Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008
The path to the 2008 Farm Bill

1985 Food Security Act
- Highly Erodible Land protection (HEL)
- Reduction of wetland conversion (Swampbuster)
- Conservation Reserve Program

1990 Food Agricultural Conservation & Trade Act
- Continues HEL & Swampbuster provisions
- Continues CRP
- Wetland Reserve Program Authorized

1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement & Reform Act
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program begins
- Wildlife Habitat Quality Incentives Program begins
- WRP, CRP continued

2002 Farm Security & Rural Investment Act
- Conservation Security Program

The legislation includes fifteen diverse titles, including broad provisions for conservation, energy and tax policy.

Enactment of the bill followed a multiple year process of deliberation and debate yielding a final product with some but not all of the policy recommendations offered by the United States Department of Agriculture.
2008 Farm Bill Highlights

Increases funding for Conservation programs

Focuses on Agricultural and Forestry Working Lands

Environmental Quality Incentives Program expanded

Continues Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Agricultural Management Assistance expanded to include Hawaii
2008 Farm Bill Highlights (2)

Conservation Stewardship Program begins FY2009 with an acreage allocation and a ranking system. Offers flexibility to be a nationwide program.

Wetlands Reserve Program appraisal issues resolved.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program funding expanded.

Creates an Open Fields Program to encourage public access to private land for hunting and fishing.

Chesapeake Bay program created to direct further NRCS program resources to the Bay watershed.
“We have each taken an oath to faithfully execute the law, and so it is now time to end the debate, roll up our sleeves, and get to work implementing the new legislation.”

-Secretary Ed Schafer
Information on NRCS Conservation Programs

Conservation Technical Assistance
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
  ✓ Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
  ✓ Conservation Innovation Grants
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
Agricultural Management Assistance
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
Grassland Reserve Program
Healthy Forests Reserve Program
Information on NRCS Conservation Programs

Conservation Reserve Program
Wetlands Reserve Program
Conservation Security Program
Conservation Stewardship Program
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
Small Watershed Rehabilitation
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
Conservation Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act
Section 2802

- Broadens the purpose to clarify authorities to preserve soil, water and related resources in addition to promoting soil and water quality
- Defines Technical assistance as technical services and technical infrastructure.
Conservation Technical Assistance

Technical Services

Service provided directly to farmers, ranchers, and other eligible entities, such as conservation planning, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices
Conservation Technical Assistance

Technical Infrastructure

Activities, processes, tools, and agency functions needed to support delivery of technical services, such as technical standards, resource inventories, training, data, technology, monitoring, and effects analysis
Conservation Technical Assistance

Delivery of Conservation Technical Assistance
Section 2706

This section authorizes the Secretary to provide technical assistance:

✓ To an eligible participant directly
✓ Through an agreement with a third-party provider
✓ or at the option of the eligible participant, through a payment to the eligible participant for an approved third party provider

Provides authority for contracting with third-party providers for technical assistance

Defines entities eligible to receive technical assistance under this title
Where financial assistance is not required, the Secretary may enter into technical services contracts with program participants.

The Secretary is authorized to use mandatory funds and multi-year contracts with third party providers, to establish fair and reasonable payment rates, and to ensure a nationally consistent certification process.

The Secretary is required to review conservation practice standards to ensure that the conservation practices are consistent with local needs.

The Secretary is directed to ensure that adequate technical assistance is made available to producers involved with organic, specialty crop, or precision agriculture production.
Conservation Programs

WORKING LANDS PROGRAMS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to agriculture and forestry producers to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals.
Conservation Opportunities

INCREASES SUPPORT OF WORKING LAND CONSERVATION

Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a critical element of USDA conservation programs

- Increases funding above the current law by $3.4 billion in budget authority over the next ten years
EQIP Key Points

Reauthorized until 2012

Validates NRCS forestry activities by specifically referencing forest management

Expanded to include energy conservation benefits associated with conservation practices

Places a priority on reduction of water use or no new lands irrigated
EQIP Key Points (2)

Broader scope of conservation payments to include:

- Specific Planning activities beyond CNMP
- Build on management intensity concepts of CSP enhancements
- Payments fit Green Box for WTO

Air quality practices $37.5 million per year (2009-2012)
EQIP Key Points (3)

For organic producers:

Specific section on assistance with conservation practices utilized for organic production and transition

Payments for practices with organic production benefits limited to not more than $20,000 per year; $80,000 in 6 years
EQIP Key Points (4)

For limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers:

- Up to 90 percent cost share or at least 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate

- Advance payments to cover up to 30% of the cost of materials to install conservation improvements
### EQIP Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>$1,750,000,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EQIP Payment Limitations

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Payment Limitations

$300,000 per person over a six-year period

Up to $450,000 per person over a six-year period may be authorized for projects of environmental significance
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

Replaces Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program

Offers financial and technical help to assist farmers and ranchers install or implement conservation practices for agricultural water conservation water quality enhancement activities
AWEP Key Points

A new activity within EQIP on agricultural lands
Promotes ground and surface water conservation
Promotes improved water quality
Projects may be considered in areas experiencing drought to:
  ✓ Impound water to capture surface water runoff on agricultural land for new irrigation projects
  ✓ Maintain ponds
AWEP Key Points

Contracts may be entered into directly with producers to carry out agricultural water enhancement activities, or

Contracts may be entered into directly with producers identified through partnership agreements developed with entities to carry out agricultural water enhancement activities on a regional basis

Partners are selected competitively, and eligible producers are enrolled to achieve the project objectives using EQIP contracts
## AWEP Funding

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<tr>
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<th>Dollar Amount</th>
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<td>2012</td>
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</table>
AWEP Payment Limitations

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
Payment Limitations

$300,000 per person over a six-year period

Up to $450,000 over a six-year period may be authorized for projects of environmental significance

AGI waiver, if necessary to fulfill the objectives of the program
Conservation Innovation Grants

Program reauthorized

Emphasis on efficient and effective transfer of innovative technologies and approaches and increased participation of specialty crop producers
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Assists landowners to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private or Tribal land
Conservation Opportunities

PROTECTS WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

- Will continue to assist in conservation of habitat on agricultural, forest and tribal land
- Provides cost-share assistance to participants seeking to improve and protect wildlife habitat
WHIP Key Points

Reauthorizes WHIP through 2012

Limits contracts to private agricultural land, non-industrial private forestland, and tribal lands

Increases the percentage of long-term agreements from 15 to 25 percent

Allows a priority for projects that further national, state, or regional habitat goals

Establishes annual payment limits to a person or legal entity of not more than $50,000
## WHIP Funding

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
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<td>2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WHIP Payment Limitations

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Payment Limitations

$50,000 annually per person
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

Provides cost-share and incentive payments to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues, such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations.

Available in 16 states where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low.
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

Adds Hawaii

$15 million in mandatory funding for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012

Requires a percentage breakout of funding rather than a dollar amount:

- NRCS 50 percent
- AMS 10 percent
- RMA 40 percent
### AMA Funding

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
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</table>
AMA Payment Limitations

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Payment Limitations

$50,000 annually per person
Conservation Programs

PRIVATE LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Provides matching funds to help State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses.
FRPP Key Points

Creates new conservation opportunities through increased funding

Reauthorizes FRPP through 2012

Changes program purposes from topsoil protection to protecting agricultural use and related conservation values by limiting nonagricultural uses

Changes the Secretary’s role in the purchase of easements from acquisition of an interest to providing cost-share to eligible entities
FRPP Conservation Opportunities

Protects farm and ranch land from conversion to non-agricultural uses.

Helps limit the impervious area in watersheds thereby protecting water quality.

Maintains wildlife habitat in areas where urbanization has significantly reduced habitat.
FRPP Key Points (2)

Removes any present or future interest in easements from the Secretary

Changes the minimum entity contribution to 25 percent of the easement acquisition price rather than 25 percent of the appraised fair market value

Allows the entity to designate the terms and conditions of its deed and to choose the appraisal methodology, subject to approval by the Secretary
FRPP Key Points (3)

Allows the Secretary to certify eligible entities

Specifies a minimum agreement length of 5 years for certified entities

Non-certified entities shall have agreement lengths of 3-5 years
## FRPP Funding

<table>
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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>$200,000,000</td>
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</table>
FRPP Payment Limitations

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
Payment Limitations

No statutory payment limit.
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Assists landowners to restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands and provides assistance for restoration.
GRP Conservation Opportunities

PROTECTS GRAZING LAND

The Grassland Reserve Program

✓ 1.22 million acres of grazing land to be enrolled and protected from conversion to other uses
GRP Key Points

Reauthorizes GRP through 2012

Additional 1,220,000 acres in the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2012

Removes dollar cap

Limits rental agreement options to 10-, 15-, and 20-years

Allows entities to write, own, and enforce easements with a 50 percent match through a cooperative agreement
GRP Key Points (2)

Uses an easement valuation requirement similar to Wetlands Reserve Program

 Requires a grazing management plan

Includes contingent right language that would limit Federal rights in entity-secured easements
GRP Funding

2009-2012
1,220,000 NEW acres
GRP Payment Limitations

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) Payment Limitations

Establishes an annual $50,000 payment limitation per person for rental agreements and an annual $50,000 payment limitation per person for restoration agreement payments

No statutory limit for easements
Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

Assists landowners to restore and protect forest land resources and protects at risk species
HFRP Key Points

Creates new conservation opportunities through increased funding

$9,750,000 in mandatory for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012

Enrollment options:
- Permanent easements
- 30-year easements
- 30-year contracts rather than agreements for Indian tribes

Limits funding to
- 40 percent for 10-year cost-share agreements
- 60 percent for easements
## HFRP Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>$9,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$9,750,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Programs

LAND RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Removes marginal croplands from production and encourages environmental enhancement on those lands

Provides new Wildlife Habitat program initiative

Reauthorizes and expands the flooded farmlands component of CRP
CRP Acre Limit

32,000,000 acres beginning 2010

CRP Wildlife

$100,000,000 during 2009-2012

CRP Transition

$25,000,000 during 2009-2012
CRP Payment Limitations

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Payment Limitations

$50,000 per person annually
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

A voluntary, non-regulatory, incentive-based program that helps private landowners, farmers and ranchers protect and restore wetlands on their property
Conservation Opportunities

PROTECTS FRAGILE WETLANDS

Wetlands Reserve Program

- Allows up to 3,041,200 acres of wetlands to be enrolled
WRP Key Points

Reauthorized through 2012

Overall Program Acreage Cap 3,041,200 acres (adds 766,200 acres)

Removed annual acreage cap

Limits enrollment to private or Tribal lands
WRP Key Points (2)

Enrollment Options:
✓ Permanent easements
✓ 30-year easements
✓ 30-year contract option for Tribes
✓ Restoration cost-share agreements

Prohibits enrollment of land in easements where ownership has changed during the previous 7 years for the purposes of enrolling in the WRP

Specifies cost-assistance for maintenance activities
WRP Key Points (3)

Changes easement compensation to the lowest of the following:

- Fair market value of the land enrolled based on a Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices appraisal, or a Market survey
- Geographic cap established by the Secretary, or Landowner offer

These changes will be implemented on the date of enactment.
WRP Key Points (4)

Sets an annual payment limit on restoration cost-share agreement payments of $50,000 per person

Easements of less than $500,000 may be made in up to 30 payments

Easements greater than $500,000 may be made in at least 5 and no more than 30 payments

A waiver may be allowed for special circumstances
WRP Funding

Capped at 3,041,200 acres
766,200 new acres
WRP Payment Limitations

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Payment Limitations

Restoration Agreements

✓ $50,000 per person annually

Easements

✓ No statutory limitation
Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)

Special Wetland Programs with States, Tribes, or NGO’s
Reserved Rights Pilot Program
Flooded Cropland or Grassland (used for production prior to natural overflow of closed basin or prairie pothole)
Annual interest survey Prairie Pothole Region
Conservation Programs

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Conservation Security Program

Conservation Security Program—
Continues funding for current contract holders for signups conducted during fiscal years 2004 through 2008

No new enrollments

No new modifications
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP pays farmers who are improving conservation treatment on their working lands to encourage the continuation of farming and ranching practices that benefit soil, water, and air resources.
Conservation Opportunities

PROMOTES NEW CONSERVATION AND REWARDS STEWARDSHIP

The renamed Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will focus on:

✓ Incentivizing new conservation
✓ Rewarding producers for high levels of additional stewardship
✓ Addressing local priority resource concerns
CSP Key Points

Authorized 2009 through 2017

12,769,000 acres may be enrolled each year

Average $18/acre nationally (FA and TA)

Acres will be allocated based on eligible acres in a state

Applicants must account for stewardship activities covering their entire agricultural operation
CSP Key Points (2)

Applications will be competitively ranked based on:

- Present and proposed conservation activities
- Number and extent of resource concerns addressed
- Cost effectiveness of the expected environmental benefits

The program shall be managed to achieve a national average rate of $18 per acre, which shall include the costs of all financial assistance and technical assistance.
CSP Key Points (3)

A person or legal entity cannot receive CSP payments exceeding $200,000 during any five-year period.
CSP Key Points (4)

Eligible producers must initially meet the stewardship threshold for one resource concern and be willing to achieve the threshold for at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of their five-year contract.

CSP payments will change to be paid retrospectively in the fiscal year after the improvements and activities are completed.
## CSP Funding

<table>
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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>12,769,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12,769,000</td>
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</table>
CSP Payment Limitations

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Payment Limitations

$200,000 per person

5-year period
Conservation Programs

NEW INITIATIVES

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Program (Open Fields)
Environmental Services Markets
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Key Points

Provides additional program resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Provides assistance to producers to minimize nutrient and sediment loading

Special consideration and evaluation of applications in the Susquehanna, Shenandoah, Potomac and Patuxent River Basins

The funds are utilized through existing Farm Bill conservation programs and are available until expended.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (Open Fields)

Provides incentives to state governments and Indian tribes to provide public access to private land for hunting and fishing.
Open Fields Key Points

Establishes a voluntary public access program 2009 - 2012

States and Tribes may apply for grants to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch, and forest land to make that land available for wildlife-dependent recreation

The program does not preempt State or tribal government laws, including liability laws

Provides $50,000,000 in mandatory funds for this program

Includes a 25 percent reduction for the total grant amount to an entity if the opening dates for migratory bird hunting in the State are not consistent for residents and non-residents
Environmental Services Markets

Establishment of science-based technical guidelines to measure environmental service benefits. Creation of a registry to collect, record, and maintain benefits.
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Directs 6 percent of funds and acres from Farm Bill Conservation Title programs, except CRP, WRP, FRPP, and GRP, be used for targeted conservation activities and areas.

Projects will be selected through a competitive process of applications submitted by partners.

Projects will be implemented through existing program authorities and procedures.

Funds and acres are directed at the State level (90 percent) and nationally (10 percent).
Programs Reauthorized

Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Reauthorized through 2012

Provides $100 million in mandatory funding in 2009 to be available until expended

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

Conservation of Private Grazing Land

Resource Conservation & Development
Conservation Access

Assistance to Certain Farmers and Ranchers to Improve Their Access to Conservation Programs:

- Ten percent funding set aside for Beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers
  - 5% funding set-aside for each group in EQIP
  - A 5% acreage set-aside for each group in CSP
- Funds or acreage not obligated during a fiscal year would be returned to the general EQIP and CSP programs
Administrative Requirements

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

Regional Equity
Adjusted Gross Income Limitation

For conservation programs, persons or legal entities are eligible if—

- The average non-farm AGI is less than $1,000,000, or
- 2/3 of the average total AGI is from farming, ranching, or forestry
- The limitation may be waived on a case-by-case basis if:
  - Environmentally sensitive land of special significance would be protected

Not in effect until FY2009
Regional Equity and Flexibility

Increases the funding trigger from $12 million to $15 million

Considers respective demand in each program in each state

Requires a review and update of program allocation formulas by January 1, 2012
Customer Service

The Conservation Stewardship Program and the Wetlands Reserve program have been made more responsive to customer needs.
Customer Service

Conservation Stewardship Program will:

- Allow for enrollment in every watershed
- Every year
Customer Service

Wetlands Reserve Program will have:

- A revised procedure for valuing property
- A streamlined review process
Streamlining Provisions

Consistent Definitions

Authority to accept non-federal contributions to support conservation
Streamlining Provisions

Section 2001—Definitions Relating to Conservation

“Beginning farmer or rancher”, “Indian tribe”, and “socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher” are moved to this section

In addition, the terms “farm,” “integrated pest management,” “person or legal entity,” “livestock,” “nonindustrial private forest land,” and “technical assistance” are defined.
Streamlining Provisions

Section 2702--Authority to Accept Contributions to Support Conservation Programs

- Provides authority to accept non-federal funds to administer conservation programs under this Title.
Confidentiality
(Section 1619)

Strengthens the confidentiality provisions in current law.
Transparency
Conferences

Department of Agriculture Conference Transparency -- Section 14208

Conferences attended by USDA employees over $10,000:

✓ Requires a report to Congress
✓ Disclosure on a USDA website
Receipt For Service or Denial of Service From Certain Department of Agriculture Agencies (Section 14003)

Requires issue of receipts to anyone who requests a receipt at the time of their request for USDA service

- **Details will include:**
  - Date
  - Time
  - Place
  - Subject of the request
  - Action taken or not taken to anyone who requests a receipt at the time of request for USDA service
2008 Farm Bill Funding
### 2008 Farm Bill Annual Funding ($ million)

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<th>Program</th>
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<td>1337</td>
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<td>1588</td>
<td>1750</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWEP (in addition to EQIP)</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIG – Air (Funding included in EQIP)</td>
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<td>37.5</td>
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<td>37.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSWC Ground &amp; Surface Water Conservation</td>
<td>60</td>
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## 2008 Farm Bill Annual Funding ($ million)

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<th>Program</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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# 2008 Farm Bill Annual Funding ($ million)

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<th>2009</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small Watershed Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary Public Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP “Security”</td>
<td>Such Sums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>50</td>
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## 2002 Farm Bill Annual Funding (Million Acres)

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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSP “Stewardship” (through 2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP (through 2017)</td>
<td>12.769</td>
<td>12.769</td>
<td>12.769</td>
<td>12.769</td>
<td>12.769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRP (1.220 Million NEW acres 2009-2017)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRP capped at 3,041,200 acres (766,200 new acres)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2002 Farm Bill Annual Funding ($ or Ac. Million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32 Ac.</td>
<td>32 Ac.</td>
<td>32 Ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP Wildlife</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(through 2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP Transition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(during 2009-2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hold the presses…. (Historic Reductions in mandatory spending)

• From 2002 through 2007, the appropriators limited a total of $2.23 billion dollars from conservation programs.

• In 2007, the NRCS programs in Title II were limited to 71.7 percent of their authorized funding levels.
FY 2007 as an example of funding limits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Farm Bill Authorized</th>
<th>Congress Allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRP</td>
<td>250,000 acres</td>
<td>144,776 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>$373 million</td>
<td>$259 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>$1.27 billion</td>
<td>$1.017 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWC</td>
<td>$60 million</td>
<td>$51 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHIP</td>
<td>$85 million</td>
<td>$43 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRPP</td>
<td>$97 million</td>
<td>$50 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA</td>
<td>$14 million</td>
<td>$6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab.</td>
<td>$65 million</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Compliance

Section 2002—Review of Good Faith Determinations Related to Highly Erodible Land Conservation

- Good faith exemption maintained but second-level review is required
  - Compliance Decisions by FSA State Director with technical concurrence by NRCS State Conservationist
  - Compliance Decisions by FSA District Director with technical concurrence by NRCS Area Conservationist

- The amendment allows for graduated penalties based on the severity of the compliance violation.
Conservation Compliance


The good faith exemption for wetland conservation compliance is maintained, but adds a second-level review

- Compliance decisions by the FSA State Executive Director with the technical concurrence of the NRCS State Conservationist
- Compliance decisions by FSA District Director with the technical concurrence of the NRCS Area Conservationist
Sod Saver
(Section 12020)

CROP INSURANCE INELIGIBILITY RELATED TO PRODUCTION ON NONCROPLAND

Rangeland, forestland, and native grassland that has not been used for crop production will not be eligible for crop insurance

Governor must authorize

Limited to the Prairie Pothole Region
Farm Bill Program Transition for FY2008

(Section 2903)

The Secretary shall continue to carry out any current program or activity, including the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program, using laws applicable to the program as they existed in the program one day prior to enactment.
## Potential Funding Availability for FY2008 (dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Authority for FY2008</th>
<th>Total Available (at enactment)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>1,200,000,000</td>
<td>200,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWC</td>
<td>60,000,000</td>
<td>22,458,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHIP</td>
<td>85,000,000</td>
<td>31,815,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRPP</td>
<td>97,000,000</td>
<td>42,973,224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rule Making for FY2009

Most rules to be completed in 90 days
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

For More Information, visit:

- Your local USDA Service Center
- Your local conservation district