



United States Department of Agriculture



2026 NRCS Florida State Technical Committee Meeting

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



United States Department of Agriculture

Opening Remarks



Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Soils - Isabelle Giuliani, State Soil Scientist

- Subaqueous Soil Survey Mapping - Proposed Mapping Location for FY27



Conservation Easements – Marcus Shorter, Assistant State Conservationist - EAS

- Easement Updates
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program Updates
- Updates to WRCG



NRCS Priorities and Motto

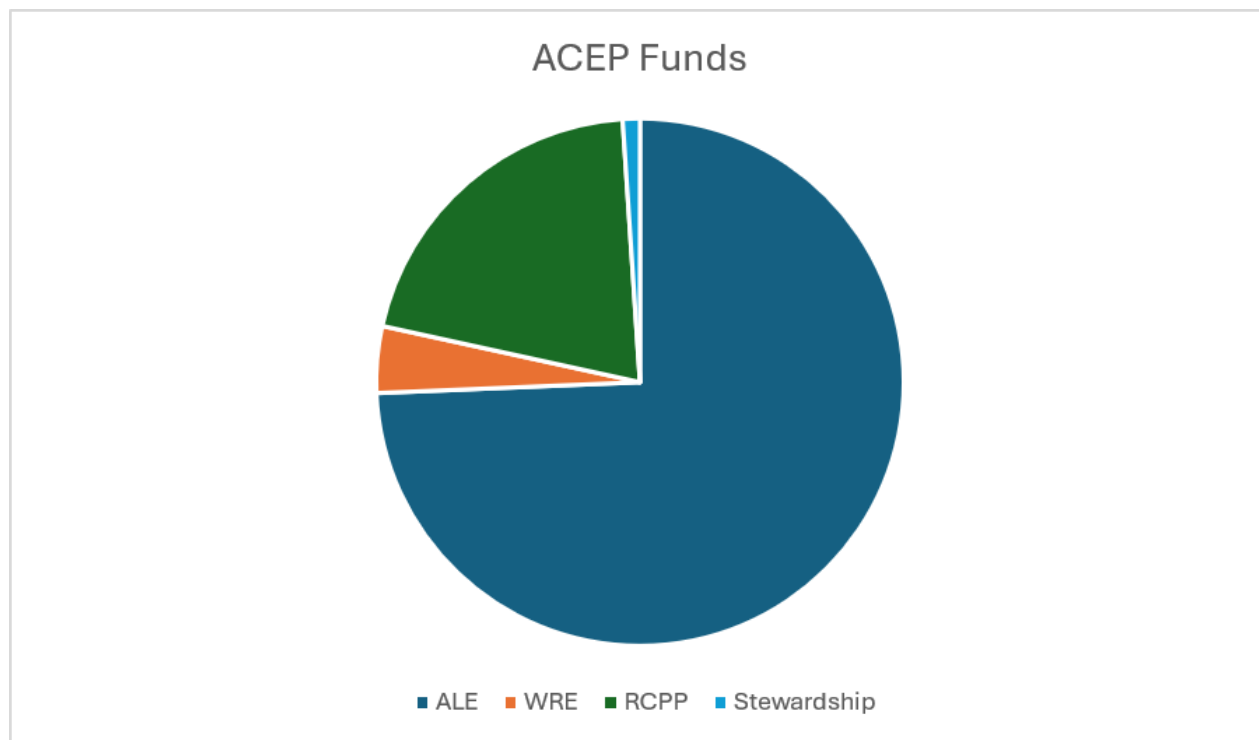
- **Preserve and protect agricultural land;**
- Shift to outcome-based conservation and farmer empowerment;
- Recenter field engagement and strengthen technical expertise;
- Expand wildlife conservation and outdoor access;
- Strengthen partnerships by streamlining processes and accountability;
- Optimize mission delivery by strengthening workforce culture; and
- Modernize NRCS infrastructure and technology.

Motto : Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands



FY26 ACEP funding

ALE	\$82,152,875
WRE	\$4,500,000
RCPP	\$22,635,587
Stewardship	\$1,159,000

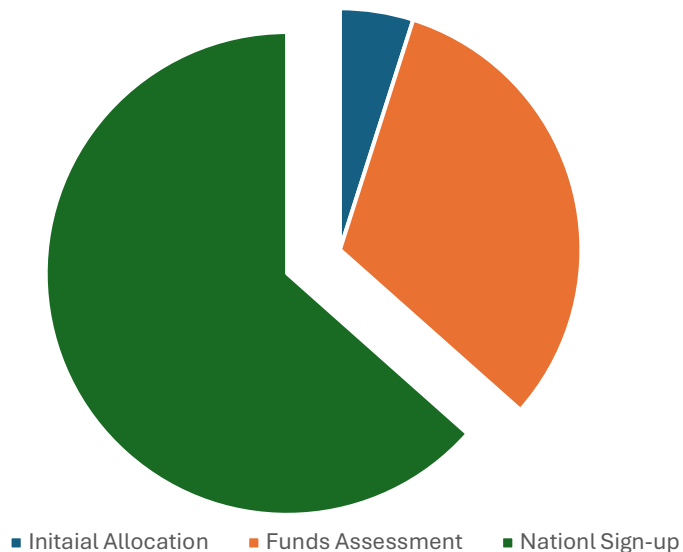


FY26 ALE Funds

ALE funds (\$82,152,875)

Initial Allocation	\$4,034,000
Funds Assessment	\$26,000,000
National Sign-up	52,118,875

ALE funds (\$82,152,875)



Initial Allocation with Funds Assessment

Category	Value
Numbers Selected	10
Federal Share	\$29,853,700
Total Acres	9743



ALE National Sign-up

Category	Value
Number Selected	8
Total Acres	22,199
Total Value (\$)	\$52,118,875

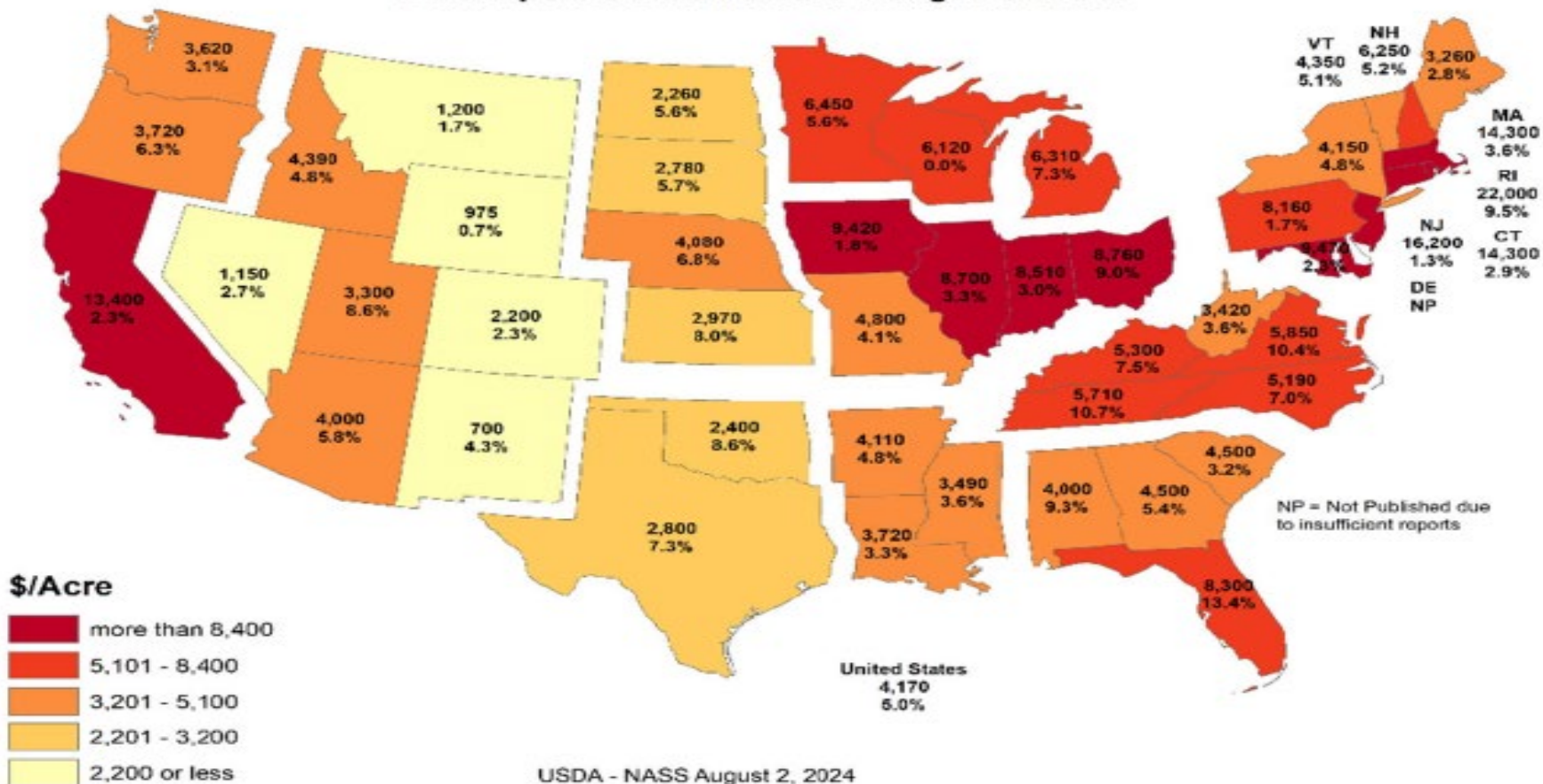


USDA - NASS August 1, 2025

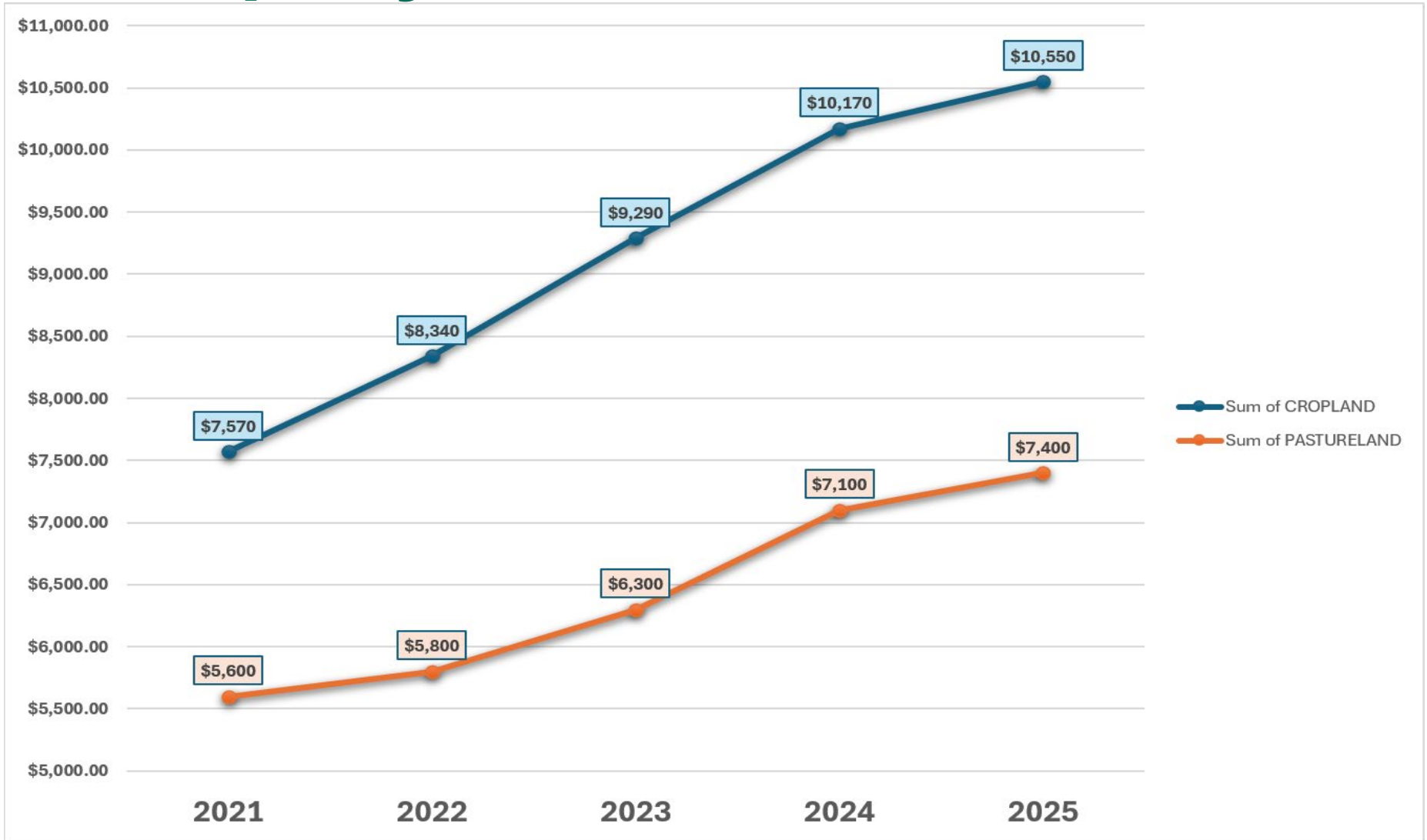
Fiscal Year 25 Info

2024 Farm Real Estate Value by State

Dollars per Acre and Percent Change from 2023



Property Value Trend 2021-2025



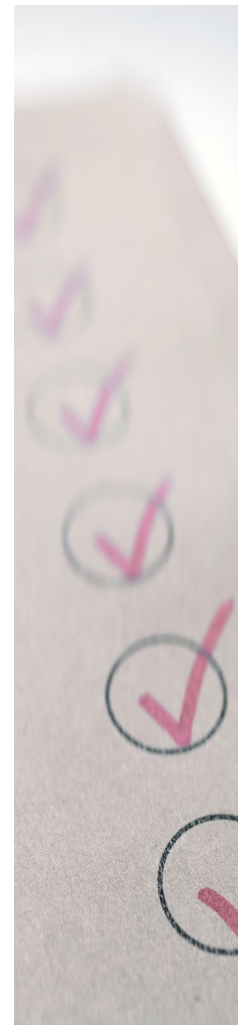
WRE Compensation Package Approval Request

This is a formal request to submit the WRE Compensation Package for approval, with a proposed increase in the fair market value. The requested adjustment is not to exceed \$10,000. Please review and consider this proposal for approval in accordance with company policies and procedures.



WRCG Updates

- Added primary nesting season dates to the Brush Management (314) and Herbaceous Weed Control (315) CUA requirements.
- Added language to the practice Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) for the use of pumps with the primary purpose of enhancing habitat for waterfowl and wetland dependent species.
- Edited the section 5, Grazing to clarify language on stocking rates and the use of supplemental protein, hay, and feed products. The expanded language along with the site-specific grazing plans will clarify their use during periods of extreme weather and how we arrive at recommended initial carrying capacities.



Regional Conservation Partnership Program– Easements

- **Five Active RCPP projects in Florida**
- **FY26 Obligations as of 7/1/2026: 13 for \$8,574,700**
- **FY26 Closings as of 7/1/2026: 5 for \$3,464,000**
- **FY26 Projected Obligations: 21 for \$14,060,887**
- **FY26 Projected Closings: 8 for \$5,110,700**



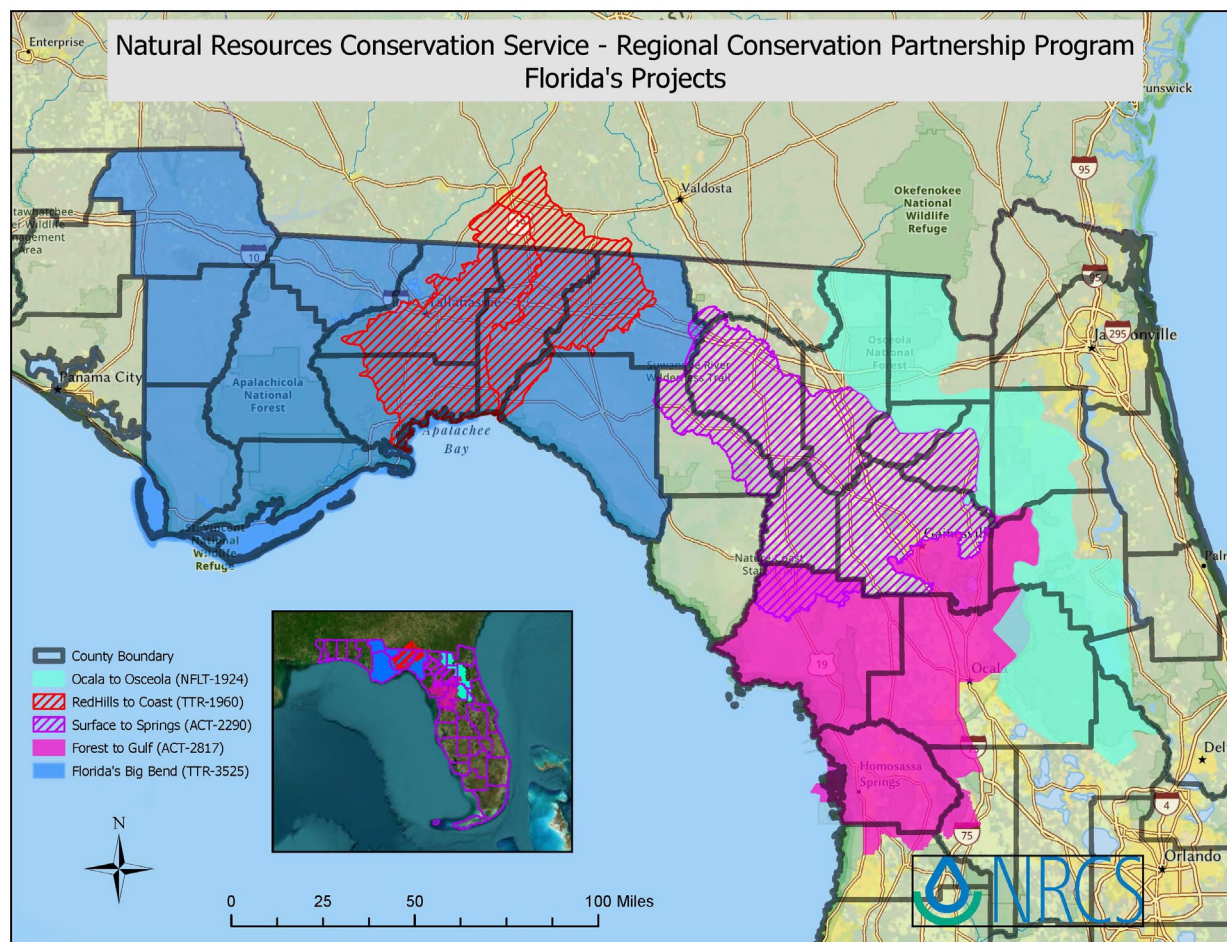
Regional Conservation Partnership Program– Michael Ruiz

- FY26 NOFO is open June 23rd – August 24th @ 4:59 PM EST
- \$310 Million in available funding
- Classic & Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) options
- Awards between \$250,000 - \$10M
- Please email michael.ruiz@usda.gov to schedule proposal discussions
- Grants.gov → search RCPP FY26 for NOFO's
- Information Webinars 6/30 & 7/9 2:00-4:00 pm EST
- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/how-to-apply>



Regional Conservation Partnership Program— Michael Ruiz

Florida RCPP Farm Bill 18 Active Projects



Partnerships and Initiatives – Michael Ruiz

- Local Work Groups were asked to provide FY27 Priority Resource Concerns.
- Information is used to inform NRCS ranking pool priorities.
- Individual field office information will be sent out with STAC presentation materials.



Resource Concern Priority Survey Results

STATEWIDE

Rank	Resource Concern
1	Plant Resource Concerns: Plant Productivity and Health
2	Plant Resource Concerns: Plant Pest Pressure
3	Animal Resource Concerns: Inadequate Livestock Water Quantity, Quality, and Distribution

AREAWIDE

Area 1

Rank	Resource Concern
1	Plant Resource Concerns: Plant Productivity and Health
2	Animal Resource Concerns: Feed and Forage Imbalance
3	Animal Resource Concerns: Inadequate Livestock Water Quantity, Quality, and Distribution

Area 2

Rank	Resource Concern
1	Soil Resource Concerns: Organic Matter Depletion
2	Plant Resource Concerns: Wildfire Hazard from Biomass Accumulation
3	Water Resource Concerns: Groundwater Depletion

Area 3

Rank	Resource Concern
1	Plant Resource Concerns: Plant Pest Pressure
2	Plant Resource Concerns: Plant Pest Pressure
3	Water Resource Concerns: Inefficient Irrigation Water Use

Engineering – Jason Strenth, State Conservation Engineer

Ecological Sciences – Bianca Diaz Deliz, State Resource Conservationist

- Conservation Practice Standard Update



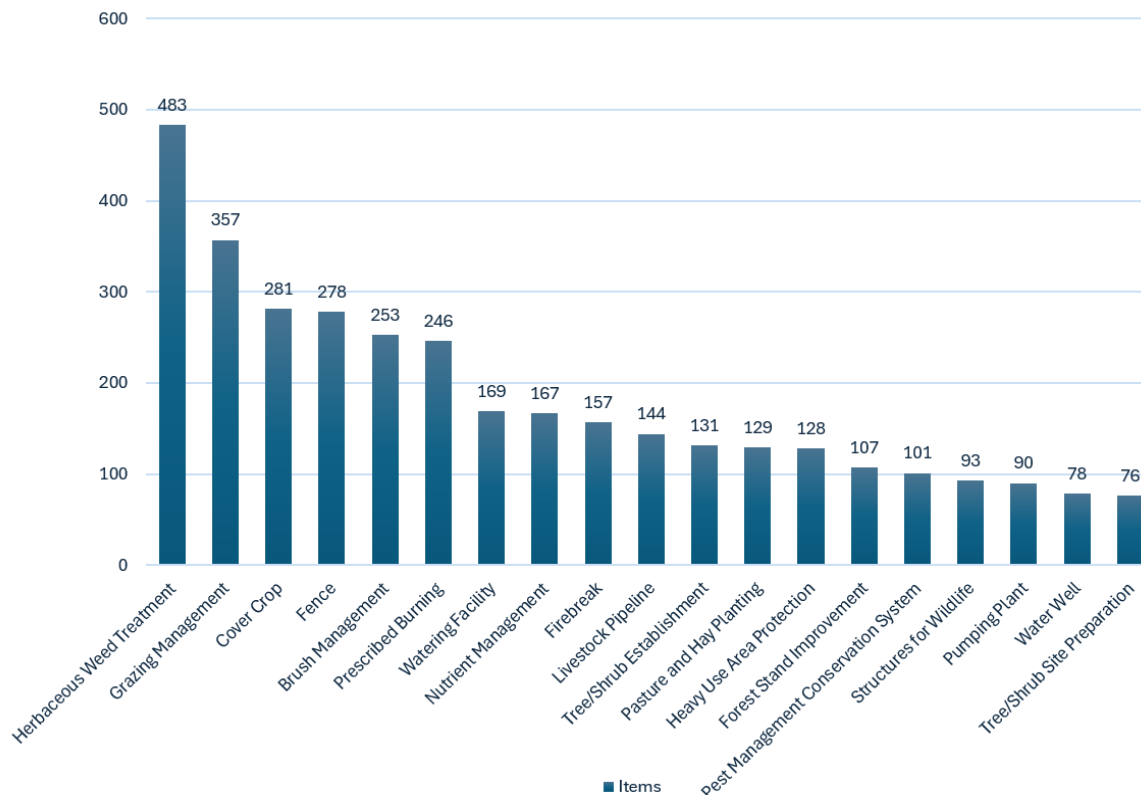


Conservation Practice Standard Updates

- Florida will also allow comments from partners when updating/revising the state CPS for the top 15 practices
- In the past, we have allowed a 30-day comment period and would like to continue that



2026 Most Used Practices





Conservation Practice Standard Updates

- Florida NRCS current technical guides can be found in the FL- Field Office Technical Guide.

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/FL/documents>



FL NRCS- Field Office Technical Guide



Conservation Practice Standard Updates

- *Submit CPS document comments*- Share your feedback on CPS documents to help shape future updates. Input received by December 31 of each calendar year will be reviewed and assigned to the corresponding **future fiscal year update cycle**, following the standard multi year review and revision process.

Conservation Practice Standards
Comments- For Future Action





Producer Roundtables

- Florida NRCS held 2 producer roundtables, Tallahassee and Ona
- 12 producers attended Tallahassee and 11 attended Ona
- Purpose was to obtain producer's individual feedback about certain conservation practice standards
- The standards discussed were selected by NHQ
- Organized and led by NRCS state office, with field office assistance
- State Conservationist, State Resource Conservationist and State Conservation Engineer represented NRCS
- Roundtables may continue in the future



Tallahassee Producer Roundtable

Predominately forestry practices to include:

- Land Clearing, Code 460
- Recreation Land Improvement, Code 566
- Prescribed Burning, Code 338
- Silvopasture, Code 381
- Wildlife Habitat Planting, Code 420
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Code 490
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment, Code 654



Ona Producer Roundtable

Predominately grazing practices to include:

- Brush Management, Code 314
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Code 315
- Dry Hydrant, Code 432
- Trails and Walkways, Code 575
- Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities, Code 643
- Structures for Wildlife, Code 649



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Jason Strenth

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Bianca Diaz Deliz

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Financial Assistance Programs – *Amber Till,* *Assistant State Conservationist - Programs*

- **Program Updates**



United States Department of Agriculture



July 7, 2026 STAC Meeting Financial Assistance Programs

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Topics

- **FY 2026 Allocations**
- **FY 2026 Preapprovals**
- **Looking Back at FY 2026**
- **Looking Ahead to FY 2027**
- **Seeking Feedback**

FY 2026 Allocations

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	\$15,703,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$23,818,000
Total	\$39,521,000



FY 2026 CSP Preapprovals

Region	Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Panhandle	53	\$ 4,163,167
Central Florida	43	\$ 2,842,269
South Florida	65	\$ 8,362,007
Total	161	\$ 15,367,442



FY 2026 CSP Preapprovals

CSP Funding Category	 Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Ag Land HU - Beginning Farmer/Rancher (BFR)	2	\$ 184,212
Ag Land HU - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher (SDFR)	5	\$ 455,704
Ag Land Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)	80	\$ 10,447,573
Ag Land Regional: Central Florida Region	4	\$ 188,166
Ag Land Regional: Panhandle Region	1	\$ 25,668
Ag Land State Initiative - Organic Farmer/Rancher	1	\$ 21,115
NIPF HU - Beginning Farmer/Rancher (BFR)	10	\$ 487,051
NIPF HU - Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher (SDFR)	9	\$ 307,927
NIPF LCI - Longleaf Pine Initiative	17	\$ 1,379,700
NIPF National Initiative - Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)	4	\$ 310,135
NIPF Regional: Central Florida Region	19	\$ 1,017,643
NIPF Regional: Panhandle Region	9	\$ 542,549
Total	161	\$ 15,367,442

FY 2026 EQIP Preapprovals

Region 	Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Panhandle	87	\$ 7,479,139
Central Florida	106	\$ 6,315,402
South Florida	52	\$ 8,616,632
Total	245	\$ 22,411,172



FY 2026 EQIP Preapprovals: Funding Category

EQIP Funding Category	 Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
HU - Beginning Farmer/ Rancher (BF)	9	\$ 806,398
HU - Socially Disadvantaged/ Rancher (SDFR)	14	\$ 1,282,998
LCI - Longleaf Pine Initiative	19	\$ 2,201,836
LCI - WLFW Gopher Tortoise Initiative	28	\$ 2,015,990
LCI - WLFW Northern Bobwhite Initiative	13	\$ 1,081,095
Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)	47	\$ 7,513,663
Regional: Central Florida - Springs & Rivers Sub-region	9	\$ 924,801
Regional: Central Florida - Springs & Shorelines Sub-region	18	\$ 716,184
Regional: Central Florida - Upper Suwannee Sub-region	4	\$ 432,954
Regional: Panhandle - Western Gulf Sub-region	8	\$ 790,001
Regional: South Florida - Heartland Sub-region	1	\$ 295,493
Regional: South Florida - South Atlantic Coast Sub-region	3	\$ 597,277
Regional: South Florida - South Gulf Coast Sub-region	4	\$ 734,020
State Initiative - Aquaculture (Bivalves)	40	\$ 1,474,861
State Initiative - Conservation Planning Activities (CAPs)	20	\$ 74,008
State Initiative - Organic	1	\$ 58,825
State Initiative - Organic Farmer/Rancher	1	\$ 165,000
State Initiative - Tribal	6	\$ 1,245,768
Total	245	\$ 22,411,172

FY 2026 RCPP-LMR Preapprovals

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Land Management/Rentals (RCPP-LMR)	Agreement (No.)	Application Cost (\$)
1924 – Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor	3	\$ 121,039
2817 – Forest to Gulf	8	\$ 271,273
3525 Florida's Big Bend	50	\$ 3,124,014
Total	61	\$ 3,516,326

FY 2026 Preapprovals (All Programs – CSP/EQIP/RCPP-LMR)

Region 	Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Panhandle	193	\$ 14,985,642
Central Florida	160	\$ 9,570,700
South Florida	117	\$ 16,978,638
Total	470	\$ 41,534,980



FY 2026 Panhandle Preapprovals (All Programs – CSP/EQIP/RCPP-LMR)

Field Office	 Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Blountstown Service Center	20	\$ 1,357,584
Bonifay Service Center	1	\$ 95,025
Crestview Service Center	27	\$ 2,087,714
DeFuniak Springs Service Center	9	\$ 920,341
Jay Service Center	17	\$ 2,329,692
Madison Service Center	13	\$ 1,596,342
Marianna Service Center	27	\$ 2,359,349
Molino Field Office	4	\$ 394,970
Monticello Service Center	28	\$ 1,547,791
Quincy Service Center	47	\$ 2,296,833
Total	193	\$ 14,985,642

FY 2026 Central Florida Preapprovals (All Programs – CSP/EQIP/RCPP-LMR)

Field Office	Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Brooksville Service Center	21	\$ 769,937
Deland Service Center	11	\$ 449,369
East Palatka Service Center	12	\$ 639,940
Gainesville Service Center	26	\$ 2,432,930
Lake City Service Center	8	\$ 778,727
Live Oak Service Center	24	\$ 2,101,774
Ocala Service Center	12	\$ 714,846
Tavares Service Center	31	\$ 875,512
Trenton Service Center	15	\$ 807,664
Total	160	\$ 9,570,700

FY 2026 South Florida Preapprovals (All Programs – CSP/EQIP/RCPP-LMR)

Field Office	 Preapprovals (No.)	Estimated Cost (\$)
Bartow Service Center	9	\$ 617,523
Cocoa Field Office	7	\$ 347,726
Florida City Service Center	5	\$ 329,782
Fort Myers Service Center	10	\$ 679,990
Fort Pierce Service Center	15	\$ 3,109,446
Labelle Field Office	16	\$ 2,069,568
Okeechobee Service Center	22	\$ 4,797,489
Sarasota Service Center	20	\$ 2,989,968
Sebring Field Office	11	\$ 1,562,598
Wauchula Service Center	2	\$ 474,548
Total	117	\$ 16,978,638

Looking Back at FY2026

- ❖ For CSP, all Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) assessments were preapproved
- ❖ Consumed roughly 75% the allocation
 - 15M allocated
 - 10M for RPP (80 preapprovals)

Looking Back at FY 2026

- ❖ For EQIP, the sub-region model did not yield preapprovals for all field offices
- ❖ Sub-regions were groups of field offices that competed for a funding allocation
- ❖ Offices with Zero Preapprovals:
 - Royal Palm FO
 - Plant City FO
 - Kissimmee FO

Looking Ahead – FY 2027

- ❖ For CSP/EQIP, expect RPP to remain a funding priority
- ❖ For EQIP, shifting back to field office based sub-regions
- ❖ Potential for a new farm bill in FY 2027

Seeking Feedback

- ❖ Recommendations for natural resource priorities to guide state or area-level EQIP initiatives
- ❖ Recommendations for high-impact conservation practices that best address those priority resource concerns

Questions?



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NRCS Florida Website QR Code:

