

WHAT PROGRAMS DOES NRCS OFFER THAT CAN SUPPORT URBAN FARMERS?

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a cost-share and technical assistance program that helps farmers to address natural resource concerns on their farms. Some of the goals of the program are to provide assistance to improve and/or conserve water, air, or soil quality, reduce erosion, and/or create and improve wildlife habitat.

NRCS works directly with the farmer to create a conservation plan for their farm and can sometimes provide financial assistance in implementing the plan. Through EQIP, growers may be able to obtain financial support for high tunnels, low tunnels, raised beds, pollinator habitats, irrigation system improvements, and other conservation practices.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is designed to compensate farmers who maintain their current conservation practices and commit to introducing more. It's a five-year program for those interested in expanding their current efforts at conservation. The minimum payment is \$4,000.



To find your local NRCS office, visit nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center or scan the QR code below:



Quick-Guide to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

Pasa SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture is a Pennsylvania-based 501(c)3 nonprofit that cultivates sustainable and equitable farms and food systems across the Mid-Atlantic and beyond. Since 1991, we have worked with our network of over 20,000 farmers, changemakers, and food systems professionals to advance sustainable agriculture with our policy work and programming centered on farmer-driven training and education, research and community. Learn more at pasafarming.org.

Pasa SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

WHAT IS THE NRCS?



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a USDA agency that focuses primarily on addressing natural resource concerns and the cultivation of healthy agricultural ecosystems. They provide technical and financial support to farmers interested in utilizing conservation practices on their farms.



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PRACTICE?

A conservation practice is a farming practice intended to promote healthy agricultural ecosystems by safeguarding the health of agricultural soils and surrounding waterways. The NRCS has designated a number of conservation practices that may be eligible for funding through their programs, many of which may be available to urban farmers.

CLIMATE-SMART FARMING AND MARKETING PROGRAM

The Climate-Smart Farming and Marketing program, administered by Pasa Sustainable Agriculture, offers financial and technical support to farmers who want to implement climate-smart practices, such as agroforestry, cover cropping, prescribed grazing, reduced tillage, and more. Program participants will:

Receive **financial support** for conservation practice implementation

Collect data to gain insights about your farm's soil health, water quality, carbon resilience, and other metrics

Join a **peer-to-peer learning community** with other farmers working to improve their farm's climate resilience and bottom line

Receive **marketing support** to help you share your climate impact story with your customers and communicate research findings to grow informed consumer support for climate-smart practices

This program is supported by a Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which promotes meaningful involvement of small, limited resource, and underserved producers. Farmers of color, women and gender nonconforming farmers, beginning farmers, and veteran farmers are strongly encouraged to participate.

Learn more and apply at climatesmart.org.



A number of NRCS conservation practices are covered under the Climate-Smart Farming and Marketing program, including but not limited to:

Alley Cropping (311)	Nutrient Management (590)
Conservation Cover (327)	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced (345)
Cover Crop (340)	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Fence (382)	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Field Border (386)	Vegetative Barrier (601)
Filter Strip (393)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
Hedgerow Planting (422)	
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)	
Mulching (484)	

OTHER COMMON CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR URBAN FARMERS

The following practices may be eligible for funding through other NRCS and/or USDA programs:

- Compost Facility (317)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Raised Beds (812)
- Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
- Irrigation (multiple practices)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Soil Carbon Amendment (336)
- Row Arrangement (557)
- Sinkhole Treatment (527)

