



Fiscal Year 2027 NRCS WV Programs Description and Evaluation Criteria

Anchored in the commitment to "Keep Working Lands in Working Hands," our vision is an approach that prioritizes science-based conservation planning and education, elevates local voices, streamlines evaluation for financial assistance, and repurposes time toward higher-value field work—so conservation solutions are clearer, faster, and more consistent for every producer we serve.

Our FY 2027 service model will improve field engagement & streamline program delivery. Our goal is to “keep working lands in working hands” through our dedication to sound science, land stewardship, conservation education, and conservation planning.

West Virginia NRCS will emphasize national, state, and local priorities, and will allow the agency to deliver financial assistance in a faster, more meaningful, and more intentional manner. Field staff will be committed to providing the best technical assistance to our farmers and will refocus their efforts on conservation planning as the foundation of NRCS. The method is centered around evaluating projects for financial assistance based on priority metrics and statutory targets for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA). These decisions cannot circumvent or supersede any established regulation and may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate future national goals, targets, or program requirements as determined by the Secretary or Chief.

West Virginia NRCS will be using a method to prioritize workload that involves screening for:

1. Past Performance
2. Complete Conservation Plan
3. Planned project meets established National, State, or Local Priorities

Evaluation Logic: Once the applicant and planned project have been screened, and been identified as a high, medium, or low funding priority, the state will make selections in a sign-up date order (first in-first out) until the assigned allocation has been expended or the applications are exhausted.



Attachment A. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Resource Category:	2027 EQIP Priorities:
Animal Waste	Rotary Drum Composters
TSP Plan & Design	Forest Management Plans
	Nutrient Management Design and Implementation
	Forest Management Practice Design
Cropland	Cover Crop
	High Tunnel Systems and Low Tunnel Systems
Energy	Reverse Osmosis for Maple Syrup Producers
	Energy Saving Systems
Weather (Drought) Resiliency	Livestock Water
	Water Quantity - Ponding and Flooding
	FSA Designated Disaster Counties
Pasture	Pasture Systems
Regenerative Pilot Program	CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing
	Soil and Water Quality Resource Concerns
Forestry	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) & Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
	forest management activities on lands that have existing low invasive species presence
Wildlife	Native Trout Stream Buffer Area
	Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Priority Area for Conservation
	Aquatic Connectivity Framework

2027 Priorities in All Categories:

Veteran Farmer/Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher, land leaving CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP), and SWPA (Chesapeake Bay, Ohio River Basin, Anthony Creek) may be a priority in all the categories.



Attachment B. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

2027 Categories:		2027 Category Priorities:	
Agricultural Land (AG)		Organic Operations	
		Operations meeting the greatest number of *PRCC at the time of application	
Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF)		Operations meeting the greatest number of *PRCC at the time of application	

***Priority Resource Concern Categories (PRCC):**

The following are the established PRCC for WV.

Agricultural Land:

1. Concentrated Erosion
2. Degraded Plant Condition
3. Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
4. Livestock Production Limitation
5. Pest Pressure
6. Soil Quality Limitations
7. Terrestrial Habitat
8. Wind and Water Erosion

Non-Industrial Private Forest Land (NIPF):

1. Concentrated Erosion
2. Degraded Plant Condition
3. Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
4. Fire Management
5. Pest Pressure
6. Soil Quality Limitations
7. Terrestrial Habitat
8. Wind and Water Erosion

2027 Priorities in All Categories:

Veteran Farmer/Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher, land leaving CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP), and SWPA (Chesapeake Bay, Ohio River Basin, Anthony Creek) may be a priority in all the categories



Attachment C. Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

2027 Categories:

2027 Category Priorities:

High Tunnel System	Treats Plant Health on Cropland
	Existing Developed Water Source
Crop Field Irrigation	Treats Water Quantity on Cropland
	Existing Developed Water Source

2027 Priorities in All Categories:

Veteran Farmer/Rancher and Cropland