

Georgia State Technical Committee Meeting (GA STCM)

January 16, 2025

9:00am – 12:00pm

Presenters: Lee Green, Gary Hankins, Tracy Cole, Brad Alexander, Stephanie Koontz

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

Discussed the following: Administration change, (Agency may face a hiring freeze)

All in-person attendees introduced themselves

Lee Green, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs: Discussed program overview, Inflation Reduction Act, IRA Core Practices, Additional funds for existing conservation programs and EQIP nationwide. No new programs created by IRA, discussed gas emissions and mitigate climate change, core practices selected and the 5 pools for IRA (PowerPoint Presentation Attached)

Gary Hankins, NRCS State Soil Scientist: Discussed Dan Wallace Retirement, Policy Protection Act (PPA), Special Projects Update, UGA and the Forest Productivity Index Study Soil Survey within the soil and Plant Science Division, Websoil Survey, Wetland termination request for 742 Heo, (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

Tracy Cole, NRCS State Resource Conservationist: Grazing, discussed resource concerns that's been treated: soil, water, air, plants, animals, or energy resource concerns., fence and forage harvest management which is hay land management(PowerPoint Presentation attached)

Nick McGhee, NRCS Plant Material Manager: Discussed projects that's being worked on: soil science and resource assessment deputy area, air quality specifically for climate smart mitigation, EQIP wildlife dashboard, NRI data, national resource inventory (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

Justin Smith, NRCS, State Forester: Discussed 612 tree shrub establishment, 655 forest trails and landings (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

Noah McCord, NRCS State Biologist: Discussed updates on several conservation practices standards and IRS, hedger planting, shallow water development and management, wetland restoration. Discussed the uploading of the Philadelphus Technical Guide, hedrop planting, (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

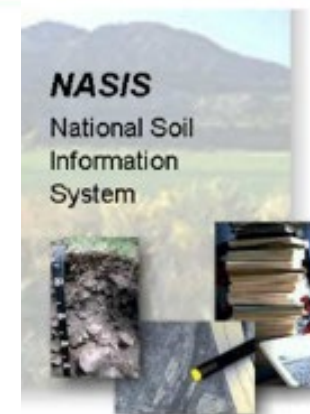
Brad Alexander, Department of Natural Resources, Private lands Program Manager: Discussed partnership with The National Bobwhite and Grassroots Initiative on RCPP

Stephanie Koontz, National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative Foundation, Georgia State Coordinator: Discussed partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, mission with NRS is to promote NRCS practices aimed at creating early successful habitat for threatened flora and fauna, focuses on bobwhite quail, spoke on there under represented partner, the KKAC Organization, RCS programs. (PowerPoint Presentation attached)

Questions and Comments from Committee/Open Discussion

Terrance O. Rudolph, NRCS, Georgia State Conservationist: Closing statements. The next GA STC meeting will take place in April 2025 (exact date is being determined).

Meeting was adjourned



State Technical Advisory Committee--Soils Update

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

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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

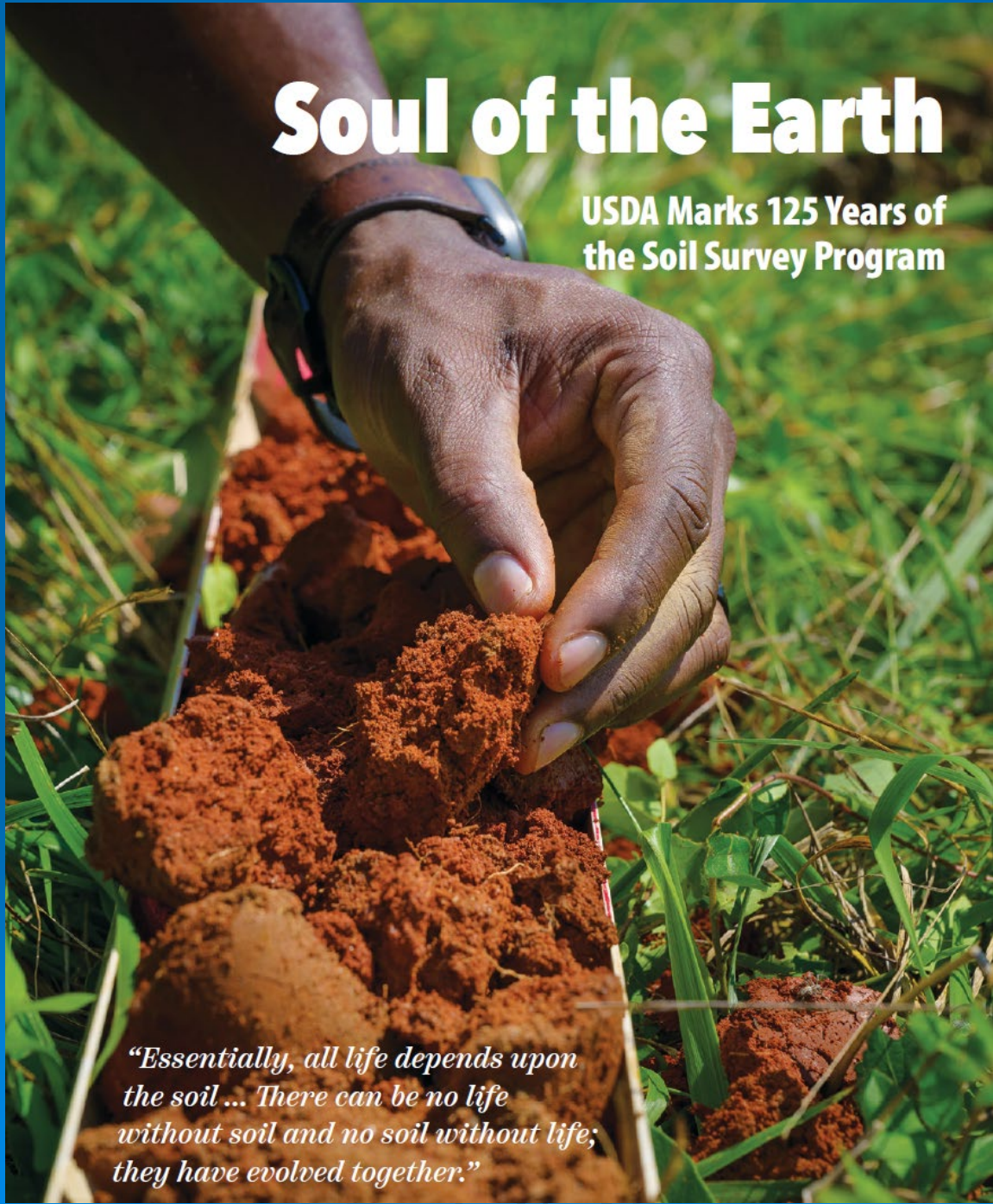
Debreanna Taylor, Pathways Student Soil Scientist

Retired –12/31/24



Projects Update

- 179 Early Coordination Requests
- 31 FPPA Requests Completed
[Farmland Protection Policy Act | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
- UGA Forest Productivity projects (*3-year project, will improve site index and other forestry data*)
- Soil & Plant Science Division Support
 - ✓ Griffin MLRA Office
 - ✓ Tifton MLRA Office
 - ✓ Richmond Hill MLRA Office
- Soil Health Assistance (*Rainfall Simulator, Soil Health Courses, Collaboration, etc.*)
- National Resource Inventory (NRI)
 - ✓ *Grazing Lands Onsite (GLOSS) – 20 sampled sites*
 - ✓ *Local Data Collection – 500 data points*
 - ✓ [National Resources Inventory \(NRI\) | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



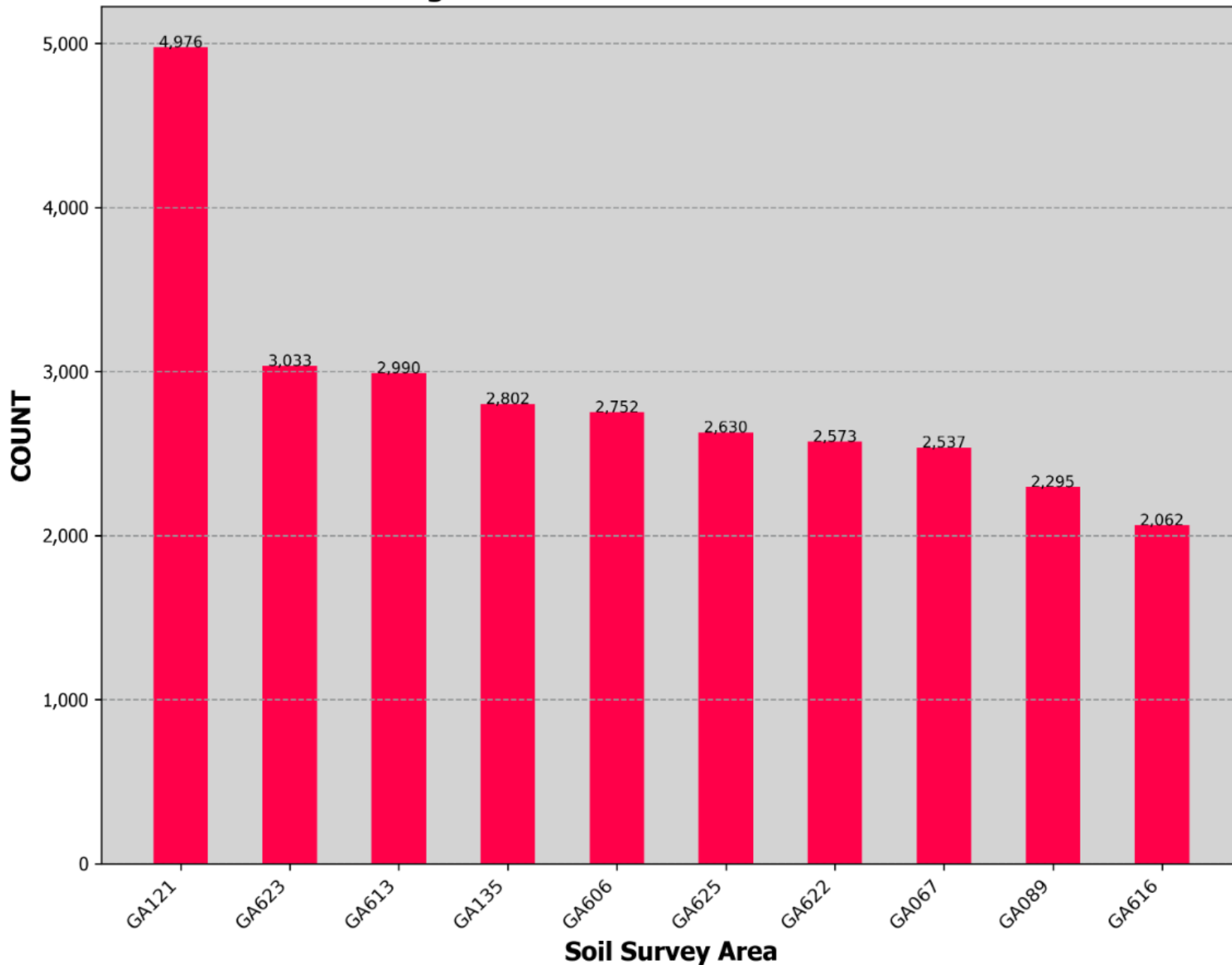
Soul of the Earth

USDA Marks 125 Years of
the Soil Survey Program

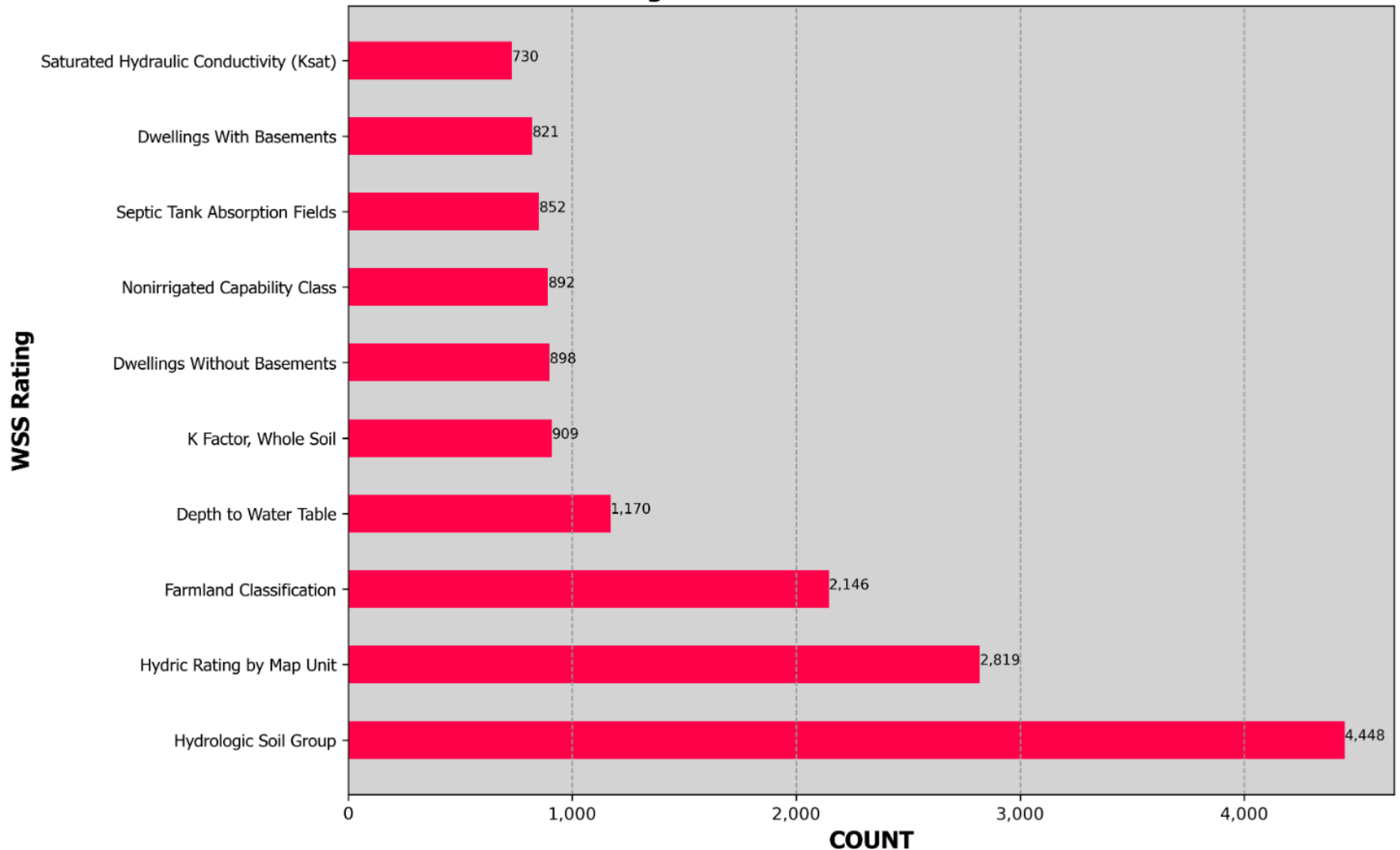
*"Essentially, all life depends upon
the soil ... There can be no life
without soil and no soil without life;
they have evolved together."*

Web Soil Survey Top 10 AOIs

Fiscal Year 2024 Georgia

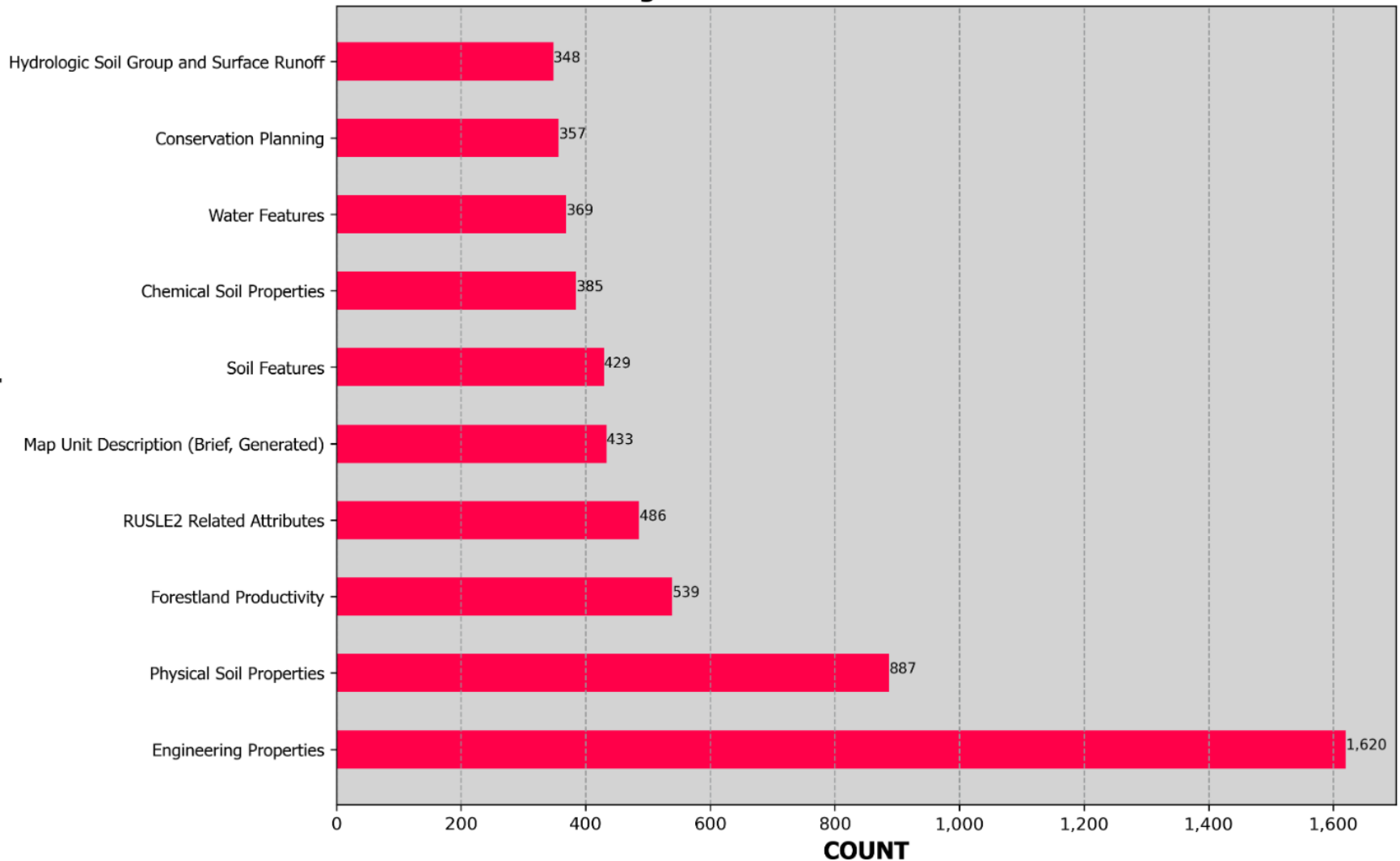


Top 10 Web Soil Survey Ratings Fiscal Year 2024 Georgia



Top 10 Web Soil Survey Reports Fiscal Year 2024 Georgia

WSS Report



Conservation Compliance Update

- 707 Wetland Determinations Requests
- 742 HEL Determinations Requests
- National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program



Soil Survey Projects--Suspicious Area??



Special Projects—Sink Hole



National Wetland Mitigation Banking Program

- 1 Established Bank in Burke County
 - ✓ Credits Sold Out
- 1 Established Bank in Screven County
 - ✓ Actively Selling Credits to USDA Participants
- 1 new Bank in Jefferson County
 - ✓ First credits released September 2024
- Actively Searching for Suitable Banking Sites in South Georgia

[Wetland Mitigation Banking Program | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program)

[NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banking Program \(arccgis.com\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wetland-mitigation-banking-program)



Photo Credits—Dee Pederson

Burke County, Georgia

22.70 acres

Site restoration work April - October 2019

22.70 acres all released and sold out!



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Screven County, Georgia

41 acres

Site restoration work May 2021 – January 2022

22.55 credits released thus far

18.45 credits available



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Jefferson County, Georgia

61.5 acres

MBP approved / Construction begins soon

54.51 credits available over the next 5 years

13.62 credits approved for release (Sept. 24)

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Questions





NRCS Toolkit: Resources for State Technical Committees from the Soil Science and Resource Assessment Deputy Area

Date and Version: January 2025, Version 1

Description: NRCS's Soil Science and Resource Assessment (SSRA) Deputy Area works with members of academia, researchers, and other science partners to deliver mission-critical resources that support science-based, data-driven conservation.

Along with NRCS staff, State Technical Committee members are a significant customer group for SSRA. We know navigating our many dashboards, online tools, reports, and other resources can be daunting. That's why we've created this toolkit!

Contents and How to Use: This toolkit provides details on SSRA resources of use for State Technical Committee members. We provide this in two formats:

- [Quick View: SSRA Resources by Topic](#) – Do you have a specific conservation or programmatic topic of focus? If yes, start with our Quick View! This section (p. 2-5) provides a brief overview of the resources we offer for a given focus area. You may use this to identify your resource(s) of interest before learning more in our All SSRA Resources section.
- [All SSRA Resources](#) – This section begins on p. 6 and provides more detail than the Quick View, including resource-specific information on geographic scope and access.

Important Note on Access: The All SSRA Resources section of this toolkit provides direct links to all of our resources and distinguishes each as publicly available or internal to NRCS. While State Technical Committee members cannot directly access internal resources, we provide SSRA points of contact for each who would be happy to provide overviews, deep dives, or custom support. SSRA staff are available to meet with you one-on-one or to join State Technical Committee meetings and present. While this option is available for all SSRA resources, we hope it will be especially useful in delivering insights from those that are only directly available to NRCS staff.

Toolkit Points of Contact: [Elizabeth Creech-Thomas](#), [Heather Emmons](#), and [Stephanie Pettit](#)

Guidance: This toolkit is intended to support all NRCS staff who engage with State Technical Committee members and those members directly. Please forward to the appropriate staff and committee members in your state.

SSRA is here to empower your data-driven decision making. While this is a first iteration, we will continue building upon this toolkit in the future. In the meantime, our door is always open for questions or ideas to strengthen our Deputy Area's support for you. Please contact us for direct assistance by emailing the point of contact included with each resource.

Quick View: SSRA Resources by Topic

Start here if you have a conservation or programmatic topic of interest. You may click the resource name to go directly to more information on that specific dashboard, online tool, or report in our All SSRA Resources section. There you will find additional details on use, geographic scope, and how to access each unique resource with SSRA contact information to provide direct support.

SSRA Resources by Conservation Topic

Air Quality

Resource Name	Resource Use
Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard	Identify opportunities to target climate-smart mitigation practices available in COMET-Planner.

Animals (Includes Livestock and Wildlife)

Resource Name	Resource Use
Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Dashboard	Access wildlife investments made via the Environmental Quality Incentives Program since fiscal year 2010 and changes in investments since the 2014 Farm Bill.
RCA Data Viewer	Graph, map, and download customized data based on practices applied through NRCS programs and survey data on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns from the National Resources Inventory.

Climate Change

Resource Name	Resource Use
Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard	Identify opportunities to target climate-smart mitigation practices available in COMET-Planner.
Land Use and Cover Inventory Database	Develop custom estimates of data available via the National Resources Inventory.
NRCS County Drought Report Dashboard	Access drought severity data and associated visualizations on the national, state, and county levels.
Rapid Carbon Assessment of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks	Access estimates of amounts and distribution of carbon stocks for U.S. soils under various land covers and differing agricultural management.
Snow and Water Products Guide	Access interactive maps, customizable reports, and a suite of charts related to snow survey and water supply forecasting in the West.

Equity, Justice, and Equal Opportunity

Resource Name	Resource Use
Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard	Assess equity of NRCS program delivery and identify opportunities for improvement.

Plants

Resource Name	Resource Use
PLANTS (Plant List of Attributes, Names, Taxonomy, and Symbols) Database	Access standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and territories.
RCA Data Viewer	Graph, map, and download customized data based on practices applied through NRCS programs and survey data on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns from the National Resources Inventory.

Soil Conservation and Soil Health

Resource Name	Resource Use
Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard	Identify opportunities to target climate-smart mitigation practices available in COMET-Planner.
Land Use and Cover Inventory Database	Develop custom estimates of data available via the National Resources Inventory.
RCA Data Viewer	Graph, map, and download customized data based on practices applied through NRCS programs and survey data on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns from the National Resources Inventory.
State Landscape Planning Package and Associated Resources	Access data on cropland conservation efforts focused on water quality at the field, watershed, or landscape scale.

Soil Science

Resource Name	Resource Use
Soil Education Resources	Access soil facts, lesson plans, 12 Orders of Soil Taxonomy, Soil Colors of the U.S., a soil texture calculator, education and outreach materials, and more.
SoilWeb Apps	Access detailed soil survey data from the National Cooperative Soil Survey for most of the U.S.
Web Soil Survey	Access soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties.

Water Quality and Quantity

Resource Name	Resource Use
NRCS County Drought Report Dashboard	Access drought severity data and associated visualizations on the national, state, and county levels.
Snow and Water Products Guide	Access interactive maps, customizable reports, and a suite of charts related to snow survey and water supply forecasting in the West.
State Landscape Planning Package and Associated Resources	Access data on cropland conservation efforts focused on water quality at the field, watershed, or landscape scale.
RCA Data Viewer	Graph, map, and download customized data based on practices applied through NRCS programs and survey data on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns from the National Resources Inventory.

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Resource Name	Resource Use
Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard	Access data to inform targeted conservation support for urban and peri-urban agricultural operations.

SSRA Resources for NRCS Conservation Programs Data

Resource Name	Resource Use
Easement Program Open Data Dashboards	Access data for NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Healthy Forests Reserve Program, and former NRCS easement programs such as the Grasslands Reserve Program.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Dashboard	Access wildlife investments made via the Environmental Quality Incentives Program since fiscal year 2010 and changes in investments since the 2014 Farm Bill.
Financial Assistance Program Open Data Dashboards	Access data for NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and other working land financial assistance programs.
RCA Data Viewer	Graph, map, and download customized data based on practices applied through NRCS programs and survey data on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns from the National Resources Inventory.



All SSRA Resources

SSRA provides dashboards, online tools, reports, and other resources to support voluntary conservation efforts backed by data and science. These resources are listed alphabetically below, with details on each including a description, geographic scope, related focus area(s), access, and SSRA contact information for additional information or support.

Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard

Description: The Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard provides a gap analysis for identifying opportunities to prioritize climate-smart mitigation practices based on both the available land use base and historical conservation treatment. This dashboard includes practices from the [Fiscal Year 2025 Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities List](#).

Geographic Scope: 48 Contiguous U.S. States and Hawaii

Focus Areas: Air Quality, Climate Change, Soil Conservation and Soil Health

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of this dashboard via [National Bulletin 290-25-1](#). [A direct link to the Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard is available here](#).

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.

Easement Program Open Data Dashboards

Description: The Easement Program Open Data Dashboards offer an overview of NRCS's [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#), [Healthy Forests Reserve Program \(HFRP\)](#), and former NRCS easement programs such as the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP). Users may view easement data for easement acquisitions – the time from program enrollment to easement creation – or easement restoration. The dashboards include data filterable by various categories, including easement count and acres, fiscal year, easement program, and geographic location. Additionally, users may view data by easement conservation purpose including agricultural, forest, floodplain, grasslands, or wetlands.

Geographic Scope: 50 U.S. States and Puerto Rico

Focus Area: NRCS Conservation Programs Data

Access Status: Public

Link: [The Easement Program Open Data Dashboards are available here on the farmers.gov website](#).

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program Wildlife Dashboard

Description: The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Wildlife Dashboard highlights national trends in wildlife investments made using [EQIP](#) since fiscal year 2010 and provides data on wildlife investments by national initiative and NRCS conservation practice. The dashboard provides users an overview of the portions of EQIP funds each state has dedicated towards wildlife, including a comparison of this share versus total EQIP funding. Users may also explore trends in wildlife investments over time, and how these investments have changed between the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bill periods.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Areas: Animals (Includes Wildlife), NRCS Conservation Programs Data

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of this dashboard via [an introductory page on the Integrated Landscape Planning Toolbox](#). [A direct link to the EQIP Wildlife Dashboard is available here.](#)

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.

Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard

Description: SSRA promotes the NRCS Equity Office's Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard alongside other priority dashboards we have developed to provide users with data on NRCS priorities. The Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard provides data on beginning farmer and rancher (BFR) and socially disadvantaged farmer and rancher (SDFR) producers by both geographic level and NRCS program. Additionally, users may view the proportion of obligations for BFR and SDFR producers and compare distribution of program delivery components against the customer baseline for a selected demographic group.

Geographic Scope: [Dependent on Focus](#)

Focus Area: Equity, Justice, and Equal Opportunity

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of this dashboard via [National Bulletin 290-25-1](#). [A direct link to the dashboard is available here.](#)

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about the Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard or to request a dashboard demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.



Financial Assistance Program Open Data Dashboards

Description: The Financial Assistance Program Open Data Dashboards provide data for NRCS's [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#), [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#), and other working land financial assistance programs. Dashboards include filters for programs, practice types, contract status, and various producer types. Users may view data by contract count, total treated acres, and dollars obligated.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Area: NRCS Conservation Programs Data

Access Status: Public

Link: [The Financial Assistance Program Open Data Dashboards are available here on the farmers.gov website.](#)

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.

Land Use and Cover Inventory Database

Description: The Land Use and Cover Inventory Database (LUCID) enables users to develop custom estimates of data available via USDA's [National Resources Inventory \(NRI\)](#). Specifically, LUCID includes condition and trend data on land cover and use, conservation practices, urbanization, irrigation, erosion, grazing lands, and wetlands for non-Federal lands of the U.S.

Geographic Scope: 49 U.S. States (Excludes Alaska) and Caribbean Area

Focus Areas: Climate Change, Soil Conservation and Soil Health

Access Status: Two Tool Versions – One Public, One NRCS Staff Only

Links: Additional details on the public-facing version of LUCID are [available on the NRCS NRI webpage](#). [A direct link to LUCID Public is available here](#). LUCID for NRCS offers the same data and functionality as LUCID Public with additional geographic granularity. [Additional details for NRCS staff are available via this introductory page](#), along with instructions to access LUCID for NRCS.

SSRA Contact: Email Lucas.Tcheuko@usda.gov, NRCS National Leader for NRI Customer Service, with questions about LUCID or to request a demo of either version of this tool.



NRCS County Drought Report Dashboard

Description: The NRCS County Drought Report Dashboard provides drought severity data and associated visualizations with data from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Drought Monitor. NRCS staff may use this dashboard to assess trends in drought at the national, state, and county levels from 2015 to present.

Geographic Scope: 50 U.S. States and Caribbean Area

Focus Areas: Climate Change, Water Quality and Quantity

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of this dashboard via [an introductory page on the Integrated Landscape Planning Toolbox](#). [A direct link to the NRCS County Drought Report Dashboard is available here](#).

SSRA Contact: Email [Peter Chen](#), NRCS Resource Analytics Lab Coordinator, with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo.

PLANTS (Plant List of Attributes, Names, Taxonomy, and Symbols) Database

Description: The PLANTS (Plant List of Attributes, Names, Taxonomy, and Symbols) Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and territories. It includes names, plant symbols, checklists, distributional data, species abstracts, characteristics, images, crop information, automated tools, onward web links, and references. This information primarily promotes land conservation in the United States and its territories. Academic, educational, and general use is encouraged.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Area: Plants

Access Status: Public

Link: You may [access the PLANTS Database via this webpage](#).

SSRA Contact: Email nrcs-nssc-soilshotline@usda.gov with questions about the PLANTS Database or to request additional information.

Rapid Carbon Assessment of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks

Description: The Rapid Carbon Assessment of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks (RaCA) was initiated to:

- Develop statistically reliable quantitative estimates of amounts and distribution of carbon stocks for U.S. soils under various land covers and, to the extent possible, differing agricultural management.
- Provide data to support model simulations of soil carbon change related to land use change, agricultural management, conservation practices, and climate change.
- Provide a scientifically and statistically defensible inventory of soil carbon stocks for the U.S.

Geographic Scope: 48 Contiguous U.S. States

Focus Area: Climate Change

Access Status: Public

Link: You may directly access all RaCA resources – including additional details on methodology, sampling, and data gathering documentation; data tables; maps, and an associated R file – [via this webpage](#).

SSRA Contact: Email nrcs-nssc-soilshotline@usda.gov with questions about RaCA or to request additional information.

RCA Data Viewer

Description: The [Resources Conservation Act \(RCA\)](#) Data Viewer includes data and associated dashboards on investments for Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding; NRCS programs and practices; and surveys on land use, soil erosion, prime farmland, and non-Federal rangeland resource concerns.

Geographic Scope: Dependent on Dashboard

Focus Areas: Animals (Includes Livestock and Wildlife), Plants, Soil Conservation and Soil Health, Water Quality and Quantity, NRCS Conservation Programs Data

Access Status: Public

Link: [All resources in the RCA Data Viewer are available here](#) on the NRCS website.

SSRA Contact: Email [Peter Chen](#), NRCS Resource Analytics Lab Coordinator, with questions about the RCA Data Viewer or to request a demo.



Snow and Water Products Guide

Description: NRCS hydrologists manage a comprehensive network of manually-measured snow courses and automated Snow Telemetry monitoring sites throughout the West and estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. The Snow and Water Products Guide shares the resulting interactive maps, customizable reports, and a suite of charts related to snow survey and water supply forecasting for sites across the country.

Geographic Scope: 50 U.S. States and Caribbean Area

Focus Areas: Climate Change, Water Quality and Quantity

Access Status: Public, with Additional Resources for NRCS Staff Only

Links: The public Snow and Water Products Guide includes links to multiple maps, reports, and charts with associated resources and is [available via this webpage](#). Additional applications including preliminary resources are [available for NRCS staff only via this SharePoint page](#).

SSRA Contact: State-specific inquiries related to the Snow and Water Products Guide are best addressed by the state offices. Find information for your state's snow office on the [Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program](#) page. Contact [Stephanie Pettit](#) with general questions about NRCS support for snow survey and water supply forecasting.

Soil Education Resources

Description: The NRCS Soil Education webpage delivers soil facts, lesson plans, 12 Orders of Soil Taxonomy, Soil Colors of the U.S., a soil texture calculator, education and outreach materials, and more for a range of NRCS staff and customers.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Area: Soil Science

Access Status: Public

Link: Visit the [Soil Education webpage](#) to access this suite of resources.

SSRA Contact: Email nrcs-nssc-soilshotline@usda.gov with questions about Soil Education.



SoilWeb Apps

Description: SoilWeb Apps include multiple products that can be used to access detailed soil survey data from the National Cooperative Soil Survey for most of the U.S. This suite of products is hosted by the California Soil Resource Lab managed by the University of California, Davis.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Areas: Soil Science

Access Status: Public

Link: You may [access SoilWeb Apps via this University of California, Davis webpage](#).

SSRA Contact: Email nrcs-nssc-soilshotline@usda.gov with questions about SoilWeb Apps or to request additional information.

State Landscape Planning Package and Associated Resources

Description: The State Landscape Planning Package (SLPP) and associated resources support cropland conservation planning focused on water quality at the field, watershed, or landscape scales. This includes:

- The Conservation Effects Assessment Project Conservation Benefits Identifier (CCBI) Field-Level Web Application, which may be used to identify cropland fields most vulnerable to losses of sediment, crop nutrients, and/or pathogens.
- The SLPP Web Application, which supports landscape and hydrologic unit code (HUC)-12 watershed-scale planning on cropland through information such as soil vulnerability to sediment and nutrient loss and the status of past conservation treatment.

Geographic Scope: 50 U.S. States and Puerto Rico

Focus Areas: Soil Conservation and Soil Health, Water Quality and Quantity

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of these resources via [an introductory page on the Integrated Landscape Planning Toolbox](#). [A direct link to the CCBI Field-Level Web Application is available here](#). [The SLPP Web Application is linked here](#), with [SLPP data files available here](#).

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about these resources or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.



Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard

Description: The Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard provides data to deliver targeted conservation support for urban and peri-urban operations. Users may filter data by a range of variables such as urban census tracts, conservation practices in urban areas, and urban areas available for agricultural use. Data can be viewed by state within urbanized areas that cover multiple states.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Area: Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Access Status: NRCS Staff Only

Links: NRCS staff may access an overview of this dashboard via [National Bulletin 290-25-1](#). [A direct link to the Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard is available here.](#)

SSRA Contact: Email SM.FPAC.USDA.OUTCOMES@USDA.GOV with questions about this dashboard or to request a demo from the NRCS Outcomes Team.

Web Soil Survey

Description: Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by NRCS and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.

Geographic Scope: Whole U.S. including 50 States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Island Area

Focus Area: Soil Science

Access Status: Public

Links: Additional details are [available on the WSS home page](#). You may [access WSS directly via this webpage](#).

SSRA Contact: Email nrcs-nssc-soilshotline@usda.gov with questions about the WSS or to request additional information.



United States Department of Agriculture

A large, stylized yellow graphic element resembling a thick, curved line or a partial 'C' shape, positioned on the right side of the slide.

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State Technical Committee – Wildlife Updates
Noah McCoard, State Biologist
January 2025

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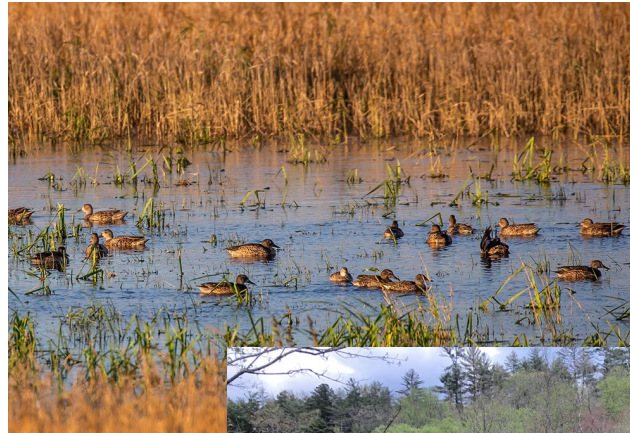
nrcs.usda.gov/

Conservation Practice Standards and Implementation Requirements Updated

422 Hedgerow Planting

646 Shallow Water Development and Management

657 Wetland Restoration



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Hedgerow Planting



Combined and reduced purposes from 10 to 5

- Pollinator, terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic wildlife were consolidated to a single wildlife purpose
- Intercepting airborne particulates, reducing chemical drift and odor movement were combined as a filtering purpose
- Screens and barriers to noise/dust and living fences were changed to a single barrier purpose
- Boundary delineation and contour guidelines were removed as a purpose because they are not tied to resource concerns; retained as a consideration



Hedgerow Planting



Removed most specific widths/height references and related back to width/height sufficient to achieve an intended purpose

- Small-scale agriculture
- Give states the flexibility to determine appropriate widths and heights



Shallow Water Development and Management

Title changed to from “**Shallow Water Development and Management**” to “**Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife**”

The intent to provide temporary habitat needs through the management of water

Removed development references and focused on management

Lifespan changed from 5 years to 1 year to align with other management practices



Wetland Restoration



Emphasizes restoration of the abiotic characteristics (hydrology, topography, and soils).

- Other conservation practice standards are used to restore the plant community.

Made minor changes for clarity

Added a list of activities that do not fall under this standard to alleviate confusion

Removed all references to permitting requirements provided by NRCS national conservation planning policy and should not be included





United States Department of Agriculture

Contact Information:



Noah McCoard, State Biologist

Noah.McCoard@usda.gov

Office: 706-546-2089

Mobile: 706-340-2488



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Managing Native Vegetation for Climate Mitigation through Grassland Bird Conservation in GA and MS

National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative Foundation
RCPP AFA #2945
FY 2024 -29



Photo by Stephen L. Webb



National Bobwhite and Grassland Initiative Foundation (NBGIF)

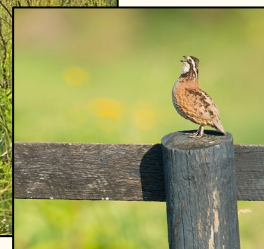
- Stephanie Koontz, State RCPP Coordinator, Georgia
 - Jason Price- counterpart in MS
 - Matt Gardner and Emily Beck- sister grant in OH and MO
 - Kyle Martens - National Director, RCPP
- Background in conservation
- Wildlife Conservation Section GA DNR
- New to private lands and NRCS Assistance Programs



Mission of NBGIF with RCPP AFA funding

Promote NRCS practices aimed at creating early successional habitat, benefiting threatened flora and fauna that rely on these declining grassland communities

- Target NRCS practices
- Target focal areas
- Outreach
- Streamlined partnership process



Targeted NRCS Practices

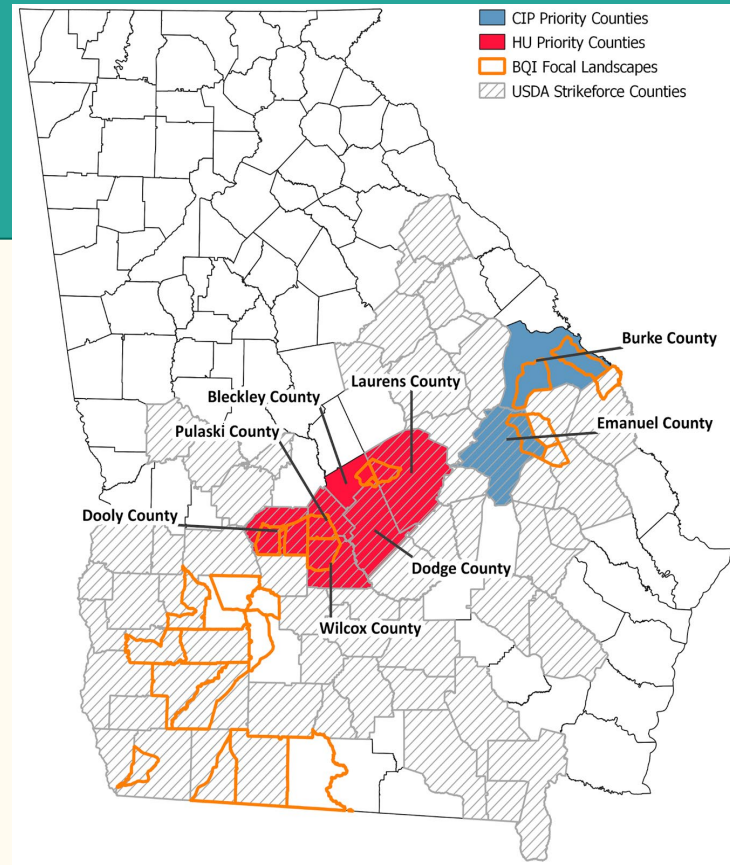
Selected practices that restore landscapes to open pine and grassland communities with native plant species.

- Brush Management (314)
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Woody Residue Treatment (384)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Early Successional Habitat Development Management (647)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)



Targeted Focal Areas

- Conservation Priority
 - Replicate success from SW GA in SE GA
 - Outreach through Agriculture Associations
- Historically Underrepresented
 - KKAC HU Partner



The KKAC Organization



Mission - Land retention, preservation, and wealth building in historically underserved communities through youth engagement, outreach, estate planning, and leadership development.

- Outreach meetings to educate on conservation programs mitigation of heirs property barriers
- Follow-up communication with participants
- Encourage community involvement by assisting with program enrollment



RCPP AFA Workflow

