



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

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Program Updates

Applications for FY 2025

EQUIP- 2,660

CSP- 1,394

These applications are in several stages of processing. They're either pending, eligible, preapproved, or approved. These applications are only reflecting our 2018 Farm Bill programs.

Additional Funding

NC NRCS requested an additional \$10 million in funding that will be used to implement conservation practices throughout the state.

For FY 25, NRCS has been given the authority to proceed with processing farm bill payments for existing contracts obligated using Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds.

General Updates

Partnerships Programs

On April 14, Secretary Rollins announced the cancellation of the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities (PCSC). It is being re-launched as the Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) Initiative. USDA will review existing grant agreements based on three policy priorities:

- A minimum of 65% of federal funds must go to producers;
- Grant recipients must have enrolled at least one producer as of 12/31/2024; and
- Grant recipients must have made a payment to at least one producer as of 12/31/2024.

USDA will honor all eligible expenses incurred prior to April 13, 2025. This reform effort will utilize existing funding, with no new funding made available for these partnerships.

General Updates Cont.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The EWP deadline for areas that were affected by TS Helene ended on April 11, 2025. NRCS NHQ has approved an extension with a deadline to be finalized later, tentatively scheduled for May 30. The current list of sponsors include:

Allegheny Co., Ashe Co., Avery Co., Buncombe Co., Burke Co., Caldwell Co., Haywood Co., Henderson Co., Jackson Co., Macon Co., Madison Co., McDowell Co., Mitchell Co., Polk Co., Rowan Co., Rutherford Co., Transylvania Co., Watauga Co., Wilkes Co., Yancey Co., Asheville, Chimney Rock Village, Hickory, Mount Holly, Landis, Wax Haw, and EBCI

Personnel Changes

Recently, NRCS employees were given the opportunity to resign and/or retire. Out of 175 employees, 24 participated in the Deferred Resignation Program 1.0 and 2.0.

Some notable losses were our State Soil Scientist, Cultural Resources Specialist, and Supervisory Soil Conservationist.

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