



N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

State-Administered Forestry Financial Assistance Programs



Updated 4/15/24

PROGRAM	ACTIVITIES	ELIGIBILITY*	TYPICAL SIGN-UP PERIOD	PAYMENTS**	NOTABLE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Forest Development Program (NCFS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and timber stand improvement	Landowner must own a minimum of five acres of land suitable for forestry purposes. No government-owned land	Base/Mountain Enrollment: March 1 - Last Friday of May Plant Only Enrollment: Sept. 1 - Last Friday of October	40% for most; 60% for planting longleaf, shortleaf, hardwoods, or wetland species; max 100 acres/year or \$10,000/landowner/year	Stand maintained for at least 10 years or costshare paid back
<u>Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program (NCFS)</u>	Pre-commercial thinning	Landowner must own a minimum of five acres of NIPF land or tribal land. No government-owned land	State fiscal year until funds exhausted	Flat rate (50% of prevailing rate)	Stand maintained for at least 10 years or costshare paid back
<u>Prescribed Burning Cost Share Program (NCFS)</u>	Understory prescribed burning for silviculture, hazard reduction, or wildlife habitat	Minimum of five acres NIPF. No government owned land	State fiscal year until funds exhausted	Flat rate (1-1 match under 100 acres; 1-2 match for additional acres); maximum payment of \$25,000/landowner/year	Burn must comply with the N.C. Prescribed Burning Act
<u>N.C. Agricultural Cost-Share Program (NC Soil & Water)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and more	Agricultural lands directly involved with agriculture production for more than 3 years	Year-round	75% of prevailing average rate for each practice up to \$75,000	Stand maintained for at least 10 years or costshare paid back

Contact your local N.C. Forest Service County or District Office at:

https://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/contacts_main.htm

Find your N.C. Soil & Water District at:

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/division-districts/district-directory>

Federally Administered Forestry Financial Assistance Programs

PROGRAM	ACTIVITIES	ELIGIBILITY*	TYPICAL SIGN-UP PERIOD	PAYMENTS**	NOTABLE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Conservation Reserve Program General (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	*NIPF = Non-Industrial Private Forest Highly erodible Ag land with requisite cropping history. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Announced General Signups that generally last 2 weeks. Usually 1 (rarely 2) per year.	**Payments based on actual acres completed and costs, or prevailing rates, whichever is lower. 50%, up to \$50,000 per year annual rental payments for life of contract. Average approx. \$40-167/acre/year	Maintain for the contract length of 10-15 years
<u>Conservation Reserve Program Continuous (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Ag land with requisite cropping history. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Year-round	50%, up to \$50,000 annual rental payments for life of contract. Average approx. \$40-167/acre/year	Maintain for the contract length of 10-15 years
<u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (FSA/NCAG)</u>	Site prep and tree planting	Land in one of 76 N.C. counties with cropping history able to be riparian buffer. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Year-round	90-100%, up to \$50,000 annual rental payments for first 15 years, plus bonus payment	Maintain for 30 years or perpetual easement
<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Any land on which agricultural commodities, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.	Receive applications year-round: batched and ranked once per year	Reimbursement of 50% to over 100% of actual cost, may not exceed \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts in a time period	10 - 15 year practice life for most forestry practices
<u>Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, and NIPF. At least two priority resource concerns must be met at time of application. Must add one additional priority concern by end of contract.	Receive applications year-round: batched and ranked once per year	Reimbursement of 50% to over 100% of actual cost, minimum annual payment \$4,000, maximum annual payment \$200,000	All forestland controlled by participant at time of application must be enrolled in CSP. Contract length of five years
<u>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and more	NIPF located in county affected by a given natural disaster (not in CRP).	30 - 60 day period after EFRP is activated in that county	75% of net out-of-pocket costs, minimum \$1,000 payment, maximum \$500,000 payment per disaster event	Contract for lifespan of practice, typically 10 years.

Find your NRCS or FSA county office here: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>