

## Conservation Planning

Week of June 21, 2021

Every landowner has their own natural resource concerns. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a resource for helping farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners reach their land use and conservation goals. Whether you rent or own your land, a conservation plan is critical to maintain and improve productivity. Conservation plans are roadmaps for improving your operation while conserving natural resources. They provide proven strategies that landowners can use to solve identified natural resource concerns and take advantage of conservation opportunities.

A conservation plan is valuable and one of the best tools around to help landowners assess and inventory their resources. NRCS can recommend a suite of conservation practices and strategies to help producers make the right decisions for their operation.

The first step in receiving NRCS assistance should be the development of a Conservation Plan. The NRCS provides this service at no cost to the landowner.

An NRCS conservation plan includes:

- Operator/landowner objectives
- Aerial photographs or a diagram of the fields
- Soils map and soil descriptions
- Resources inventory data which can include forage, crop production potential, or livestock carry capacity
- List of treatment decisions
- Location and schedule for applying conservation practices and systems
- Plan of operation and maintenance of conservation practices and systems

Important benefits of having a conservation plan include:

- Identification of immediate and potential problems that may result in the degrading of resources and the decrease in productivity
- Compliance with environment regulations
- Establishment of reasonable schedules for applying needed conservation practices that fit individual landowner's timetable and resources

Colorado farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners are encouraged to sign up before the July 23rd cutoff date. Contact your local NRCS field office at 970-878-5628 or visit the NRCS website to complete the online Conservation Plan Request today!

Link [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov)