- National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program



National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

- Administered by Corblu Ecology Group
- Established Wetland Banks are intended to be Isolated Depressional Wetlands
- Restore Prior Converted Wetlands (PC)
- Credits may be purchased by USDA Participants
 - ✓ Mitigation exemptions available for Wetlands (W), Farmed Wetlands (FWs), and Converted Wetlands (CW)
- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program>



In the 2014 Farm Bill, Congress provided USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service with the authority and funding to establish a [Wetland Mitigation Banking Program](#) for working agricultural lands.

This new program was launched in 2016 to broaden the conservation options available to producers and to assist with the development of new wetland mitigation banks.

NRCS provided funding to third parties to establish wetland mitigation banks in 10 states: Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota.

These banks focus on mitigating small, cropped, temporary, and seasonal agricultural wetlands.

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How Mitigation Banking Works

Bank sponsors

**Individuals or entities that establish the mitigation banks
Responsible for their long-term maintenance**

**Landowner retains ownership and use of the property put into
the mitigation bank**

**Conservation Easement protects wetlands from negative
impacts**

**Size and scope of wetland restoration activities determine the
quantity of credits available for sale. Credit price negotiated
between buyer and seller.**

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Credit Release Schedule

Milestone	Percent Release
Site Mitigation Plan Approval	25%
Construction and As-Built Report	5%
Recording of Conservation Easement	5%
Year 1 Monitoring & Performance	10%
Year 2 Monitoring & Performance	10%
Year 3 Monitoring & Performance	10%
Year 4 Monitoring & Performance	10%
Year 5 Final Monitoring & Performance	25%



National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

- 1 Established Bank in Burke County
 - ✓ Actively Selling Credits to USDA Participants
- 1 Bank new Bank in Screven County
 - ✓ Actively Selling Credits to USDA Participants
- Actively Searching for Suitable Banking Sites in South Georgia



Burke County, Georgia

22.70 acres

Site restoration work April - October 2019

22.70 acres all released and sold out!



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Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Photo Credits—Dee Pederson





Screven County, Georgia
41 acres

Site restoration work May 2021 – January 2022

18.45 credits released thus far

4.10 credits available soon (January 2024)

18.45 credits available in the long term

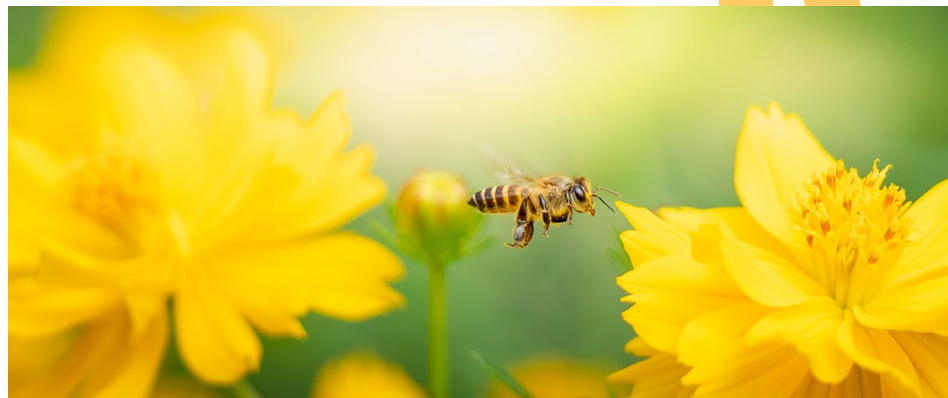


Questions





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



EASEMENTS AND WATER RESOURCES

FARM PRODUCTION AND
CONSERVATION

FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

EASEMENTS AND WATER RESOURCES TEAM



Sharon Swagger
ASTC Easements
and Water
Resources



Krisha Whiting
Natural Resource
Specialist



Olivia Smith
Natural Resource
Specialist



Annalise Sampson
AFFILIATE - Farmland
Protection



Jennifer Hesselgesser
Management and
Program Analyst



J. Niki Crews
NEPA/CR Coordinator



Tammy Shropshire-Williams
CONTRACTOR - Admin

Coming soon: Megan Siedel, Economist!



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EASEMENTS/WATER RESOURCES

Conservation, Protection, Restoration,
Installation, Rehabilitation

Easement Programs: ACEP / HFRP / RCPP

Watershed Programs: WFPO / REHAB / EWP

PROTECTED

FARM PRODUCTION AND
CONSERVATION

FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Current NRCS Easement Programs

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

**Emergency Watershed Protection and Floodplain
Easements Program (EWPP-FPE)**

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- **Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)**
- **Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)**

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture



Ensuring the Future of Agriculture



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Agricultural Land Easements

 Natural Resources Conservation Service
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United States Department of Agriculture



Saving the Nation's Wetlands



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Wetland Reserve Easements

 Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrcs.usda.gov/



FY 2023 Easements

29 applications over 13,500 acres for \$23.3 million

11 enrollments over 5,700 acres for \$9.7 million

7 closings of prior year over 1,953 acres for \$2.5 million

FY 2023 EASEMENTS	WRE	WREP	RCPP WRE	HFRP/RCPP HFRP	ALE	RCPP ALE	RCPP 2018
Applications	21	1	1		4	1	1
Acres	9,015.00	2,234.40	190.00		570.87	316.00	1,213.25
\$ applied	\$16,500,000	\$3,200,000	\$289,870		\$1,436,500	\$167,500	\$1,675,000
Agreements	4	1	1		3	1	1
Acres	1,384.00	2,234.40	190.00		333.79	316.00	1,213.25
\$ obligated	\$3,461,000	\$3,200,000	\$289,870		\$896,500	\$167,500	\$1,675,000
Closed #	3			1	2	1	
Closed acres	647.59			856.49	298.56	150.47	
Closed \$	\$731,961			\$1,000,000	\$604,500	\$150,470	

GA NRCS EASEMENT TOTALS

217 easements covering 99,500 acres

Closed/enrolled

- WETLANDS (WRP & WRE): 141 / 150
 - Floodplains: 5
- AG LANDS (FRPP & ALE): 36 / 40
- HEALTHY FORESTS: 7
- GRASSLANDS: 6
- RCPP: 11 / 14

TOTAL: 217

**GA NRCS WILL
REACH 100,000
ACRES IN FY 2024**

Wetlands: 66,006.4 acres

Ag Lands: 4,974.5 acres

Healthy Forests: 4,331.0
acres

Grasslands: 373.3 acres

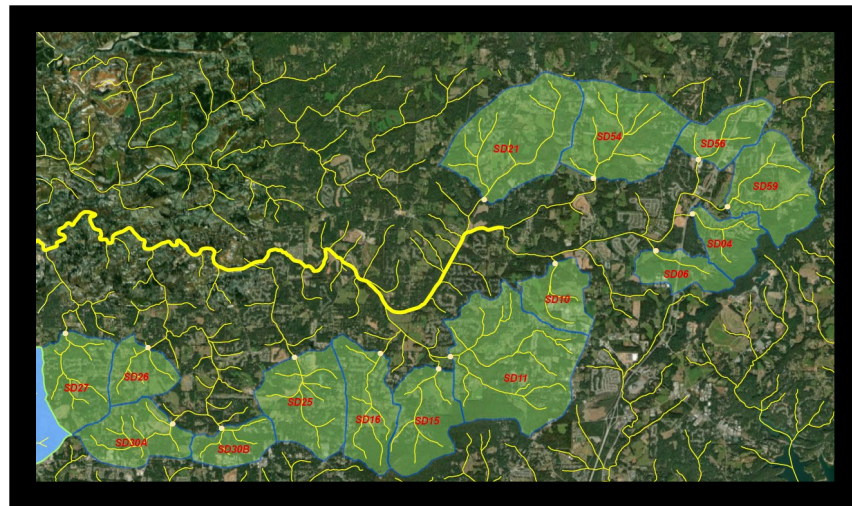
Other/RCPP: 23,872.4 acres

TOTAL: 99,557.7 acres

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program includes the Flood Prevention Operations Program authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534) and the provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (P.L. 83-566). It provides for cooperation between the Federal government and the States and their political subdivisions in a program to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damage.

Reduced flooding and soil erosion, improved fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and water supply.





Watershed Operations Program Cost Share

Watershed Operations Program Federal Cost-Sharing by Purpose	Engineering / Technical Assistance	Installation / Construction	Real Property Rights
Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)	100%	100%	0
• Works of Improvement			
Watershed Protection	100%	Variable	0
• Flood Control			
• Erosion and Sedimentation Reduction			
• Water Quality			
• Water Conservation			
• Wildlife Habitat			
• Woodland			
• Energy			
• Recreation Resources			
Public Recreation	100%	No more than 50%	No more than 50%
• Works of Improvement			
• Recreation Minimum Basic Facilities			
Public Fish and Wildlife	100%	No more than 50%	No more than 50%
• Works of Improvement			
Agricultural Water Management	Up to 100%	Up to 75%	0
• Drainage			
• Irrigation			
• Ground Water Recharge			
• Agricultural Water Supply Structure			
• Water Conservation			
• Water Quality			
• Rural Water Supply			
Municipal and Industrial Water Supply	0	No more than 50%	0
• Reservoir Structure			
Water Quality Management	Up to 100%	To be determined	0
• Reservoir Structure			

Source: National Watershed Program Manual, 500.3 – Eligible Purposes and Figure 500-E2

Watershed Plans

A watershed plan that includes environmental impacts, costs and benefits, planned conservation practices and the responsibilities of involved parties is developed for each project. A variety of agencies and organizations can assist local project sponsors in plan development.

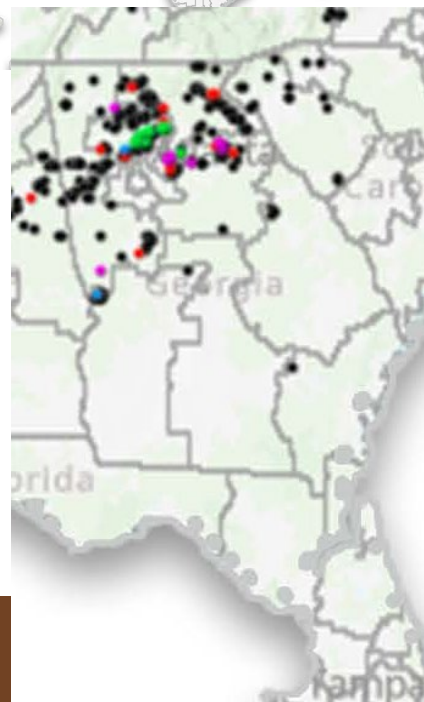
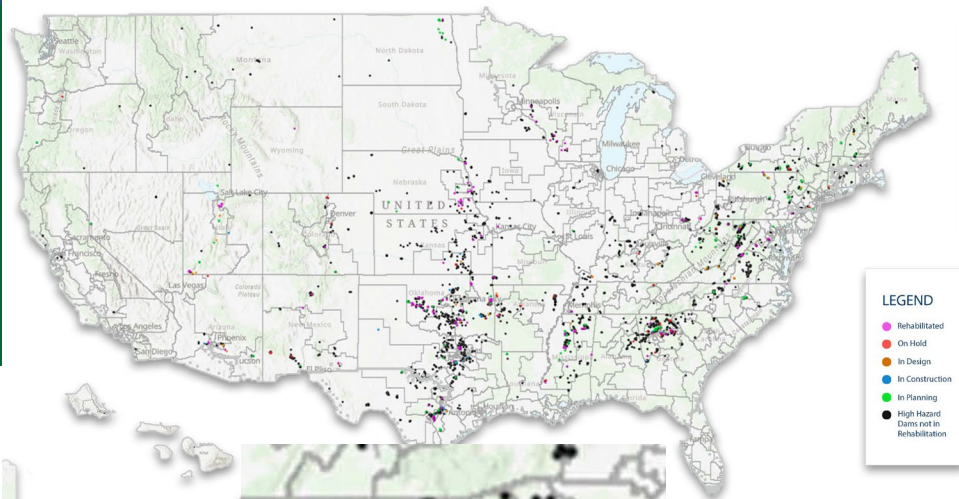
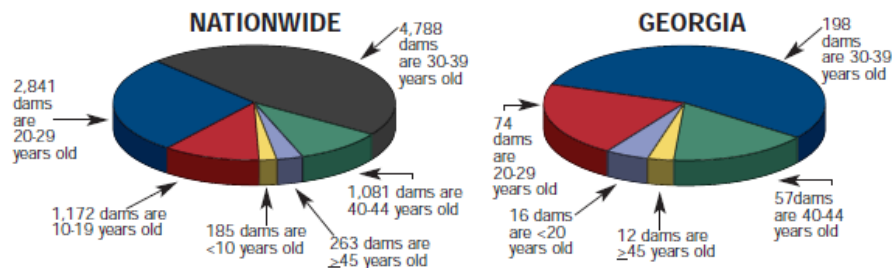


Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Eligibility

- Dams originally constructed through a NRCS Watershed Program
 - PL 83-566
 - PL 78-534
 - Pilot Watershed Program
 - Resource Conservation and Development
- Dams can be past their evaluated life

Our Aging Dams



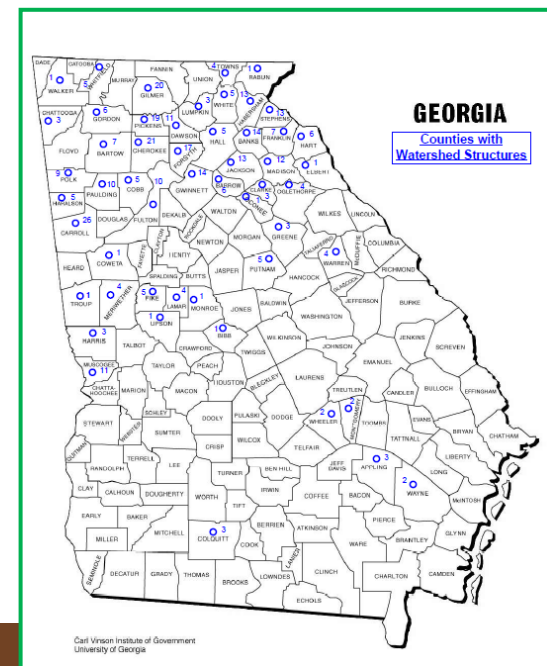
WATERSHED PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

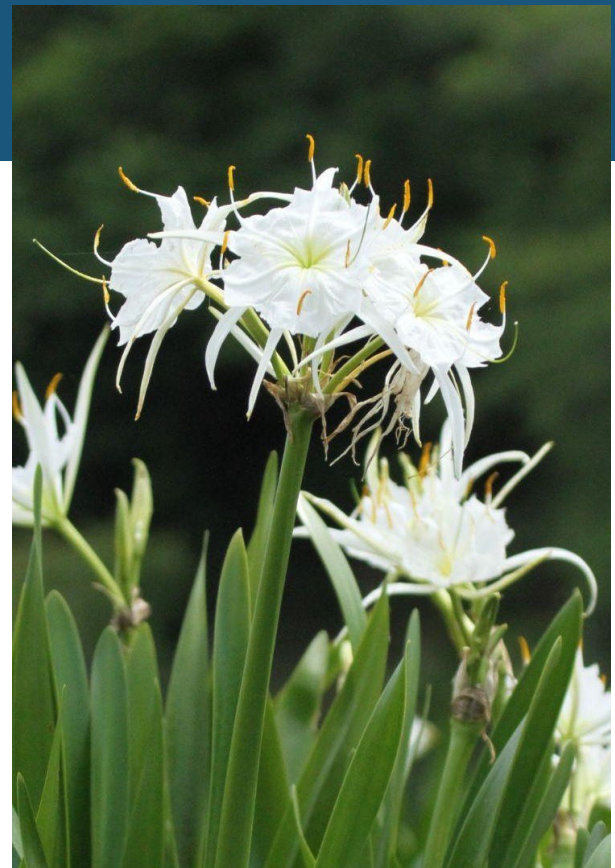
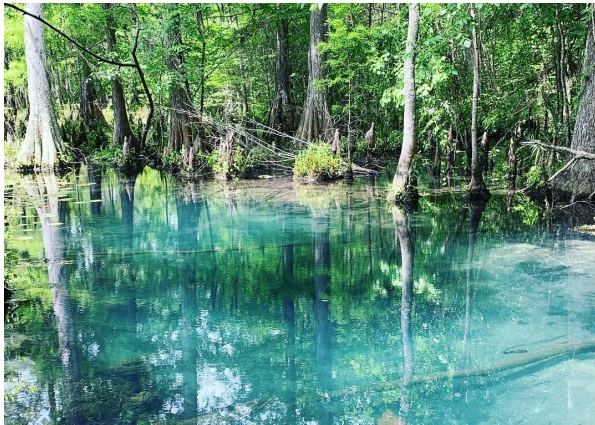
OPS – 5 projects, ~\$4.5 million

REHAB – 17 projects, ~\$10 million

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- 9 projects, ~\$70 million
 - OPS – 6
 - REHAB – 3





SHARON.SWAGGER@USDA.GOV

706-546-2203



United States Department of Agriculture

The Federal Crop Insurance Program

Serving America's agricultural producers through effective, market-based risk management tools to strengthen the economic stability of agricultural producers and rural communities.

Valdosta Regional Office
USDA Risk Management Agency



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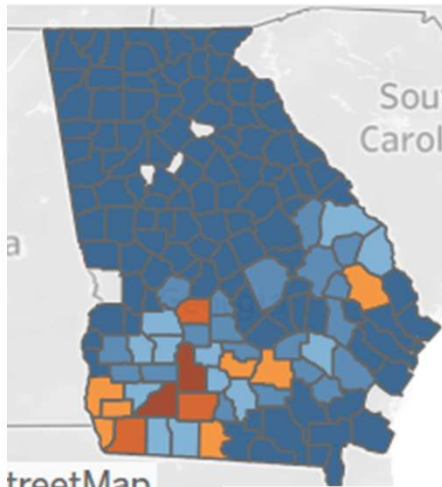
Topics:

- Overview of the last 3 years
- Available crop insurance products
- Hurricane Insurance Protection –
Wind Index/Tropical Storm Option





CY 2021 – 2023 Insurance Experience

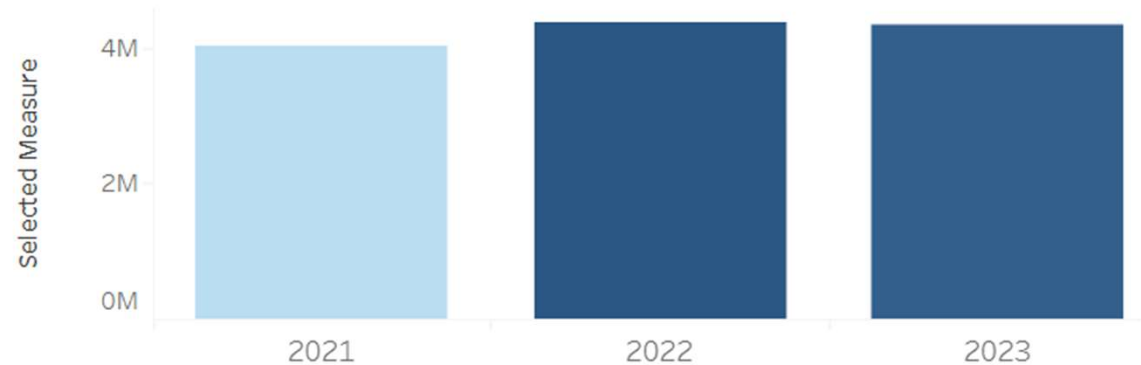


Selected Measure

0 624,367

Net Reported Acreage Timeline | by Reinsurance Year

Click a year to filter



Crop Performance Data Table | by Location Selected

Map State (for County)

Crop Name	Selected Measure	Policy Count*	Liability Amount	Indemnity	Total Premium Amount	Avg. Coverage Level Percent
Grand Total	12,741,986	57,476	\$7,348,800,215	\$609,830,753	\$856,870,979	77.5%
GA Total	12,741,986	57,476	\$7,348,800,215	\$609,830,753	\$856,870,979	77.5%
COTTON	6,736,932	22,263	\$2,732,044,536	\$269,250,013	\$417,132,716	79.3%
PEANUTS	2,818,974	14,174	\$1,616,739,848	\$85,321,029	\$137,371,082	74.2%
CORN	1,381,260	7,637	\$715,214,924	\$37,749,572	\$56,876,918	70.2%
PASTURE,RANGELA..	518,454	2,347	\$91,361,313	\$10,143,023	\$13,777,346	88.7%
PECANS	411,745	2,865	\$450,782,349	\$47,754,252	\$41,588,592	78.0%
SOYBEANS	404,871	2,548	\$120,646,483	\$10,124,830	\$17,426,161	70.0%

Traditional Row Crops

Canola, Corn, Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Hemp, Oats, Peanuts, Popcorn, Rye, Sesame, Soybeans, Tobacco, and Wheat

New Program/Changes:

- Soybean
 - EPD April 1; FPD June 30

Note: Program availability varies by county and is subject to change. Where not available, most crops may be insured by written agreement. See a crop insurance agent.



Specialty Crops

Blueberries, Citrus, Florida Fruit Tree, FM Tomato, FM Sweet Corn, Nursery, Nursery Value Select, Peach, Pecans, Pecan Tree, Pickling Cucumber, Pepper, and Potato

Other Programs:

- Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP)/MicroFarm
- Apiculture

Note: Program availability varies by county and is subject to change. Where not available, most crops may be insured by written agreement. See a crop insurance agent.

Written Agreements

Insurance not available for a commodity in your county?

- RMA may individually insure you for any crop or practice that has an existing insurance program in another county
- Written agreements may not be available for pilot programs or for policies that exclude them
- You must have produced the crop (or a similar crop) in the county or area for at least three years



WFRP Basics

- Covers up to \$17 million of revenue (based on 50% coverage level and \$34 million of approved revenue)
- Post-production costs are not included
- Expected values are primarily based on third-party sources
- Expected yields are based on underlying policies or insured's four-year average
- May purchase additional individual crop policies
- Must be at buy-up coverage levels
- Any indemnities from these policies will count as revenue earned under WFRP



Micro Farm Basics

- Covers all commodities on the farm and post-production value is allowable revenue
- Indemnity is paid if your actual whole-farm revenue is less than your insured revenue
- Requires tax records for the three most recent, consecutive tax years
- Approved revenue is limited to \$350K for new insureds, \$400K for carryover insureds
- Expense reporting is not required
- Micro Farm is not eligible for expanded operation considerations



Other facts to understand about WFRP & Micro Farm

- WFRP & Micro Farm covers revenue “produced” in the insurance period.
 - A commodity not harvested or sold will count as revenue
 - A commodity grown last year and sold this year will not be covered
 - For commodities that grow each year, like cattle, only the growth for the insurance year counts. (i.e., Calves worth \$300 at beginning of the year to be sold at \$1,200, the value insured will be \$900)
 - Inventories and Accounts Receivable are used to determine the “produced” amounts



What information is required?

- WFRP
 - Five years of farm tax forms
 - For 2024, requires tax forms from 2018-2022 (calendar & early fiscal year filers) 2017-2021 (late fiscal year filers)
 - Exceptions: Veteran/Beginning Farmers or Ranchers (VFR/BFR) or applicants that qualified as a VFR/BFR in the previous year, qualifying persons not required to file a US Tax Return (i.e., Tribal Entities), and producers that were physically unable to farm one year
- Micro Farm
 - At least three years of farm tax forms, including the most recent tax year.
 - For 2024, requires tax forms from 2021-2023 (calendar & early fiscal filers) 2019-2021 (late fiscal filers)



United States Department of Agriculture

Livestock Risk Protection

Topics for RMA's Livestock Roadshow sessions include:

- Annual Forage
- Dairy Revenue Protection
- Livestock Gross Margin
- Livestock Risk Protection
- Pasture, Rangeland and Forage
- Weaned Calf Risk Protection

Virtual Sessions

When	Details
January 8, 2024	12:00 pm CT
January 17, 2024	7:00 pm PT



Livestock Risk Protection

- **Insures against declining market prices**
- **Available for Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, and Swine**
- **Fed Cattle**
 - 70 to 100 percent of expected ending value
 - Annual limit is 25,000 head/per producer/year (limit of 12,000 / specific endorsement)
 - Length of coverage / endorsement: 13, 17, 21, 26, 30, 34, 39, 43, 47, or 52 weeks
- **Feeder Cattle**
 - Above information applies
 - Available for calves, steers, heifers, Brahman, dairy cattle, and unborn calves
 - Two weight ranges 100-599 lbs; 600-1,000 lbs



Dairy Revenue Protection

- **Covers unexpected decline in milk sales quarterly revenue relative to a guaranteed coverage level**
 - Expected revenue based on futures prices for milk and dairy components (butterfat, protein, other solids)
- **Class Pricing Option**
 - Combination of Class III and Class IV milk prices as basis for coverage and indemnities
- **Component Pricing Option**
 - Prices for butterfat, protein, and other solids as basis for coverage and indemnities
- **Quarterly coverage endorsement**
 - May purchase coverage for up to 5 quarters during the insurance period



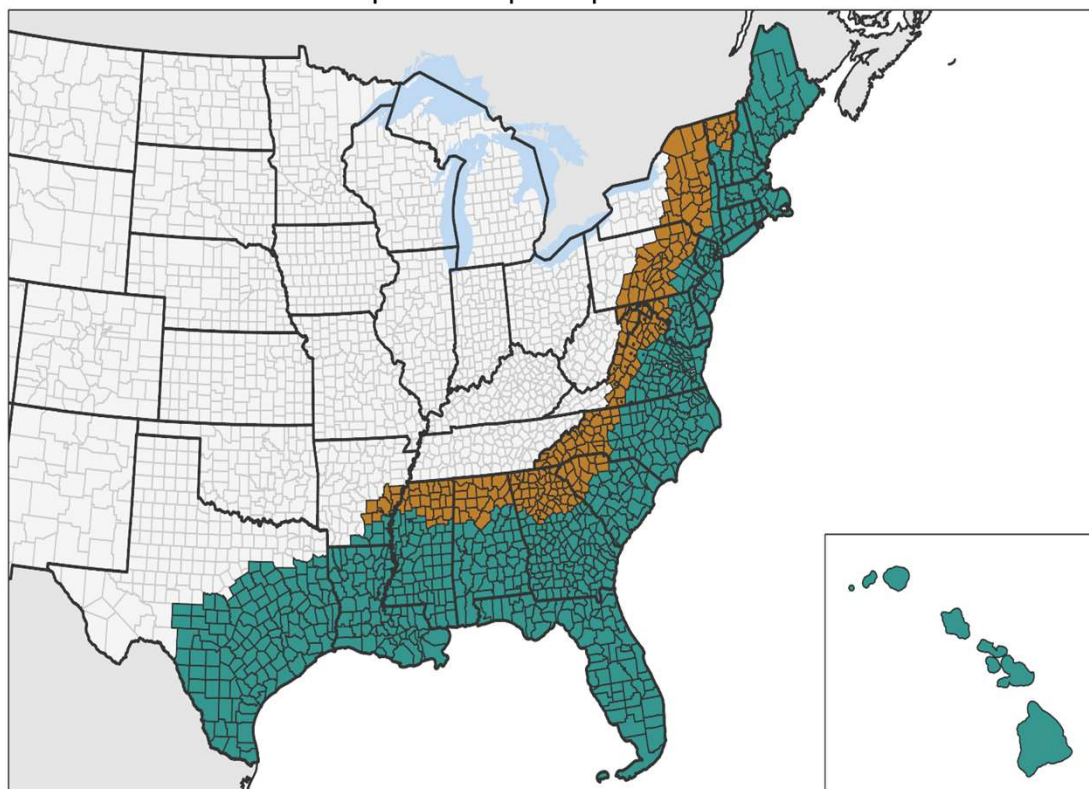
Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index (HIP-WI) Current Program Structure

- Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index (HIP-WI) is an endorsement to add specific coverage for hurricanes to a MPCl policy
- Covers the deductible portion of the MPCl policy, up to 95% of crop value
- Selected at sales closing date (SCD)
- Premium subsidy fixed at 65% (same as for SCO)
- If a hurricane occurs during insurance period in the county, payment is made



HIP-WI / Tropical Storm Option

RMA Hurricane Insurance Program - Wind Index Tropical Storm Option Expansion Counties



Expansion HIP-WI Counties Current Available HIP-WI Counties
 The information displayed in this map is intended to serve as an aid in displaying data provided or stored by the Risk Management Agency. It does not modify, replace or supersede any USDA published policy provisions or procedures.
 Maps created by USDA Risk Management Agency are for spatial and visual context for depicting the basic information for "where". Maps are not considered a survey. General Reference Only.
 Map Creation Date: January 24, 2023
 Layer Credits: USDA
 Source: County Boundaries - USCB, USDA Risk Management Agency - System of Analytics
 Data Current Date: January 24, 2023
 Map Projection: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
 RMA Product Management
 -- Public Information --

- Endorsement available for most crop program/counties in VRO
 - if probability of occurrence during insurance period is > than 2%
- Not available for livestock, PRF, area plans, or WFRP/Micro Farm programs
- Covers the base policy deductible up to 95 percent of crop value
- Premium subsidy fixed at 65%
- Triggers:
 - Hurricane – hurricane force winds recorded in county or adjacent county – 100% payment
 - Tropical Storm Option – TS winds (34+ knots) and 6" rainfall over a 4-day period – 50% payment per occurrence

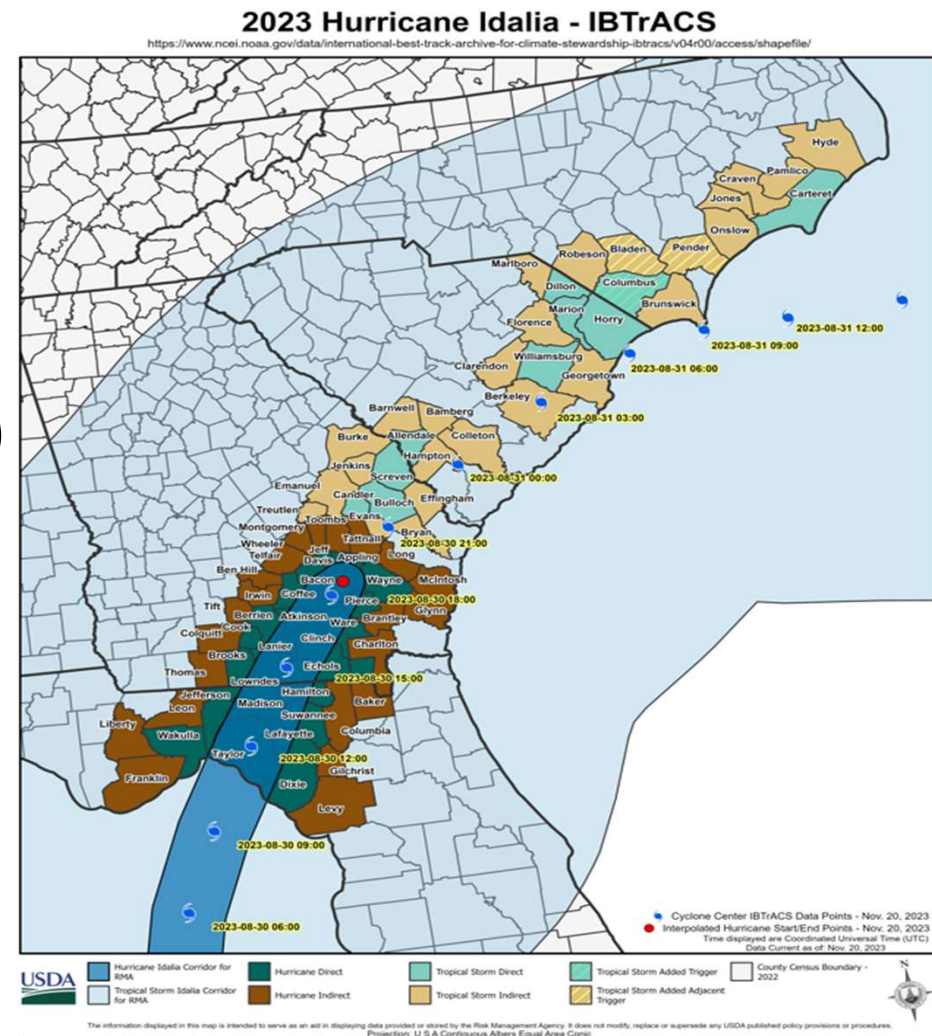
Tropical Storm Option Basics

- Must be a named storm which intersects county or adjacent county
- Must also have at least 6 inches of rain in 4 days (1 prior, the day of, and 2 after)
- Must be between planting and end of insurance period
- Data from NOAA-CPC and NOAA-IBTrACS
- NOAA-CPC data is used for current Rainfall Insurance programs
- NOAA-IBTrACS data is used for current HIP-WI program
- Payment is equal to 50% of liability
- Counties hit twice or also by a hurricane will receive no more than 100% of liability

HIP-WI Indemnities Paid

Indemnities as of 1/2/2024

- Florida: \$11 million, 7 crops (Peanut, Nursery, Corn)
- Georgia: \$75 million, 16 crops (Peanuts, Cotton, Corn, Blueberries)
- South Carolina: \$25 million
- North Carolina: \$32 million
- SC & NC: 11 crops (Corn, Soybeans, Cotton, Tobacco)





United States Department of Agriculture

How to find more information

www.rma.usda.gov



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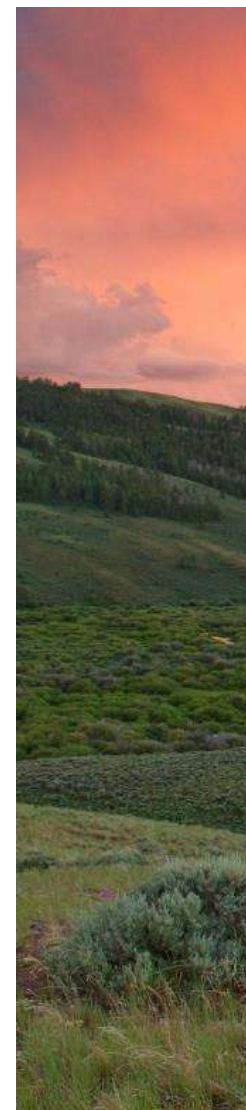
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Thank You

Questions or Concerns??

Contact the
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rsoga@usda.gov
229-242-7235

