



United States Department of Agriculture

# “Empowering Small Farms through Conservation Planning”



Utah  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



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Department of  
Agriculture

# Our Mission, Our Vision

## Mission:

“We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can **protect natural resources** and **feed a growing world.**”

## Vision:

“A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.”



# Program Review



## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as:
  - Improved water and air quality
  - Conserve ground and surface water
  - Increase soil health
  - Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation
  - Improved or create wildlife habitat
  - Mitigation against drought and increased weather volatility

## Other Programs

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Easement (Wetland Reserve and Agricultural Land)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

## SWAPAE+H



- **SOIL** – soil erosion, soil quality degradation (compaction, organic matter, etc.), streambank erosion, etc.
- **WATER** – Insufficient irrigation water, surface water depletion, nutrients to ground/surface waters, etc.
- **AIR** – Greenhouse gas emissions, emissions of particulate matter, objectionable odors
- **PLANTS** – Degraded plant condition, plant pest pressure
- **ANIMALS** – Wildlife/aquatic habitat, livestock feed and forage balance, livestock shelter, etc.
- **ENERGY** – Farm and Ranch equipment energy efficiency
- **HUMAN** – Pressures from development, socio-economic barriers

# SOILS

Healthy soils need to be fed and protected

1. No bare soils!!
2. Diversity in plants = diversity in roots, nutrient cycling
3. Soil disturbance breaks down soil organism habitat
4. Keep a living root as long as possible

If you're experiencing issues with this, NRCS can help with:

1. Vegetative Projects - Cover crops, Mulch, Perennial Cover (pollinator)
2. Management Projects – crop rotation, soil testing



## WATER

Dealing with a broken system, losing irrigation water, or want to upgrade to a higher efficiency?

NRCS can help with:

1. Structural Projects - Sprinkler Irrigation, Micro-Irrigation (surface tape, micro-sprays, etc.)
2. Management Projects - Applying the right amount of water at the right time



## AIR

Dependent on the particulate or air-quality concern:

1. Dust from unpaved roads, surfaces
2. Smells from livestock operations
3. Fuels used in farming/ranching operations

NRCS can help with:

1. Vegetative projects – Windbreaks, and various types of vegetative buffers
2. Management projects – Evaluate combustion systems (emission efficiencies), Tillage management (reduced tillage or no-till)



# PLANTS

Crops not thriving, stunted growth, inadequate nutrition?

NRCS can help with:

1. Structural Projects – high tunnels, raised beds, low tunnels
2. Vegetative Projects - Cover crops, Pollinator habitat, Windbreaks, etc.
3. Management Projects – Irrigation water management, Nutrient management





## ANIMALS

Lacking pollinators through the growing season,  
livestock not having their water/feed needs met?

NRCS can help with:

1. Structural Projects – grazing fencing, troughs, composting structures
2. Vegetative Projects – pollinator habitat, pasture/range seedings, hedgerows
3. Management Projects– Irrigation water management, Nutrient management, Grazing Management



## ENERGY

Equipment not using energy efficiently, are there potential savings in moving to a more efficiently system (ex. irrigation pumps)

NRCS can help with:

1. Structural Projects – Higher efficiency pumps
2. Management Projects– Energy audits, Energy Management Plan





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# HUMAN

Social, economic, cultural, and historic impacts that affect small farmers.

NRCS helps with:

1. Social and economic – NRCS emphasizes equity in all program delivery.
2. Cultural and historic – NRCS addresses potential historic properties and artifacts early in the planning process so that customers can make informed decisions



## 5 Steps to Assistance



- 1. Stop by your local NRCS field office.**
- 2. NRCS will guide you through the application process.**
  1. Eligibility documents (income, environmental land compliance)
- 3. Part of the application process involves program eligibility. To do this you'll need:**
  1. Tax ID
  2. Proof of Land Control
- 4. NRCS will work with the application to create a conservation plan:**
  1. That plan will be evaluated and ranked for funding according to eligible resource concerns, the conservation benefits the project will provide, and the needs of the applicant.
- 5. NRCS programs are competitive. Applications are pre-approved for financial assistance during the scheduled fund cycle each year.**
  1. If selected, applicants will sign a contract – going over the required standards and specifications for work. Once the project is implemented, NRCS will pay if the project meets NRCS standards.



# How to Locate Your Local Office



1. Do an internet search for “NRCS Service Center Locator”  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=49&county=049](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=49&county=049). The page header includes the USDA logo and navigation tabs: CONSERVATION BASICS, GETTING ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES, RESOURCES, NEWS & EVENTS, and CONTACT. The main heading is "Find Your Local Service Center". Below this, a paragraph explains that USDA Service Centers are locations for connecting with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees. It includes a search form with two dropdown menus (both set to "Utah") and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search form, two service center entries are displayed, each with physical and mailing addresses and contact information.

| Service Center  | Physical Address  | Mailing Address                                | Contact   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Provo Service Center</b><br>Natural Resources Conservation Service<br>(801) 377-5580 | 302 East Lakeview Parkway<br>Provo, UT 84606-6154<br><a href="#">Get Directions</a> | 302 East Lakeview Parkway<br>Provo, UT 84606   | Jenny Cox<br><a href="mailto:jenny.cox@usda.gov">jenny.cox@usda.gov</a>             |
| <b>Provo Service Center</b><br>Farm Service Agency<br>(801) 377-5296 Ext. 2             | 302 East Lakeview Parkway<br>Provo, UT 84606-6154                                   | 302 E Lakeview Parkway<br>Provo, UT 84606-7317 | Sterling Rees<br><a href="mailto:sterling_rees@usda.gov">sterling_rees@usda.gov</a> |



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## Questions?

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