



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation Programs

June 4, 2021 | Ron Alvarado, State Conservationist

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

USDA NRCS's Legacy of Conservation



First Chief of the Soil Conservation Service

- 85+ year history of voluntary on-the-ground conservation
- Hugh Hammond Bennett's work beginning with the dust bowl is still felt around the country
- Oregon NRCS works with farmers, ranchers, and foresters to address natural resource concerns through technical assistance, partnering, and farm bill programs

Installation of a terrace to control soil erosion
Northern Wasco County Farm, Circa 1960's



Soil erosion significantly minimized after decades of no-till farming
Northern Wasco County Farm, October 2016



Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



USDA NRCS's Legacy of Conservation

Legacy of carbon focused practices to build resilient ecosystems.



Cropland

- Cover Cropping
- No-Till/Reduced Till
- Conservation Cover



Forestland

- Tree & Shrub Establishment
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Woody Residue Treatment



Rangeland

- Brush Management & Weed Control
- Prescribed Grazing
- Range Planting

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Oregon NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation

Locally Led Process

Includes all Natural Resource Stakeholders
Utilizing Conservation Partners

Field Office Long Range Natural Resources Plan

Includes prioritized order for addressing
natural resource problems



Conservation Implementation Strategy

Specific problem and focus
area of interest

Conservation Implementation Strategy

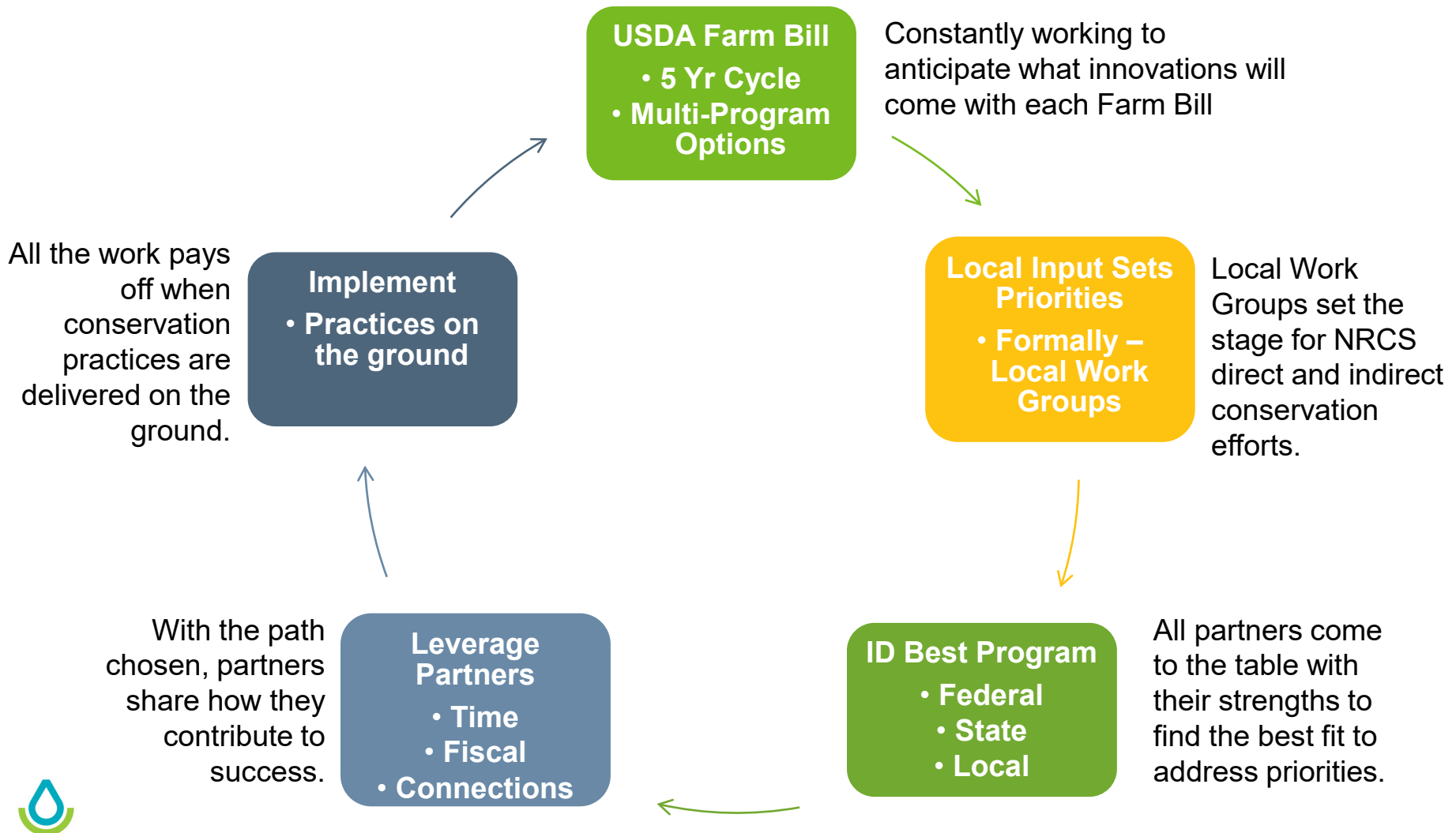
Specific problem and focus
area of interest

Conservation Implementation Strategy

Specific problem and focus
area of interest



Oregon NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation



Portfolio of Federal Programs to Meet Producers & Partners Where They Are

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Locally led conservation projects and initiatives
- Designed to address specific priority resource concerns
- Optimized to leverage partner priorities and programs
- First stop for most clients



Eric Nelson – Working with NRCS to implement Soil Health practices in low precip Pendleton, OR. Utilizing cover crops to meet his nitrogen and weed suppression needs.



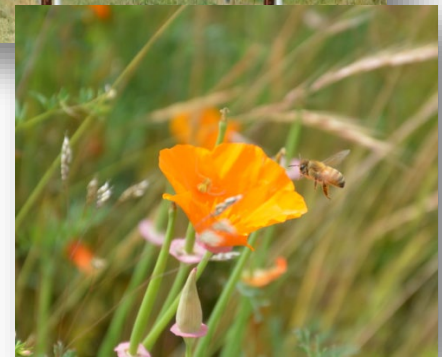
Portfolio of Federal Programs to Meet Producers & Partners Where They Are

CSP Conservation Stewardship Program

- Full farm program
- Full suite of practices and enhancements available
- Experienced clients taking conservation to the next level



Illahe Winery – Polk County – CSP to support pollinator habitat with a custom seed mix in every other row.



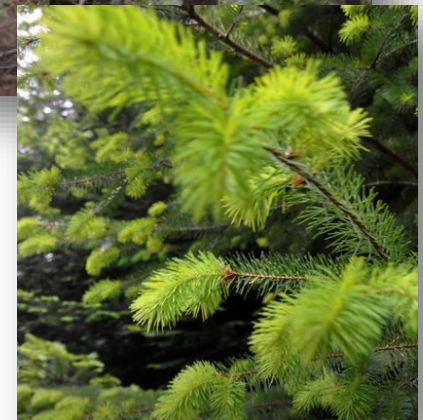
Portfolio of Federal Programs to Meet Producers & Partners Where They Are



RCPP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Partners take the lead to deliver conservation priorities with federal funding
- Flexibility and capacity building for greater collaboration and local success



Pinchot Institute for Conservation et. Al.
Unlocking Carbon Markets for Family Forests
RCPP 2015-2019

Explored how cost-share resources, forest management planning, and assessment tools can help landowners prepare to access markets for carbon credits through forest stewardship commitments



Portfolio of Federal Programs to Meet Producers & Partners Where They Are

ACEP Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Long-term and permanent protection of agricultural lands, wetlands, and forests.
- Provides a sustaining conservation option with landscape scale impacts



Wetland Reserve Program easements are responsible for providing enough protected habitat for once endangered species like Oregon Chub (delisted) and Bradshaw's lomatium (delisting under consideration)



Portfolio of Federal Programs to Meet Producers & Partners Where They Are



- State and National level grants to explore conservation innovations
- Driven by partner ingenuity to creatively improve conservation mechanisms and delivery



Biochar



Soil Quality Assessment



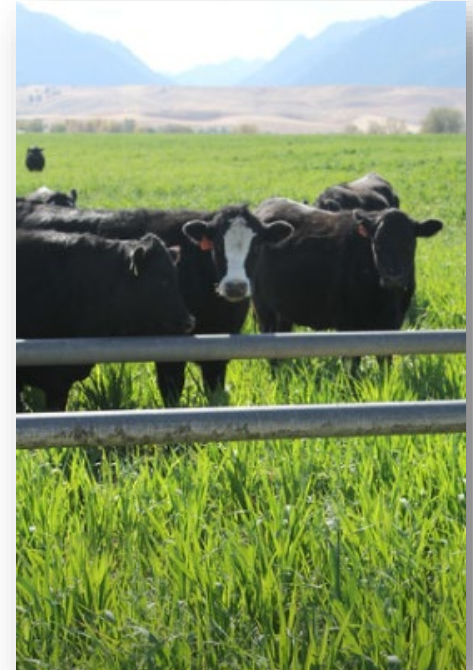
Several examples of CIG's that focused on climate smart approaches to conservation. Including a 2020 CIG focused on Carbon Farming.



Future State & NRCS Collaboration To Support Climate Smart Conservation

Oregon State climate work has the potential to support NRCS federal programs in several ways including:

- Complimenting federal practice payments by supporting system adoption or maintenance
- Increased incentives and recognition for early adopters who have long-term committed to conservation
- Providing support and outreach for federal programs that addresses barriers to entry such as:
 - Finding the right program for your operation
 - Demystifying federal program eligibility
 - Increase client capacity to manage operations and apply for programs
- Increase local planning capacity
- Work with the state's innovators to replicate success



Cattle graze cover crops in Wallowa Co.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Ron Alvarado, STC ♦ ron.alvarado@usda.gov ♦ 503-414-3200

CIVIL RIGHTS

In accordance with Federal Civil Rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Civil Rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior credible activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

If we are bold in our thinking, courageous in accepting new ideas, and willing to work with instead of against our land, we shall find in conservation farming an avenue to the greatest food production the world has ever known - not only for the war, but for the peace that is to follow.

Hugh Hammond Bennett

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



The USDA-NRCS is and equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

nrcs.usda.gov/