



United States Department of Agriculture

# Farm Bill Program Overview

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USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a **voluntary program** that helps producers achieve the compatible goals of agricultural production and environmental quality. Producers may receive **financial and technical assistance** to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concern and opportunities to improve:



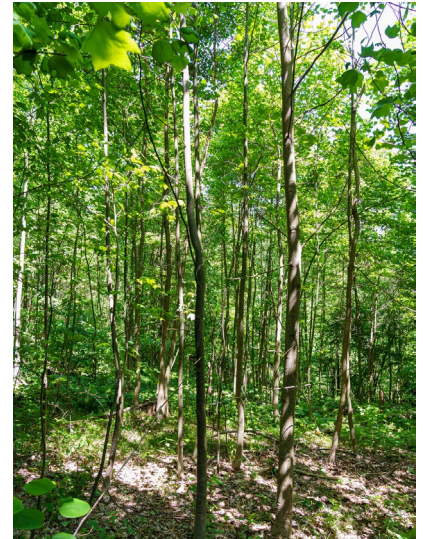
Soil



Water



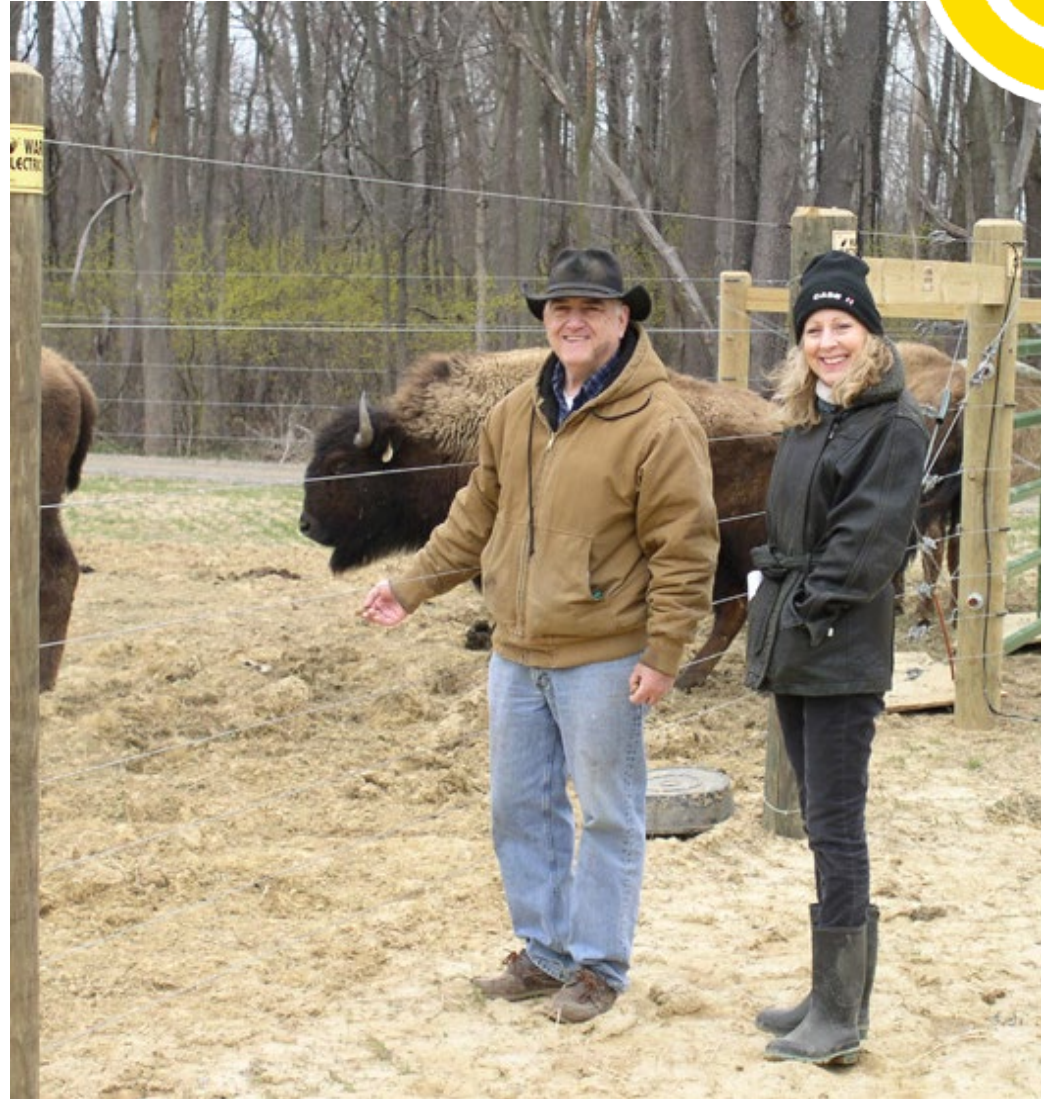
Air



Other Natural  
Resource Issues

# EQIP Eligibility

- Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP.
- Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or pasturelands.
- Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate.

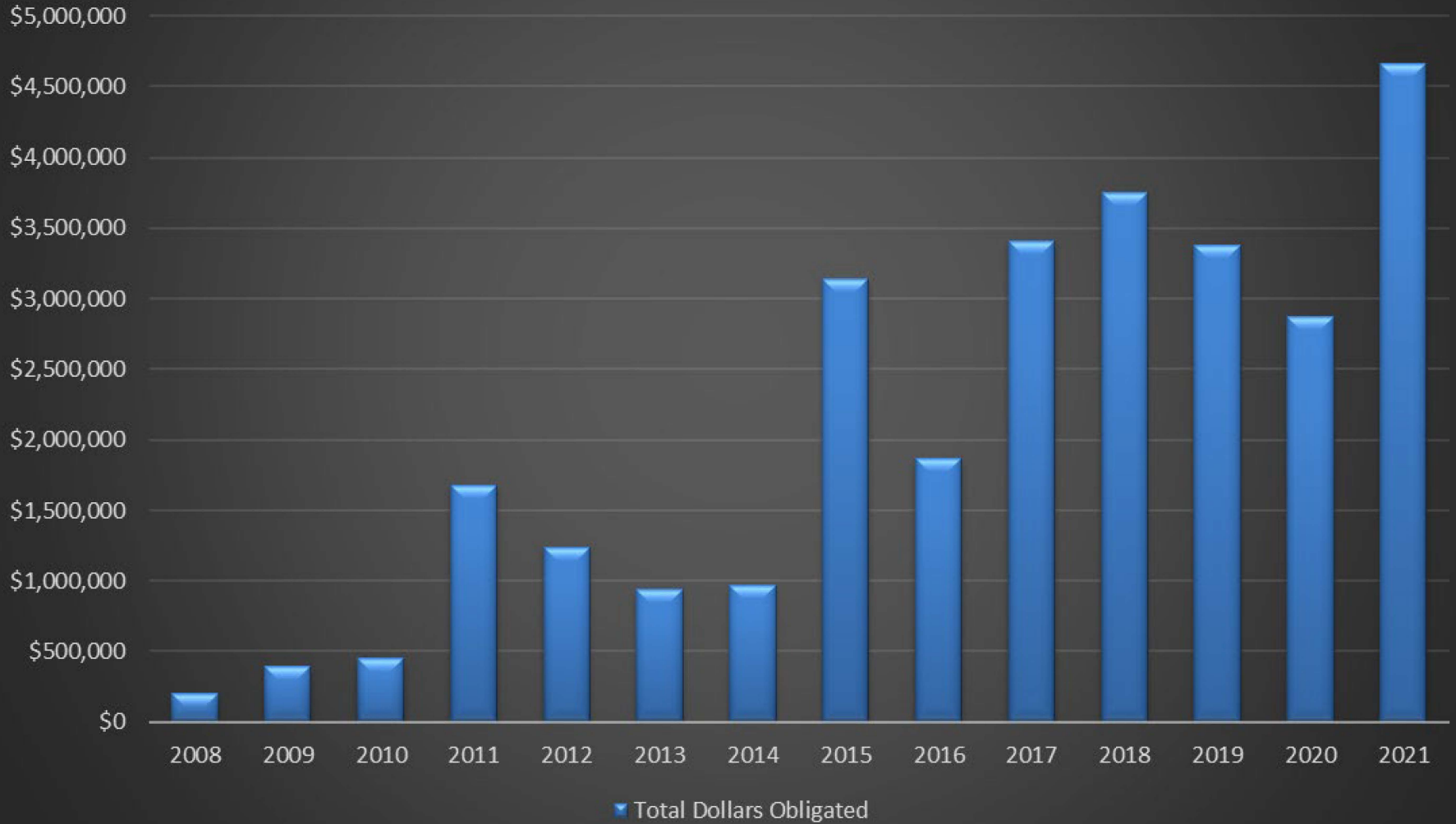


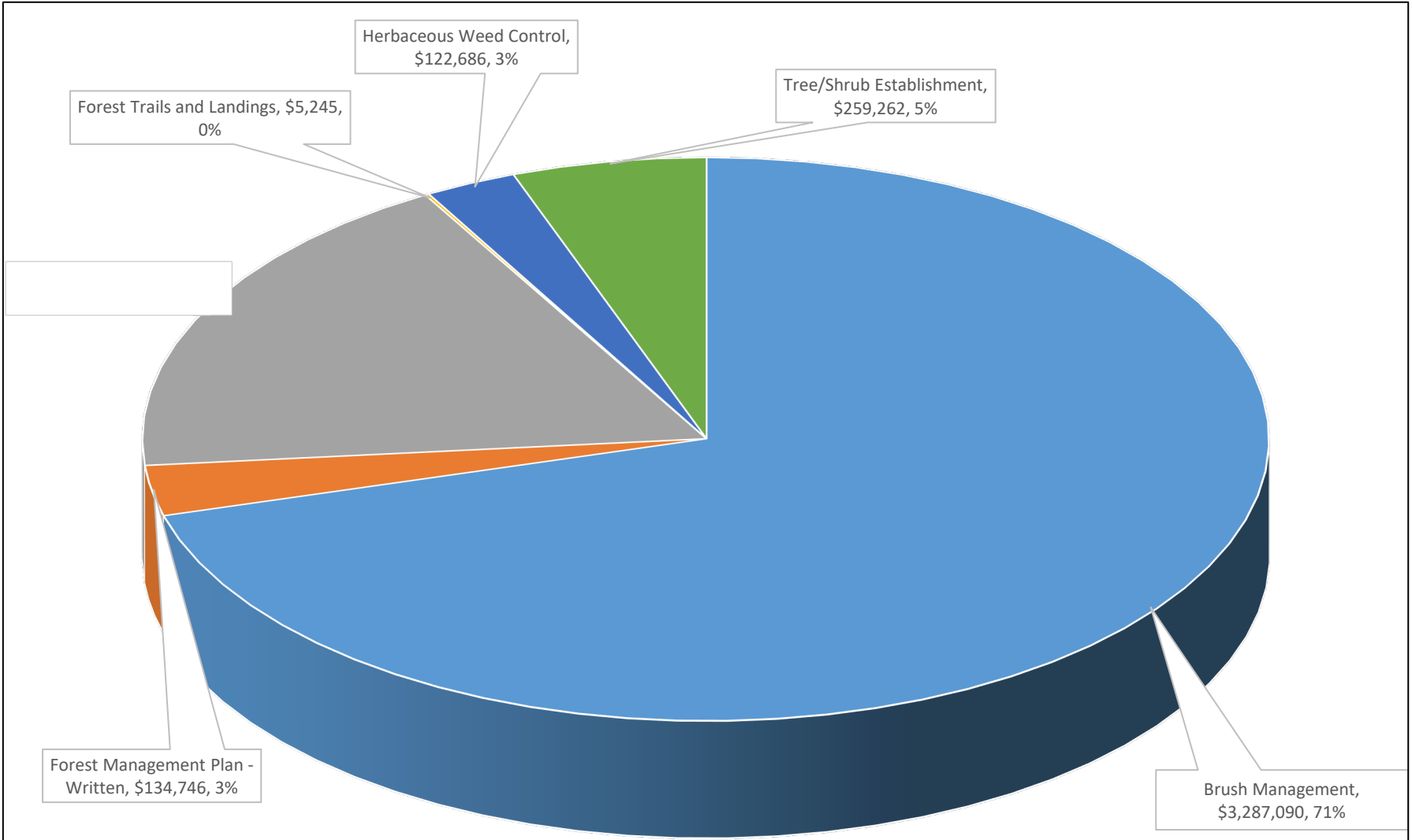
# Applying for EQIP

- NRCS will help eligible producers **develop a conservation plan**, which will become the basis of the EQIP application.
- EQIP **applications are ranked** based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.



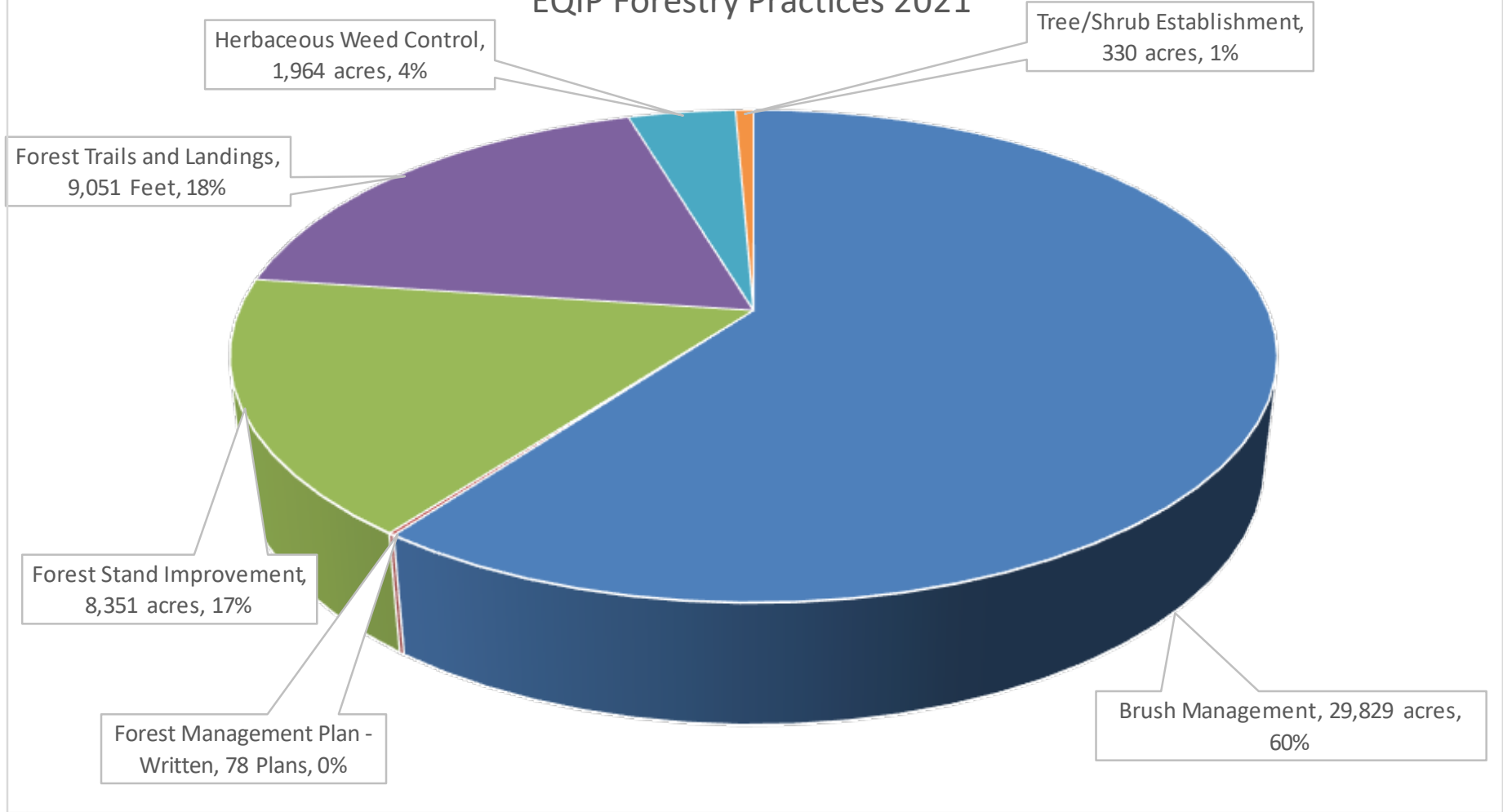
# Forestry EQIP Trends 2008-2021





**EQIP Forestry Practices - Percent of Forestry Funding 2021**

# EQIP Forestry Practices 2021

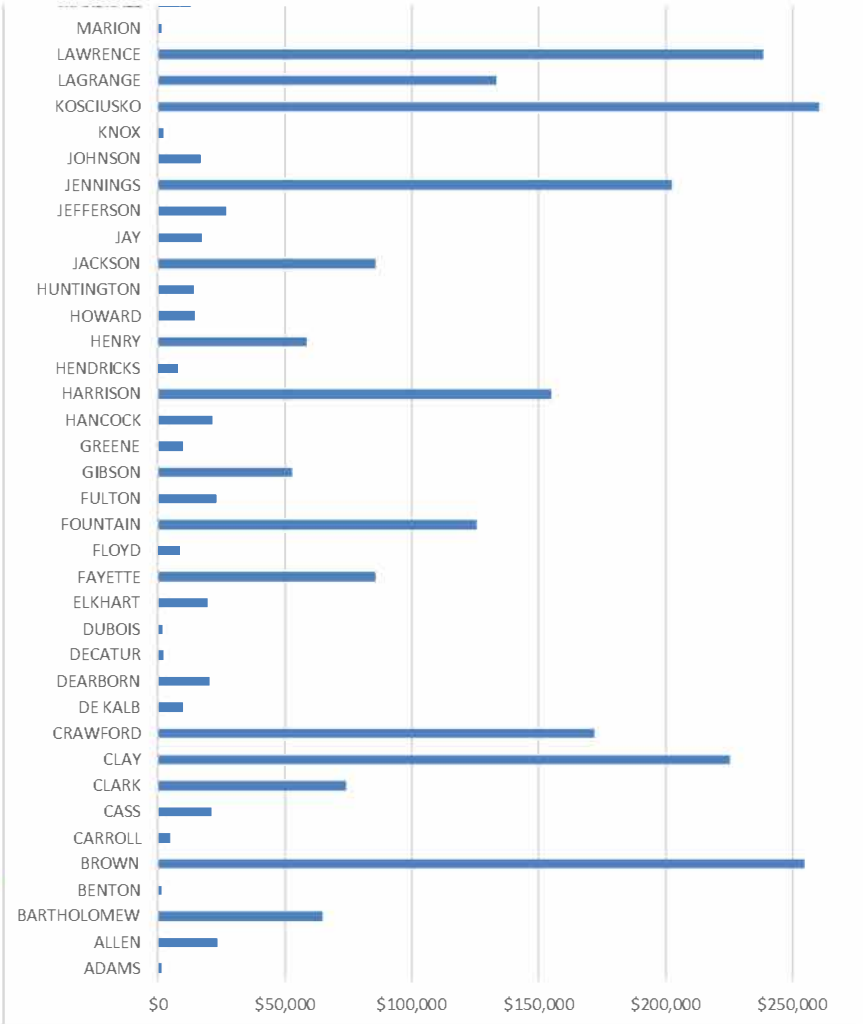
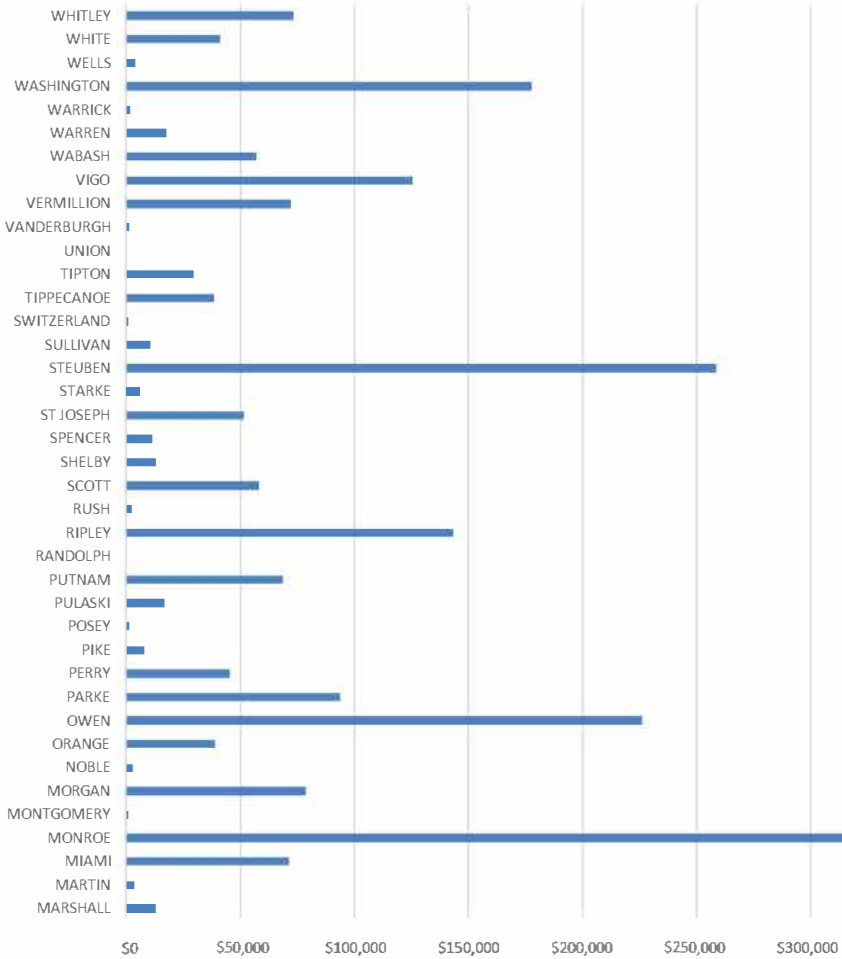


# EQIP Forestry Practices 2021

Statewide Summary by Practice EQIP 2021		
Row Labels	Acres Planned	Dollars Obligated
Brush Management	29,829	\$3,287,090
Forest Management Plan - Written	78	\$134,746
Forest Stand Improvement	8,351	\$847,584
Forest Trails and Landings	9,051	\$5,245
Herbaceous Weed Control	1,964	\$122,686
Tree/Shrub Establishment	330	\$259,262
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49,604</b>	<b>\$4,656,613</b>



EQIP Forestry Practices Obligation by County - 2021



# EQIP FY22 (close to final numbers)

- EQIP Forestland – almost 500 applications requesting over \$11 million
- Funded 45 (9%) applications at \$1.6 million
- 140 EQIP Wildlife applications
- Funded 28 (20%) at \$1.1 million

Note: this does not include forestry practices funded under the livestock, cropland, or historically underserved fund pools

# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

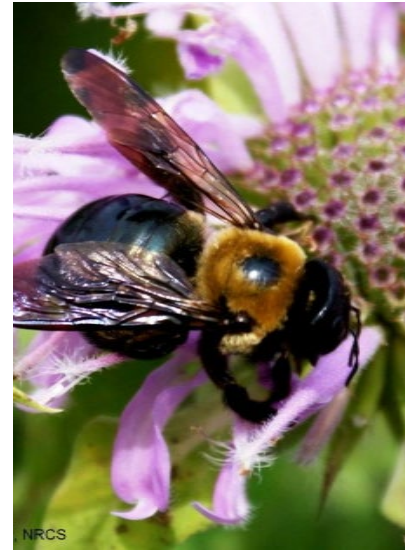
CSP is the **largest conservation program in the United States** with 70 million acres of productive agriculture and forestland enrolled. CSP **emphasizes conservation performance**, farmers earn higher payments for higher levels of conservation practices that address natural resource concern and opportunities to improve:



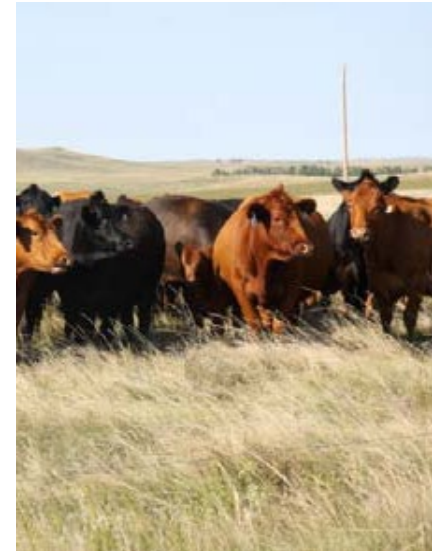
Soil Quality



Soil Erosion



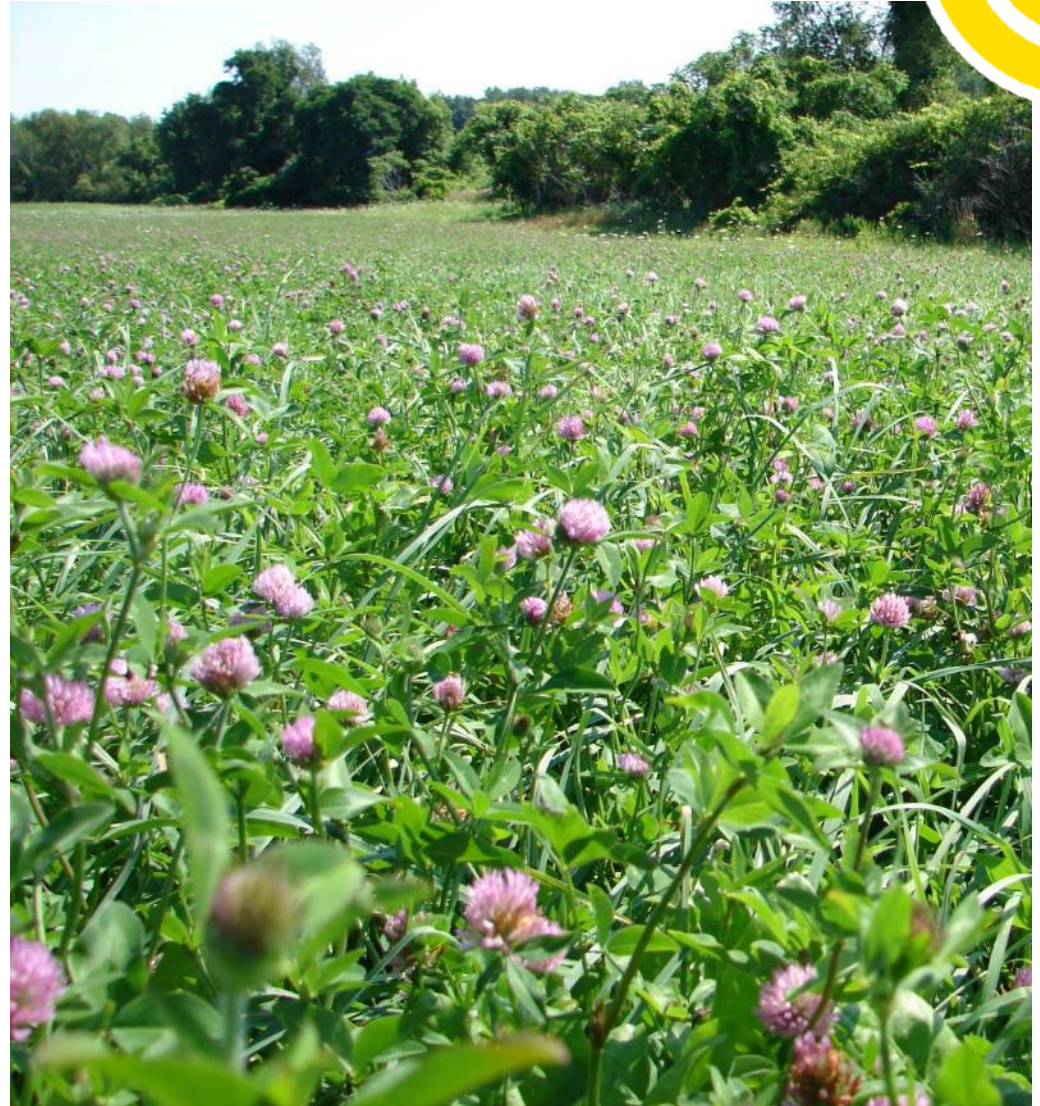
Plant Resources



Animal Resources

# CSP Contracts

- CSP represents a **genuine commitment to conservation**.
- CSP contracts are for **5 years**.
- Required to **maintain the stewardship level** of the resource concern you are already meeting **plus meet or exceed at least one additional resource concern** in each land use.
- You have an **option to renew** if you successfully fulfill the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives

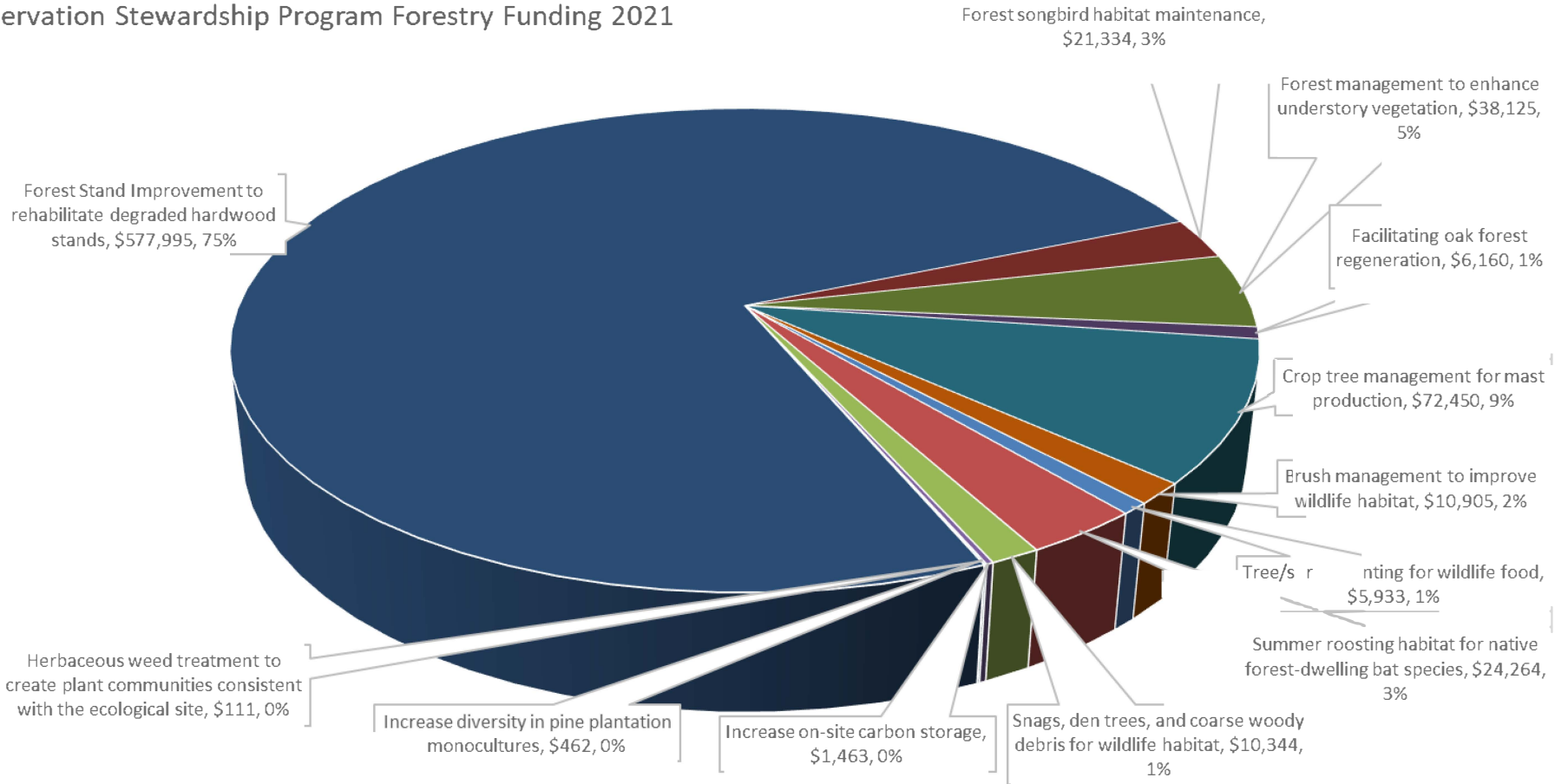


# CSP Forestry Enhancements:

- Forest Stand Improvement (13)
- Tree Planting (7)
- Brush Management / Herbaceous Weed Control (2)



# Conservation Stewardship Program Forestry Funding 2021



# Statewide Summary of CSP 2021

Statewide Summary by Enhancement CSP 2021		
Row Labels	Dollars Obligated	Acres Planned
Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food	\$5,933	3
Summer roosting habitat for native forest-dwelling bat species	\$24,264	118
Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat	\$10,344	190
Increase on-site carbon storage	\$1,463	118
Increase diversity in pine plantation monocultures	\$462	1
Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site	\$111	8
Forest Stand Improvement to rehabilitate degraded hardwood stands	\$577,995	1123
Forest songbird habitat maintenance	\$21,334	118
Forest management to enhance understory vegetation	\$38,125	152
Facilitating oak forest regeneration	\$6,160	12
Crop tree management for mast production	\$72,450	200
Brush management to improve wildlife habitat	\$10,905	588
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$769,546</b>	<b>2630</b>

# CSP FY22 (close to final numbers)

- 37 NIPF applications
- Around \$960K
- 100% fully funded (if approved)
- We could have funded more.





# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

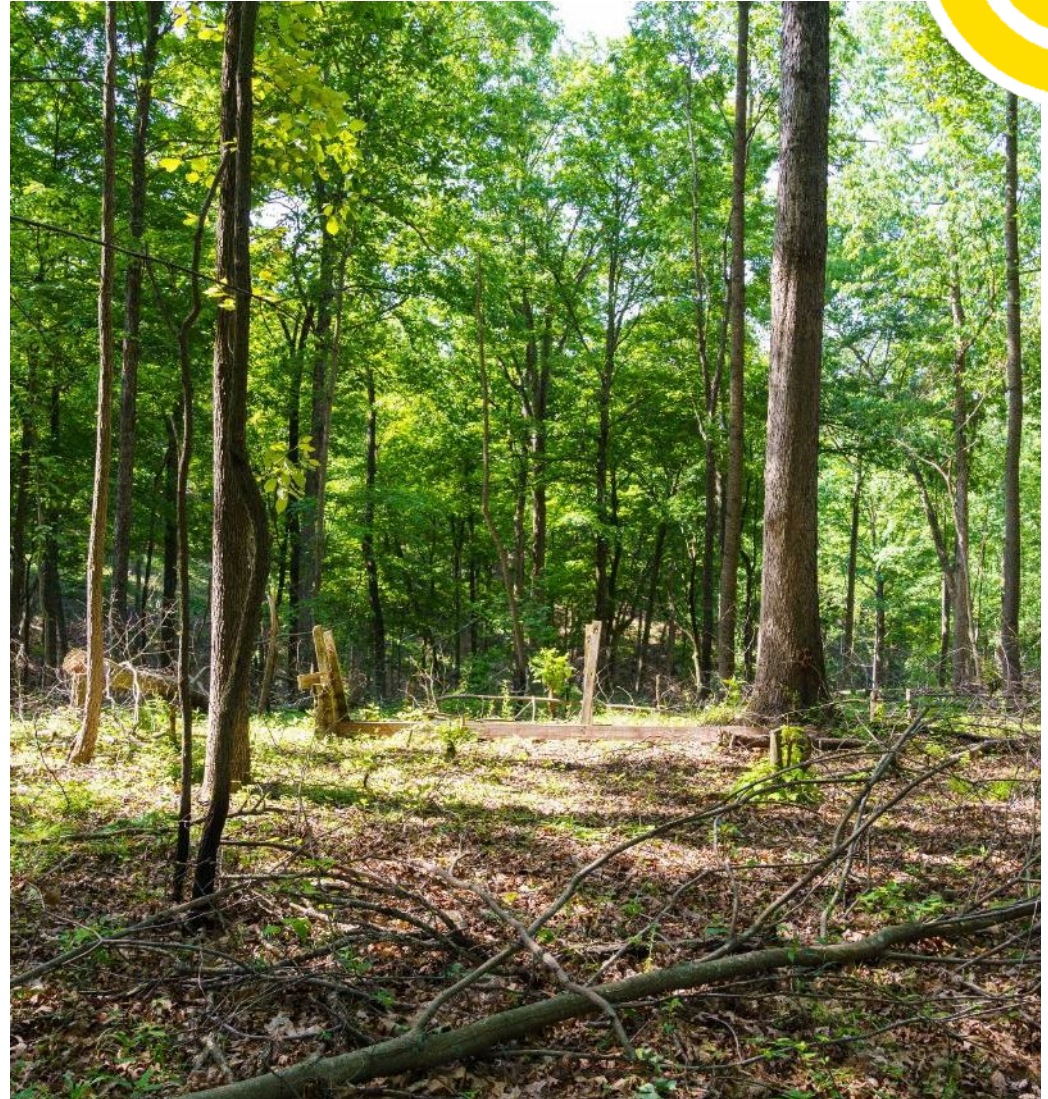
Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to **co-invest with partners** to implement projects that **demonstrate innovative solutions** to conservation challenges and **provide measurable improvements and outcomes** tied to resource concerns.



# RCPP Eligibility

Once NRCS selects a project and executes an RCPP agreement with a lead partner, agricultural producers may participate in an RCPP project in one of two ways.

1. Producers seeking to carry out conservation activities consistent with a RCPP project in the project's geographic area can apply directly to NRCS.
2. Producers may engage with project partners and delegate a willing partner to act as their representative in working with NRCS.



# What to expect for FY23?

- Similar funding as FY22.
- Hopefully an increase from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
  
- Opportunities for more forestry funding
  - Seek RCPP funding for statewide or regional projects
  - Encourage NIPF landowners to pursue CSP (90% funding of applications across the state, all categories.)
  
- 2018 Farm Bill ends September 2023.
- 2024 Farm Bill we should see expansion of conservation funding.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for Agriculture

## \$40 Billion for Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development

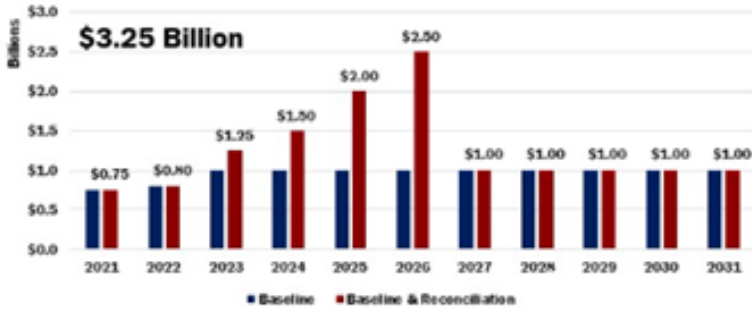
### \$18.05 Billion Conservation

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) \$8.45 Billion
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) \$3.25 Billion
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) \$1.4 Billion
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) \$4.95 Billion



# CBO Conservation Baseline & \$18.05 Billion in IRA

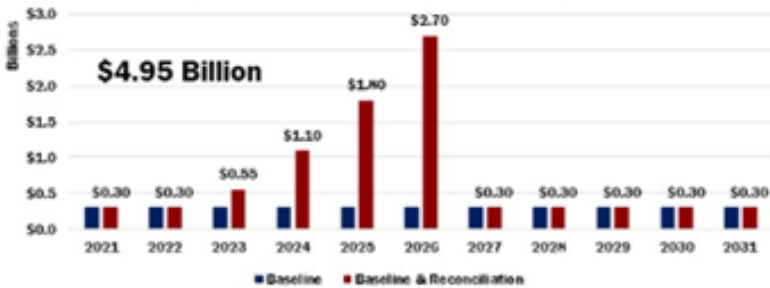
Conservation Stewardship Program



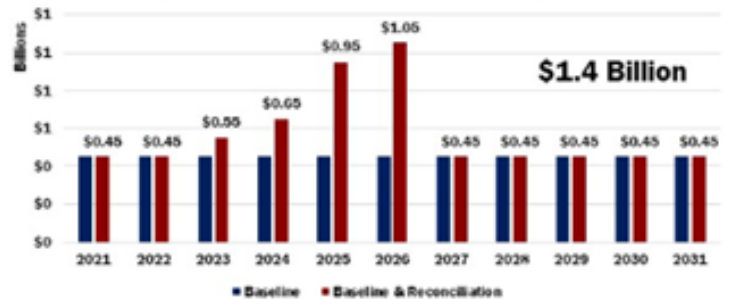
Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



# Climate Smart Agriculture, Forestry, and Clean Energy

## Climate Smart Practices in Indiana

- 327 Conservation Cover
- 332 Contour Buffer Strips
- 386 Field Border
- 393 Filter Strips
- 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment

### Carbon Sequestration

- Easier to demonstrate sequestration with permanent cover
- Other forest practices discussed, but not as straight forward



United States Department of Agriculture

# For more information about NRCS Programs:

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*Helping People Help the Land.*