

FARM BILL 2002

Water Quality Improvement Opportunities

**National Water Quality Monitoring Council
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Animal Husbandry and Clean Water Programs Division

- ✓ Overview of 2002 Farm Bill
- ✓ Highlights of Programs that Improve Impaired Waters
- ✓ Conservation Effects Assessment Project

Overview of Title II Conservation Provisions



Farm Security and
Rural Investment Act
of 2002

Strong Conservation Provisions



White House photo by Eric Draper

“... the strongest conservation provisions of any Farm Bill ever passed by Congress.”

President George W. Bush

“It provides record level support for conservation ... on working farms.”

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman





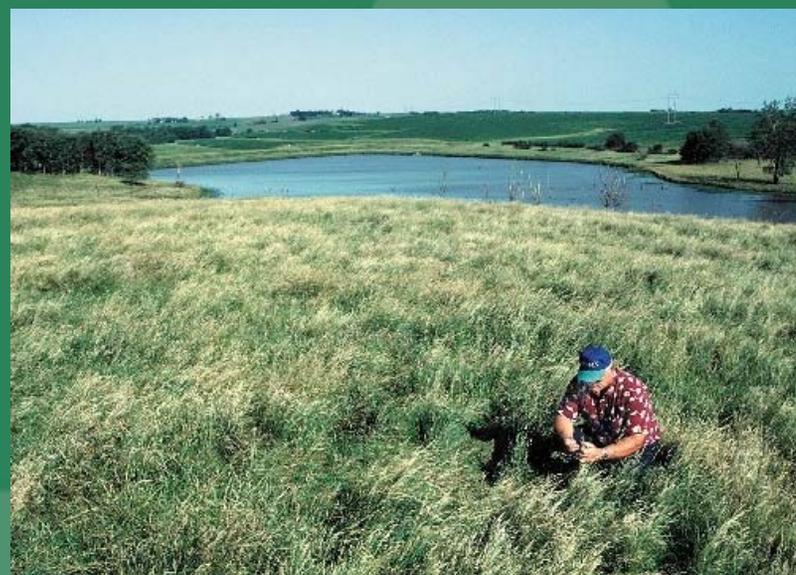
- ✓ Places strong emphasis on the conservation of working lands, ensuring that land remains both healthy and productive.
- ✓ Provides farmers and ranchers with voluntary conservation programs at increased funding levels.
- ✓ Reauthorizes many of the 1996 Farm Bill programs.

Reauthorizes the:

- ✓ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ✓ Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- ✓ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- ✓ Farmland Protection Program (FPP)

New Programs:

- ✓ Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- ✓ Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)



Funding Authorization (\$ millions by fiscal year)

Program	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
WRP 2,275,000 acres cap	Up to 250,000 acres					
EQIP	400	700	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,300
Ground & Surface Water Conserva- tion	25	45	60	60	60	60

Funding Authorization (\$ millions by fiscal year)

Program	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
WHIP	15	30	60	85	85	85
CSP		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Grassland Reserve Program 2 million acres cap		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
CRP 39.2 million acres cap		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Programs used primarily to improve impaired waters:



- ✓ EQIP
- ✓ WRP
- ✓ CRP / CREP
- ✓ WHIP

EQIP Key Points

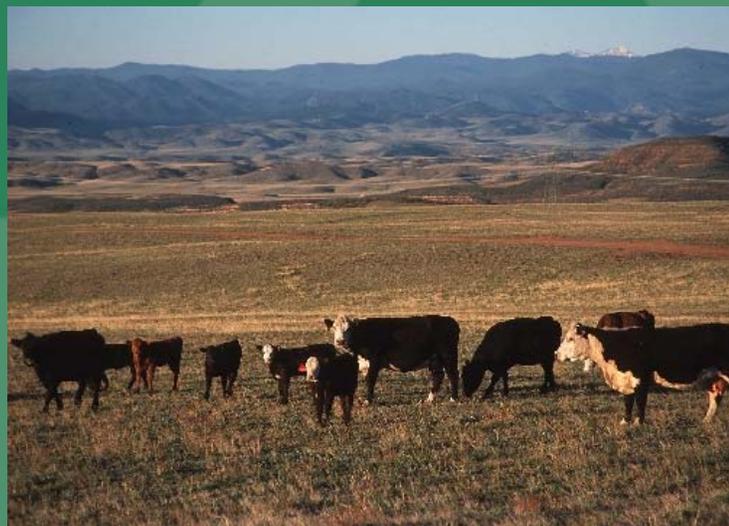
- ✓ Promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals.
- ✓ Assist producers to install and maintain conservation practices that protect and enhance soil, water, air, wildlife, and related natural resources and meet environmental quality criteria and regulatory requirements while sustaining production of food and fiber.

EQIP Key Points (cont'd)

- ✓ Provides technical and financial assistance to plan and install structural, vegetative, and management practices.
- ✓ Cost sharing:
 - Up to 75% of costs of practices
 - Up to 90% cost-share for limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers.
- ✓ Uses locally led process in cooperation with conservation districts.
- ✓ State Technical Committee advice.

EQIP Key Changes

- ✓ Increases total payment limitation amounts to \$450,000 per individual or entity (Oct. 2001 – Sept. 30, 2007)
- ✓ Requires 60% of funding for practices related to livestock production, including grazing land, AFOs



EQIP Key Changes (cont'd)



- ✓ Eliminates animal unit cap (previously 1,000 AU) on animal waste facilities for large confined livestock operations
- ✓ Requires Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for AFOs
- ✓ Incentive payment to develop a CNMP

EQIP Key Changes (cont'd)

- ✓ **Ground and Surface Water Conservation provision will assist farmers improve irrigation systems, convert to less water-intensive crops, or convert to dryland farming**
- ✓ **Conservation Innovation Grant provision MAY be initiated in FY 2004**



WRP Key Points

- ✓ Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner

WRP Key Points (cont'd)

- ✓ Goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values along with optimum wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled
- ✓ Three program participation options:
 - 10-year cost-share agreement restorations
 - 30-year conservation easement restorations
 - Permanent easement restorations

WRP Key Changes

- ✓ Allows the Secretary to enroll up to 250,000 acres annually, up to a total of 2,275,000 acres
- ✓ 1,074,000 acres currently enrolled



WHIP Key Points

- ✓ Landowners (not just farmers) are helped to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands
- ✓ Provides cost-share payments in 5-10 year agreements for upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife habitats



WHIP Key Points (cont'd)



- ✓ 1.6 million acres enrolled since 1998
- ✓ Increasing emphasis on riparian and aquatic habitats
- ✓ Allows increased cost-share for long-term agreements of at least 15 years

CRP Key Points

- ✓ Provides assistance to eligible landowners to retire land from agricultural production to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns
- ✓ Three program participation options:
 - 10-year agreement for herbaceous cover
 - 15-year agreement for shrub and tree cover
 - Continuous sign-up for buffers

CRP Key Points (cont'd)

- ✓ 39.2 million acre cap
- ✓ 34.0 million acres total currently enrolled
- ✓ 1.8 million continuous sign-up



CREP Key Points

- ✓ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a state and federal partnership
- ✓ Land retirement targeted to address State and nationally significant agriculture-related environmental effects
- ✓ 472,000 acres enrolled currently

CREP Key Points (cont'd)

- ✓ CREP differs from CRP:
 - Targeted to specific geographic areas with high environmental concerns
 - States and Federal partnership (funds)
 - Results-oriented - requires States to establish measurable objectives and conduct annual monitoring to measure progress
 - Flexible to meet local conditions and needs

Conservation Security Program

- ✓ A voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for the conservation, protection, and improvement of natural resources on Tribal and private working lands.
- ✓ The program provides payments for producers who practice good stewardship on their agricultural lands and incentives for those who want to do more.

CSP payments adjusted to level of conservation treatment:

- ✓ Tier I – Treatment of one resource concern on part of a agricultural operation.
- ✓ Tier II – Treatment of one resource concern on the whole agricultural operation.
- ✓ Tier III – A “showcase” of conservation treatment of all resource concerns on the whole agricultural operation.

CSP Payment Limitations

✓ Individual or Entity limitations

➤ Tier I : \$20,000

➤ Tier II : \$35,000

➤ Tier III : \$45,000

✓ Limitation to Base Payments

➤ Tier I : \$5,000

➤ Tier II : \$10,500

➤ Tier III : \$13,500

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

- ✓ Purpose – To assess effects and outcomes of implementing USDA conservation programs

- ✓ Tools –
 - National Resources Inventory (NRCS)
 - Farmer and rancher survey information (NASS)
 - Models (ARS, NRCS, USGS, EPA)
 - Small watershed monitoring and modeling case studies (ARS, CSREES, USGS, States, others)

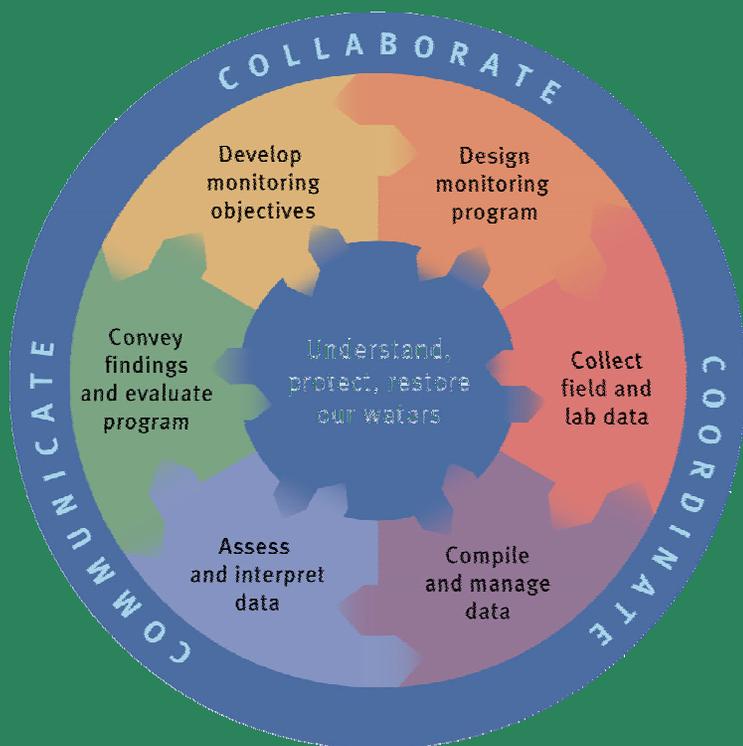
CEAP (cont'd)

- ✓ Budget (proposed)
 - FY2003 - \$8 million
 - FY2004 - \$10 million
 - FY2005-06 - ?

- ✓ Will help to respond to OMB, Congress, GAO, and public demand for performance-based accountability

CEAP (cont'd)

- ✓ CEAP is consistent with the Monitoring Framework:
 - Collaborate, coordinate, communicate with others
 - Ensure scientifically credible measurement methods are used
 - Meet the project goal of reporting annually on the effects of conservation programs and systems



Information Websites:

- www.usda.gov
- www.nrcs.usda.gov
- www.fsa.usda.gov

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