ABOUT NSAC

We are a grassroots alliance of over 150 member organizations from around the country working together to improve federal food & farm policy for over 30 years!
HOW NSAC WORKS

FARMERS & STAKEHOLDERS
Share their experiences, ideas, challenges related to federal policy, programs, rules with local groups

MEMBER GROUPS
Collect input from farmers & stakeholders as well as their own experiences, bring asks to NSAC

NSAC
Helps members: identify top priority sustainable food & farm policy issues nationwide, set campaign strategies, campaign to win!

CONGRESS & FEDERAL AGENCIES
NSAC brings – directly and thru members – priority asks to Congress and agencies like USDA to improve federal food & farm policy
CONSERVATION AND THE 2023 FARM BILL
• 20+ USDA programs support agricultural conservation.
• Participation in all USDA conservation programs is voluntary.
• Endeavor to protect soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources on privately owned agricultural lands to limit environmental impacts of production activities both on and off the farm.

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
The Benefits & Popularity of Agricultural Conservation

Agricultural Diversification through Voluntarily Conservation Practices

- Can build soil health, improve greenhouse gas mitigation, enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity, water quality improvement, and mitigation of climate hazards like drought, floods, and other storm impacts.
- Can often also increase crop production, quality, or stability of production - making yields more stable, increasing yields, and often allows for overall increases in production and profitability.

110,000+ farmers turned away in 2022
IRA contained roughly $20 billion in funding for climate-smart agriculture practices divided among CSP, EQIP, RCPP, and ACEP.

"...directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production."

Demand for FY2023 IRA investments has already far outpaced available funding, according to USDA.

Release: Broad Coalition Calls on Congress to Defend Climate Spending in Conservation Programs

Washington, DC, February 27, 2023 – Today, advocates of conservation programs delivered a letter to House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership calling for the defense of climate focused conservation spending in the Farm Bill. The letter, signed by 644 organizations, businesses, and farmers, makes clear to Congress that the historic investment in conservation programs made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 must be preserved in the 2023 Farm Bill. The IRA provided sweeping greenhouse gas reductions across sectors including farming. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) helped lead, alongside conservation partners, this latest effort calling for durable, increased spending on climate change through conservation programs in the next Farm Bill.
Ensure working lands conservation programs can support the growing demand for financial and technical assistance:

- Build long term capacity at NRCS to support farmers asking for help implementing conservation.
- Reduce the growing applications backlog by providing $4 billion per year to the Conservation Stewardship Program in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- Reinstate automatic renewals for farmers willing and able to continue enhancing their conservation efforts on farm and address additional resource concerns.

Increase program accessibility while encouraging higher levels of stewardship:

- Establish a clear coordination process through which participants can easily graduate from EQIP to CSP once CSP eligibility qualifications have been met.
- Streamline EQIP and CSP application, planning, and enrollment processes, as well as coordinated initiatives to support soil health, wildlife habitat, and organic transition.
- Ensure farmers addressing climate change through both CSP and EQIP are ranked competitively in the application process.
- Strengthen support for organic producers in CSP and raise the discriminatory lower payment limit they face to the same level as in EQIP.
- Increase the set asides for beginning and “socially disadvantaged” farmers and ranchers in CSP and EQIP.
Conservation compliance is a deal between taxpayers and farmers.

All farms receiving commodity, crop insurance and other subsidies, farm loans, and conservation program payments required to comply with minimum soil and wetland conservation requirements in order to retain their eligibility for subsidies.

Any farmer that produces an annually tilled crop on highly erodible land (HEL) must implement a USDA-approved conservation plan for that land.

Expand the scope of conservation compliance and to strengthen its enforcement.
STAY IN TOUCH WITH NSAC!

• Website: https://sustainableagriculture.net
• X (aka Twitter): @sustainableag
• Facebook: http://on.fb.me/sustainableag