



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) North Carolina - The Update

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Program Updates

Contract Workload

For the past three years, the state has seen a significant increase in financial assistance for our conservation programs. These dollars has resulted in hundreds of contracts

FY 2022-	EQIP 462; CSP 206 Total- 668
FY 2023-	EQIP 545 Classic, 108 IRA; Total- 893 CSP 151 Classic, 84 IRA
FY 2024-	EQIP 402 Classic, 439 IRA; Total- 1138 CSP 173 Classic, 124 IRA

Applications for FY 2025

That historic funding has continued and this FY, NRCS has been allocated over \$100 million dollars across all programs. Since November, 2024 our field staff has worked diligently in processing applications. To date we're tracking the following:

- EQIP-3,626 applications
- CSP- 1,645 applications

These applications are in several stages of processing. They're either pending, eligible, preapproved, or approved. These applications covered both our classic and IRA fund pools.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

For FY 25 we received 17 applications (ACEP-General) for a total of \$7,878,843 across 1,800 acres. Under IRA-ALE we received 18 applications across 1,900 acres. While we are still working on applications we have already contracted 5 contracts for roughly \$2.5 million. There is also an IRA-WRE application that we will be funding for approximately \$756,000 dollars. There is also 35 RCPP applications that we are currently working on across 4 different projects.

Recently, the state became the lead in three new RCPP projects. An announcement will be published at a later date to advertise application deadline date in accordance with agency policy. Lastly, we have 28 projects in the acquisition process and 3 parcels that have been closed and are permanent easements in FY 2025.

General Updates

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

NRCS in North Carolina has been granted an extension for interested sponsors that have been affected by Tropical Storm Helene under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The application deadline for interested sponsors was **Feb. 28, 2025**.

On Jan. 27, members of NCDA&CS along with NRCS discussed EWP and developed strategies on how address the enormous challenges presented by Tropical Storm Helene.

Buncombe and Haywood counties are completing Field Data Reports for Stream bank and Shoreline Stabilization sites. Once these are submitted, reviewed and approved by the SSC (or a member of their review team) the SWCDs will be instructed to then complete the DSR for those sites.

Training

Training for EWP remains a vital mission as we move forward and begin to rebuild our communities. Currently we're tracking **2025 Training dates:**

Feb 14- Asheville, 15 NRCS and 15 partners were trained.

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