



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NRCS Nevada

Fiscal year 2025 Annual Report





Contents

State Conservationist Greetings	4
Chief's Priorities	5
NRCS in Nevada	6
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	7
Agricultural Management Assistance Program	8
Conservation Stewardship Program	8
Agricultural Land Easements	8
Partnerships	9
Snow Survey Program	10
Technical Soil Services and Soil Survey Program	11
Watershed Programs	12

Greetings from the State Conservationist

Greetings Nevadans,

I hope that this note reaches you in good health and good spirits. We have had a very busy 2025 here at Nevada NRCS. In fact, as of this year, NRCS has had a very busy 90 years helping farmers and ranchers. It's been a great partnership, a lot of work and fun, and we look forward to the next 90 working with you all.

With the closing of another year, I would like to first extend my gratitude to our hard-working farmers and ranchers across our beautiful state. We know how hard you work and how much we owe you for helping provide us with food, fiber, and fuel. Thank you for your dedication and service to the American people. We know farming and ranching is not just a business, it's a way of life.

Your Natural Resources Conservation Service team here in Nevada, also, wants to offer our thanks to the many individuals and entities, including Tribal nations, who voluntarily came to us for both technical and financial assistance this year. Together, we had our biggest programs year to date. For some program numbers context, in Fiscal Year 2025 we spent more than 105 percent of our initial Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allocation and more than 100 percent of our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) allocation. We also surpassed Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) funding for the last five years combined! With all programs combined, that's over \$23 million dollars, not including watershed programs.

All of those program dollars translate to an enormous amount of conservation on the ground to keep our farmers farming and our ranchers ranching. It also means that Nevada's natural resources are being stewarded by people who care an awful lot about Nevada and the people who call our state home.

I would be remiss to not mention the incredible NRCS team we have here in Nevada. They always find a way to make the days sunnier, even when the clouds are overhead. Our team is 100 percent dedicated to our mission to help people help the land. They, like you, love the Silver State!

We look forward to an excellent 2026 with more partnerships, more planning around the kitchen table, and more conservation work of which we can all be proud. We want to be a part of your conservation conversations.

Heidi M. Ramsey
Nevada State Conservationist



Our Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Our Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.



NRCS Chief Aubrey J.D. Bettencourt's Priorities

1. Preserve and Protect Agricultural Land

Goal: Reduce the loss of productive farmland and safeguard the long-term viability of America's agricultural landscapes.

- Expand targeted conservation easement programs to slow the loss of 5,000 acres of farmland per day.
- Partner with local governments and land trusts to prioritize farmland preservation.
- Advocate for policies that incentivize keeping land in agricultural production.
- Promote regenerative practices that strengthen soil health and ensure long-term productivity and profitability.
- Integrate whole farm planning into conservation efforts to provide comprehensive support to farmers.

2. Modernize NRCS Infrastructure and Technology

Goal: Transform NRCS into a digitally agile agency that empowers staff and farmers through modern tools and systems.

- Ensure adequate broadband connectivity in every county office to eliminate digital bottlenecks.
- Integrate core software systems into a unified, cloud-based platform for in-field technical service.
- Implement a "One Farmer, One File" system to streamline data access and reduce duplication.
- Replace paper-heavy workflows with real-time digital conservation planning.

3. Recenter Field Engagement and Technical Assistance

Goal: Re-establish NRCS's presence in the field to deliver hands-on, personalized support to farmers.

- Reallocate staff time from administrative tasks to direct, field-based service delivery.
- Train and deploy certified conservation planners quickly and effectively.
- Flip the service model: meet farmers where they are, not

just in the office.

- Use mobile tools and digital platforms to co-create conservation plans on-site.
- Build the next robust generation of technical service providers to ensure producers continue receiving expert, on-the-ground support.

4. Strengthen Partnerships by Streamline Processes and Accountability

Goal: Leverage partnerships as force multipliers while reducing internal friction to accelerate conservation outcomes.

- Accept third-party certified conservation plans that meet or exceed NRCS standards.
- Strengthen local decision-making while maintaining scientific integrity.
- Increase accountability while simultaneously improving responsiveness and services to producers.
- Align partner strengths to maximize measurable conservation plans for producers.
- Support on-farm partnerships that deliver Farmer First, direct-to-producer, conservation services and payments.

5. Shift to Outcome-Based Conservation and Farmer Empowerment

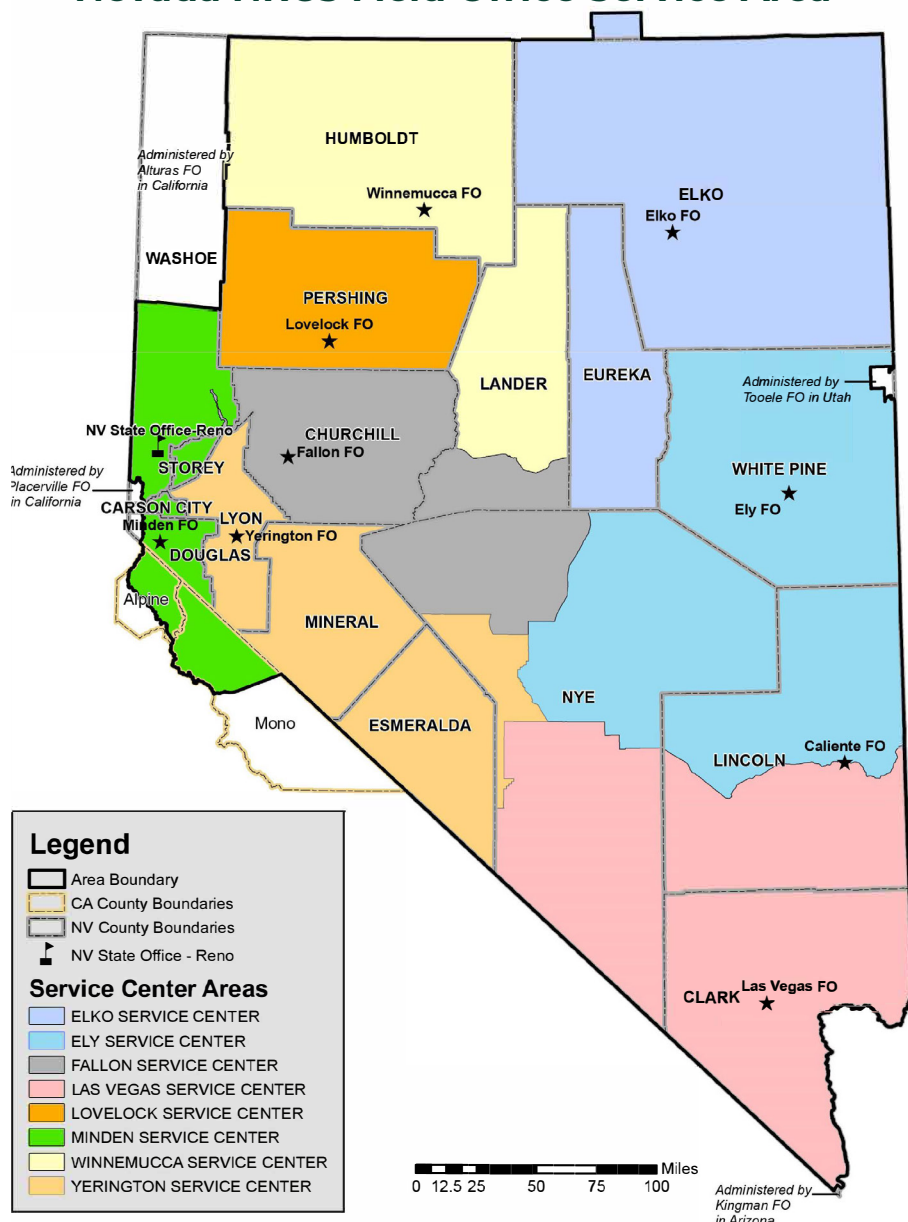
Goal: Measure success through outcomes and empower farmers with data, recognition, and market access.

- Move beyond acres and dollars to track real improvements in water management, soil health, and natural vitality.
- Recognize farmers as the heroes of conservation and highlight their accomplishments through data.
- Support precision agriculture and digital farming tools to enhance productivity and profit.
- Help farmers achieve their goals and receive regulatory and marketplace credit for the voluntary work they have accomplished.



NRCS in Nevada

Nevada NRCS Field Office Service Area



Our Staff

NRCS Nevada has nine Field Offices to provide customer service at the local level.

Nevada State Facts

- ♦ 3,100 farms*
- ♦ Average farm size: 1,903 acres*
- ♦ 5,900,000 Acres of farmland*
- ♦ The market value of agricultural products sold totaled \$960 million*
- ♦ Pasture and rangeland account for 82% of farmland (including Federal and state land rented on a per acre basis) *
- ♦ Nevada has the most public land authorized for grazing with 797 allotments on 43 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (U.S. Forest Service) has 4.3 million acres for grazing.

*Data according to the USDA/NASS 2022 Census

Find your local NRCS office by scanning the QR code or go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/nevada





Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program promoting agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality that helps install or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices to protect soil and water quality. In Fiscal Year 2025, EQIP had 117 obligated contracts worth \$16,662,935. This includes Nevada's first EQIP Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) for Tribes that offers a more flexible way for NRCS to support Tribal conservation projects. Under the AFA, the Tribal nation, can directly manage approved funding, qualify for higher funding amounts, and promote the use of traditional ecological knowledge among other accommodations.

FY2025 Top Practices by Obligation Funds

1	Irrigation Pipeline \$3,844,381
2	Combustion System Improvement \$2,147,387
3	Sprinkler System \$1,384,525
4	Structure for Water Control \$932,265
5	Brush Management \$825,767
6	Fence \$610,418
7	Range Planting \$582,359
8	Irrigation Land Leveling \$584,945
9	Irrigation Ditch Lining \$492,910
10	Livestock Pipeline \$481,585

FY2025 Top Practices by Acres

1	Grazing Management 809,940 acres
2	Herbaceous Weed Treatment 7,902 acres
3	Irrigation Water Management 3,603 acres
4	Range Planting 3,406 acres
5	Brush Management 3,192 acres

FY2025 Top Practices by Feet/Miles

1	Fence 589,742 ft/111 miles
2	Livestock Pipeline 152,653 ft/28.9 miles
3	Irrigation Pipeline 72,246 ft/13.6 miles
4	Subsurface Drain 24,899 ft/4.7 miles
5	Irrigation Ditch Lining 14,460 ft/2.7 miles

Agricultural Management Assistance Program

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program funds help producers use conservation to construct or improve watershed management structures or irrigation structures, install high tunnels, plant trees to form windbreaks or improve water quality. AMA funding can also mitigate financial risk through production or marketing diversification, or the implementation of resource conservation practices including soil erosion control, integrated pest management or the transition to organic farming.



\$193,660 Obligation

14 Obligated Contracts

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program is for all private working lands and agricultural land, helping producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations. This program provides annual payments for meeting certain benchmarks in the management of the land. On-farm benefits include increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements, and better resilience to weather variables.

\$1,483,000 Obligation

27 Obligated Contracts



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements. ACEP has two components: Agricultural Land Easements, or ALEs, and Wetland Reserve Easements, or WREs. In Fiscal Year 2025, NRCS Nevada obligated two ALE contracts. ALEs protect croplands and grasslands on working farms and ranches by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements.



\$5,375,000 Obligation

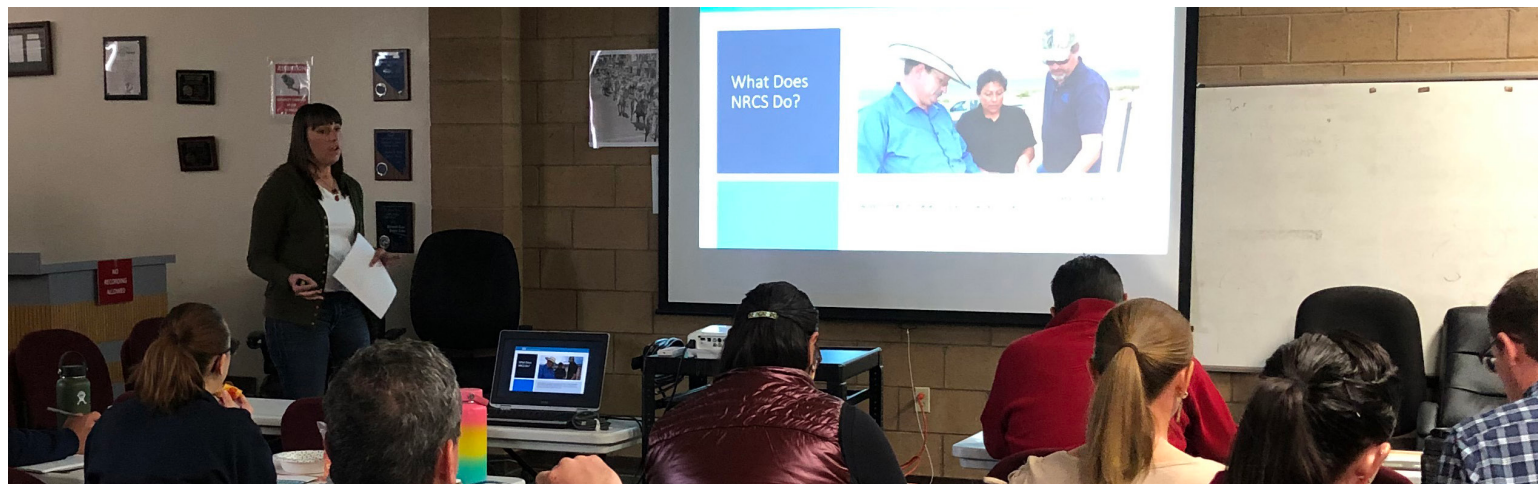
2 Obligated Contracts, one a Grasslands of Special Significance*

14,121 acres

Elko County and Nye County

Partners: Nevada Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy

*What is an ACEP-ALE Grasslands of Special Significance? It is a special category of grasslands (like rangelands, pastures, shrublands) with high environmental value that receive enhanced federal cost-share for permanent protection against non-agricultural development.



Partnerships

Conserving natural resources is not a one-person job and the partners NRCS works with assist us in helping people to help the land. Whether it's presenting to an audience of farmers and ranchers about NRCS at a Cooperative Extension event, referring producers to the Small Business Development Center who want to learn more about creating business plans for their farm or ranch, or just simply being able to ask someone from another agency for information, the community of federal, state, and nonprofit partners we work with allow NRCS to expand the reach and depth of conservation.

Partnership highlights for FY 2025 included:

- ♦ Becoming a signatory to the Nevada Shared Stewardship Agreement (<https://forestry.nv.gov/natural-resource-management/shared-stewardship>). The agreement is a landmark interagency initiative aimed at protecting and restoring landscapes while reducing the risk and impact of catastrophic wildfires. Nevada's agencies are working together through this strategic partnership to protect communities, economies, infrastructure, and native wildlife by fostering healthier landscapes that are more resilient to wildfire, drought, invasive species, and other ecological threats. The renewal of the agreement sets ambitious new goals to treat or restore more acres each year, with expanded collaboration across landscapes and continuing to prioritize vulnerable areas where wildfire risk remains high.
- ♦ Hiring administrative support and field technicians under an agreement with the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in Elko, Ely, and Fallon to support the mission of NRCS and the Conservation Districts
- ♦ Continuing to use our agreement with the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District to assist with reducing the backlog of engineering projects
- ♦ Hiring a technician to provide services related to NRCS programs to the Duck Valley Reservation through an agreement with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe

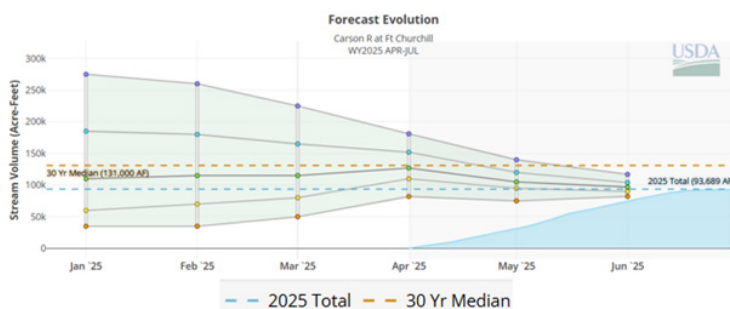


Snow Survey Program

Nevada's NRCS Snow Survey Program collects mountain snowpack and precipitation data to produce streamflow forecasts across the state and the Eastern Sierra. Automated data are transmitted each hour from 93 Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) weather stations. In addition, NRCS staff and cooperators use snow tubes to make manual snow measurements at an additional 44 snow courses each winter. These data are used by hydrologists at the NRCS National Water and Climate Center to produce monthly streamflow forecasts from January through June for 48 stream gages across the region. NRCS data and forecasts are critical for river and reservoir management, determining irrigation allotments, flood forecasting, avalanche prediction, conservation planning and recreation. From January to May the Nevada Snow Survey publishes a monthly Water Supply Outlook Report summarizing conditions. To subscribe for future reports, visit: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nevada/snow-survey>

New Forecast Evolution Charts

The National Water and Climate Center debuted a web product in April 2025 that provides water managers and water users a visualization of how forecast skill improves through the season. The Forecast Evolution Charts display monthly forecasts side by side as a time series. As the water year passes and forecast skill increases, the spread in forecast exceedance volumes gets tighter. The charts also track cumulative observed streamflow which allows users to verify forecast performance at the end of the runoff period.



Snow Survey Report

View the latest Water Supply Outlook Report, Streamflow Forecasts, latest conditions, and subscribe to updates at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nevada/snow-survey>.

SNOTEL Sensor Upgrades

Significant progress was made in 2025 upgrading snow depth and air temperature sensors at SNOTEL sites across Nevada and the Eastern Sierra. At the end of September 2025, 91 percent snow depth sensors and 87 percent of air temperature sensors have been replaced. Both projects will be completed in 2026. The new snow depth instruments show a significant improvement making measurements during heavy snowfall events which was a shortcoming of previous sensors. Air temperature upgrades are occurring across the west-wide SNOTEL network to correct a temperature bias issue. After each air temperature sensor is replaced, NRCS staff run a database correction to debias the historic data and correct the data issue.

Wildfire Impacts

The Jakes Fire melted sensors and telemetry equipment at Midas SNOTEL on August 5, 2025. The data outage only lasted one week. NRCS staff were able to rebuild the site on August 12, 2025.



Midas SNOTEL in the Lower Humboldt Basin before Jakes Fire (left) and after the site was rebuilt (right).



Technical Soil Services (TSS) and the Soil Survey Program



NRCS soil scientists and ecological site specialists assist users of soil survey in Nevada with proper understanding and utilization of soil survey information. Soil survey provides individuals with predictions and interpretations about the behavior of each kind of soil mapped or identified under defined situations. TSS also includes participation in group outreach and educational activities (informational services), as well as on-site investigations to address specific soil and ecological concerns on working lands.

Technical Assistance

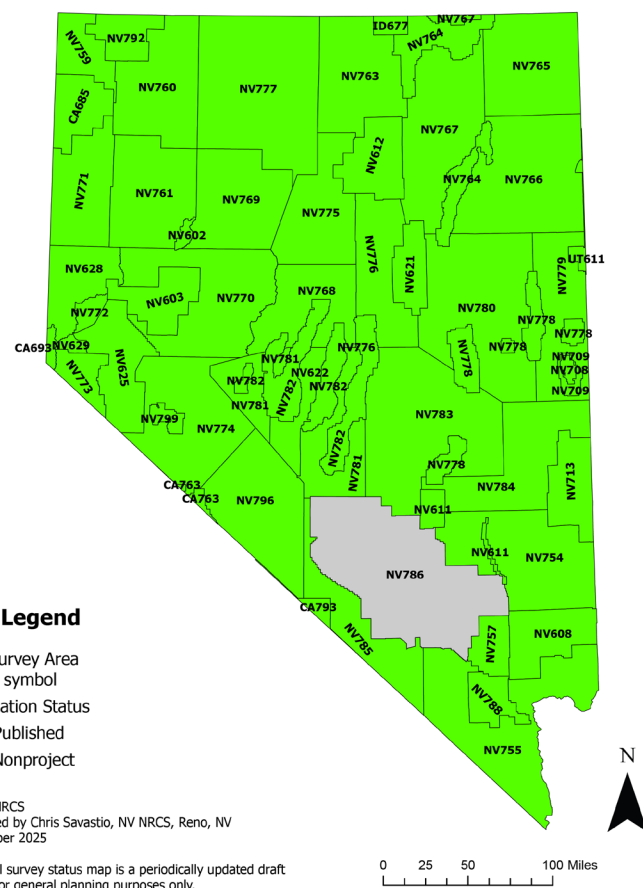
NRCS soil scientists in Nevada assisted throughout the year with various conservation and environmental compliance activities. We addressed specific soil resource concerns, fielding questions relating to soil properties such as salinity and hydrology, as well as particle size distribution for an engineering project. We accomplished all highly erodible land determinations on schedule and conducted environmental compliance reviews throughout the state. We actively participated in outreach activities, such as attending the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience in Reno with fun educational activities for grade school students. We continued to maintain our long-standing support of Future Farmers of America as well, helping to facilitate land judging contests across the state.

Resource Inventory

Soil survey resource inventory and data consistency in Nevada is primarily the responsibility of the Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD). Nevada is mostly covered by three soil survey offices (SSOs): Minden, NV, Klamath Falls, OR and Victorville, CA. At the end of FY2025, we are proud to report that initial soil survey work has now been completed for the entire state (with the exception of the National Defense Area, which will remain unpublished). This was accomplished with the publication of the Death Valley National Park Area (Victorville SSO), Sheldon Antelope Refuge Area (Klamath Falls SSO) and Toiyabe National Forest, Central Part (Minden SSO) this year. We are proud of the hard work of dozens of soil scientists and ecological site specialists over many decades that made this enormous accomplishment possible.

The Provisional Ecological Site Initiative was a national effort led by the SPSP to bring ecological sites up to what is known as the “provisional” standard. This initiative has been completed, which means that all soil map unit components are correlated to ecological sites. Major land resource areas now have ecological site keys. All ecological sites have well defined abiotic properties (physiography, climate, water features, soils) as well as state and transition models to describe conceptual ecosystem dynamics. Most importantly for soil survey users in the state, these sites now meet a minimum standard for publication after having undergone rigorous quality assurance and scientific reviews. To access ecological site information please use the NRCS Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool (EDIT) database (QR code at right). The link can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil/ecological-sites-tools>.

Soil Survey Status of Nevada



Access ecological site information through EDIT with the QR code



Watershed Programs



The Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB) helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life or no longer meet federal or state safety criteria or performance standards. While the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (WFPO) Program helps units of federal, state, local and federally recognized tribal governments (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds.

PROGRAM FY 25	OBLIGATION	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Dam Rehabilitation Program	\$2,121,116	1
Watershed Flood Prevention and Operations Program	\$1,458,538	3 active, 3 waitlisted
Total	\$3,579,654	7

Contact Us

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

C. Clifton Young Federal Building
300 Booth Street, Room 2070
Reno, NV 89509

Call us at 775-857-8500

Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov/nevada

Follow us on X at [www.twitter.com/NRCS_Nevada](https://twitter.com/NRCS_Nevada)

Email us at SM.NRCS.NV.INFO@usda.gov

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

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

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.gov.