

Fact Sheet



What on Earth Is the Natural Resources Conservation Service?



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Since 1935, NRCS has offered technical help to protect, develop, and wisely use our soil, water, and other natural resources.

In Texas, NRCS works with local soil and water conservation districts. NRCS soil conservationists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, foresters, engineers, and planners work together on voluntary programs. These programs help reduce erosion, improve water quality, prevent flooding, promote good land use and conserve soil, water, and other natural resources aimed at:

NRCS employees serve Texas through the state office in Temple and area offices overseeing field offices in most counties. Programs include the following:

Program	Purpose
Technical Assistance	Help landowners conserve natural resources –Soil, Water, Air, Plants, and Animals plus Humans (SWAPA+H).
Soil Surveys	Determine soil properties and make soil interpretations available through soil surveys on a county basis.
Plant Materials Centers	Develop and select plants to solve conservation problems.
Resource Conservation & Development	Coordinate improvement of environmental, social, and economic conditions in rural areas.
Emergency Watershed Protection	Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation following natural disasters. Assists groups when life and property are in danger.
Wetland Enhancement	Restore wetlands to improve water quality, protect shorelines from erosion, and improve wildlife habitat
Watershed Projects	Assist local groups plan small watershed projects for flood prevention, erosion control, water supply, and recreation.
2002 Farm Bill	The 2002 Farm Bill programs offer landowners financial, and technical assistance to voluntarily implement conservation practices on privately owned land.

Conservation Across America

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