

**FY 2005-2006 Field, State, and National
Performance Business Definitions
Performance Results System (PRS)**



Updated 10/15/2004

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Conservation plans for cropland written, acres

Definition: Acres of cropland and hayland for which conservation plans were developed or significantly revised during the fiscal year to treat soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns.

Cropland – All lands used for the production of crops, including

1. **Cropland** – Land used primarily for the production of row crops, small-grain crops, nursery crops, and other specialty crops, either alone or in association with sod crops; and land used for the production of crops not requiring cultivation, including orchards.
2. **Hayland** – Land on which perennial plants are managed and harvested for hay. (Annual plants planted for hay and forage crops in short-term rotation are considered cropland.)

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- acres of cropland and hayland on which the agency and its conservation partners provided assistance in developing or significantly revising a conservation plan,
- the number of customers assisted on cropland and hayland with conservation planning, and

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Developed conservation plans for cropland and hayland are measured in acres and are extracted from the above-mentioned planning and recording tools. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

This measure is calculated by determining the number of acres of land units within conservation plans written in the fiscal year (a plan approval date within the fiscal year in which the performance is being reported), where the landuse is cropland or hayland, and where at least one practice has been planned.

Practices need not be scheduled to be applied within the fiscal year in which the plan is being claimed.

The landunits on which the plans are written must only be counted once unless a new plan approval date has been assigned to the plan, as a result of significant changes or revisions to the plan.

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Business Rules

1. All plans written must be documented in the case file as required by NRCS policy.
2. The acreage reported under this performance measure is not cumulative from fiscal year to fiscal year. It is for the fiscal year in which the plan was written.
3. Individual conservation plans also cannot be claimed repeatedly either during a given fiscal year or subsequent fiscal years unless a new plan approval date has been assigned, as a result of significant changes to the existing conservation plan.
4. Conservation planning acreage reported cannot exceed the acreage within a geospatial area, for all landuses and by landuse, as estimated by the National Resources Inventory (NRI).
5. Cropland is defined as all cultivated cropland, including CRP land, and non-cultivated cropland and hayland.

Conservation plans for grazing land written, acres

Definition: Acres of grazing land (grazed forest, grazed range, native/naturalized pasture, or pasture) for which conservation plans were developed or significantly revised during the fiscal year to treat soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns.

Grazing Land – All lands where livestock is grazed, including:

1. **Grazed Forest** - Forest land that yields understory vegetation that is used for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for wood production products.
2. **Grazed Range** - Rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. Includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
3. **Native/Naturalized Pasture** - Forest land that is used primarily for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. Overstory trees are removed or managed to promote the native and introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles. (National Range and Pasture Handbook, September 1997)
4. **Pasture** - Grazing lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, or weed control. They can be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the acres of grazing land on which the agency and its conservation partners provided assistance in developing or significantly revising a conservation plan,
- the number of customers assisted on grazing land with conservation planning, and

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Developed conservation plans for grazing land are measured in acres and are extracted from the above-mentioned planning and recording tools. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

This measure is calculated by determining the number of acres of land units within conservation plans written in the fiscal year (a plan approval date within the fiscal year in which the performance is being reported), where the landuse is grazed forest, grazed range, native/naturalized pasture, or pasture, and where at least one practice has been planned. The planned practice need not be scheduled to be applied within the fiscal year in which the plan is being claimed; only the plan approval date must be within the fiscal year in which the performance is being claimed.

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Business Rules

1. All plans written must be documented in the case file as required by NRCS policy.
2. The acreage reported under this performance measure is not cumulative from fiscal year to fiscal year; it is only for the fiscal year for which the performance was accomplished.
3. Individual conservation plans also cannot be claimed repeatedly either during a given fiscal year or subsequent fiscal years unless a new plan approval date has been assigned, as a result of significant changes to the existing conservation plan.
4. Conservation planning acreage reported cannot exceed the acreage within a geospatial area, for all landuses and by landuse.
5. Grazing land is defined as grazed forest, grazed range, native/naturalized pasture, or pasture.

Cropland enrolled in CSP having a Soil Conditioning Index greater or equal to zero, acres

Definition: Cultivated cropland acres enrolled in CSP with a Soil Quality rating greater than or equal to 0.0 based on criteria contained in the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI).

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres of cropland and hayland enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) that have a Soil Quality Index (SQI) greater than or equal to zero, and
- the number of customers enrolled in the Conservation Security Program that have met the requirements for a SQI greater than or equal to zero on cropland and hayland.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

ProTracts. Data will be harvested from the ProTracts data warehouse upon practice application certification (via 1245).

Conservation Security Program (CSP) activities have been created in the Practice Codes List to track management enhancements. CSP activity code **SP** is the Stewardship Payment code that applies to acres meeting the basic CSP requirement of Soil Quality Index (SQI) equal to or greater than zero.

Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where land use equals cropland or hayland, practice equals “Stewardship Payment (SP)”, and the practice application date is within current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. Land must be enrolled in CSP.
2. Land unit must be designated as cropland or hayland.
3. Cropland enrollment date must be within current fiscal year.

Cropland enrolled in CSP with enhancements applied to increase soil quality, acres

Definition: Cultivated cropland acres enrolled in CSP for which enhancements have been applied that increase the SCI score above its initial enrollment level.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres of cropland and hayland enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) that have enhancements that increase soil quality, and
- the number of customers enrolled in the Conservation Security Program that have met the requirements for increased soil quality.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

ProTracts. Data will be harvested from the ProTracts data warehouse upon practice application certification (via 1245).

Conservation Security Program (CSP) activities have been created in the Practice Codes List to track management enhancements. CSP activity code **ESM** is the Enhancement – Soil Management code that applies to enhanced soil quality and management activities.

Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where land use equals cropland or hayland and practice equals “Enhancement – Soil Management (ESM)”, and the practice application date is within current fiscal year.

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1. Land must be enrolled in CSP.
2. Land unit must be designated as cropland or hayland.
3. Enhancement must be applied in current fiscal year.

Grazing land with conservation applied to protect the resource base, acres

Definition: Acres of grazing land (grazed forest, grazed range, native/ naturalized pasture, or pasture) on which conservation practices have been applied during the fiscal year to treat soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns. These acres include conservation plans applied to either the traditionally designated resource management system (RMS) level or to non-RMS levels.

Grazing Land – All lands where livestock is grazed, including:

5. **Grazed Forest** - Forest land that yields understory vegetation that is used for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for wood production products.
6. **Grazed Range** - Rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. Includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
7. **Native/Naturalized Pasture** - Forest land that is used primarily for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. Overstory trees are removed or managed to promote the native and introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles. (National Range and Pasture Handbook, September 1997)
8. **Pasture** - Grazing lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, or weed control. They can be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the acres of grazing land on which one or more conservation practices are applied within the fiscal year,
- the number of customers assisted on grazing land with conservation application, and

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Developed conservation plans for grazing land are measured in acres and are extracted from the above-mentioned planning and recording tools. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

This measure is calculated by determining the number of acres of land units within conservation plans where the landuse is grazed forest, grazed range, native/naturalized pasture, or pasture, and where at least one practice has been applied on one or more of the landunits having the required landuse(s) within the current fiscal year. The plan need not have a Plan Approval Date within the current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is not cumulative from fiscal year to fiscal year; it only is for the fiscal year for which the performance was accomplished.
2. Conservation application acreage reported cannot exceed the acreage within a geospatial area, for all landuses and by landuse.
3. Grazing land is defined as grazed forest, grazed range, native/naturalized pasture, or pasture.

Land with grazing management enhancements applied that exceed quality criteria, acres.

Definition: Acres with grazing management applied to a level that exceeds the minimum quality criteria of an effective grazing system, according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) that have grazing management applied to a level that exceeds the minimum quality criteria of an effective grazing system, and
- the number of customers enrolled in the Conservation Security Program that have met these requirements.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

ProTracts. Data will be harvested from the ProTracts data warehouse upon practice application certification (via 1245).

Conservation Security Program (CSP) activities have been created in the Practice Codes List to track management enhancements. CSP activity code **EGM** is the Enhancement – Grazing Management code that applies to enhanced grazing management activities.

Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where practice equals “Enhancement – Grazing Management (EGM)”; and the practice application date is within current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. Land must be enrolled in CSP.
2. Enhancement must be applied in current fiscal year, as indicated by the practice application date.

Reduction in the acreage of cropland soils damaged by erosion (erosion to T or below), acres

Definition: Acres of cropland, including hayland, that were eroding above “T” prior to the application of conservation practices or land treatments, and are eroding at or below “T” after application.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the number of acres of cropland, including hayland, treated that resulted in sheet and rill and wind erosion being reduced to the threshold value for the soil resource concern (Tolerable or “T” value), and
- the number of customers assisted on cropland and hayland with erosion reduction.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff person providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where land use equals cropland receiving conservation treatment and the land is eroding at greater than the threshold soil loss (“T”) before treatment and were treated to “T” or below after treatment.

Example

120 acres of cropland receiving conservation treatment to below “T” for the soil resource.

The threshold value for the soils in the treated land area is 4 tons/acre/year

The Conservation System Guide Impact is 12 T/A/Y (16 T/A/Y to 4 T/A/Y)

Cropland terraces are responsible for 80% of that reduction.

Conservation cropping rotation is responsible for 20% of that reduction.

Prior to practice application, 120 acres of cropland were eroding at 16 T/A/Y – the baseline condition.

Cropland Terraces are applied and erosion rate is reduced by 10 T/A/Y, to 6 T/A/Y.

Note: If only terraces are applied, no credit is accrued for “Reduction in the acreage of cropland soils damaged by erosion”. The land area being treated is still eroding above the threshold value.

Conservation cropping rotation is also reported as applied in the system, and the erosion rate is reduced by 2 T/A/Y, from the new baseline of 6 T/A/Y to 4 T/A/Y.

If the above two practices were applied separately, and reported in two different fiscal years, the acres of the land area treated will not be credited to this performance measure until the fiscal year in which the erosion rate falls to or below the threshold value.

The tons saved are credited to “Soil Erosion Reduced” performance measure, when each practice is applied. The “Reduction in the acreage of cropland soils damaged by erosion” only are reported when the erosion is reduced to the threshold value (“T”) or below.

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Business Rules

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is not cumulative from fiscal year to fiscal year; it only is for the fiscal year for which the performance was accomplished.
2. Acreage is determined by those land units on which practices have been applied within the fiscal year and which have a linked conservation system guide that has “sheet and rill” erosion and “wind erosion” identified as resource concerns and populated with threshold, baseline condition, and system impact.
3. Sheet and rill erosion reductions and wind erosion reductions contribute to this performance measure
4. Classic gully erosion reductions and ephemeral gully erosion reductions do not contribute to this performance measure.

Soil erosion reduced, tons

Definition: The reduction, in tons, of sediment resulting from soil erosion from all landuse types, including cropland, forestland, grazing land, and urban land.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the number of tons of soil saved through measures applied to reduce sheet and rill and wind erosion on all land use types,
- the number of customers assisted with sediment reduction on all landuse types, and
- the conservation programs used to reduce soil erosion.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff person providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Contributing Conservation Practices (if not a direct entry value)

While particular conservation practices are recognized nationally as assisting in soil erosion reduction, the identification of tons of soil erosion reduced by application of erosion-reducing practices is driven, not by a specific list of conservation practices, but by those practices and their effects as identified by the “sheet and rill” and “wind erosion” resource concerns.

Calculation Used

For all practices associated with the resource concern of soil erosion, the calculation uses the Conservation System Guides estimate of before and after erosion rate and the percent System impact assumed for the practice reported.

Within Toolkit, a single program is associated with each individual conservation practice applied. Within a Conservation System Guide, a percentage share of the total system impact for each resource concern (sheet and rill erosion, and wind erosion) is assigned to each conservation practice. To calculate the amount of soil erosion reduction attributed to each program, the practice weight or percentage is multiplied by the system impact for each resource concern (sheet and rill erosion, and wind erosion), multiplied by the area of the landunit on which the system and its associated conservation practices have been applied, and then summed over resource concern categories and over the practices attributed to the program of interest.

Example

45 acres of Contour Stripcropping reported

Conservation System Guide Example

Contour Stripcropping is weighted as reducing the Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill Resource Concern by 75% for the Conservation System Guide to which the practice is linked.

The System Impact for the Conservation System Guide is 8 T/A/Y (12 T/A/Y to 4 T/A/Y).

Contour Stripcropping is responsible for 75% of the system's reduction or impact.

45 acres X 8 tons/acre/year reduced (by the system) X 0.75 (weight assigned to contour strips) = 270 Tons

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Business Rules

1. Rate of soil loss (tons/ac/yr) after application of conservation practice(s) or land treatment must be less than the rate of soil loss (tons/ac/yr) before application.
2. The tons reported under this performance measure are not cumulative from fiscal year to fiscal year; the total of the measure is only is for the fiscal year for which the performance was accomplished.
3. Only one conservation program can be credited with any given practice applied.
4. Only sheet and rill erosion and wind erosion contribute to this performance measure. Classic gully erosion, ephemeral gully erosion, streambank erosion, shoreline erosion , irrigation-induced erosion, mass movement, and road, road sides and construction sites erosion reductions do not contribute to this performance measure.

Agricultural land actively managed for the protection and enhancement of habitat for species with declining populations, acres

Definition: Land on which wildlife habitat is the primary resource concern, and which is actively managed for the protection and enhancement of habitat for declining populations of species of concern, including state and federal threatened and endangered species.

Purpose

To permit NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the acres of land actively managed wildlife habitat where wildlife habitat is the primary resource concern and the species being managed for is in decline, and
- the number of customers assisted in wildlife habitat management.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Klamath Basin (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff person providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of all acres in land units for which the associated conservation system (within a conservation system guide) has the primary resource concern identified as either “Plant Condition – Threatened or Endangered Plant Species” or “Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species”, and one or more conservation practices that are applied on the land unit having the primary resource concern identified above and having a practice application date within the current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. Only those areas of improved wildlife habitat where the resource concern of wildlife habitat is identified as a primary concern are to be included. Areas where it is identified as a secondary concern are not to be included.
2. Only valid for those wildlife species whose populations are declining and of concern. Eligible species are defined by the State Conservationist in consultation with State Technical Committees. Species can be listed on Threatened and Endangered lists but are not required to be.
3. Either one or both Resource Concerns below are attached to the Conservation System Guide and marked as the primary resource concern for the management system.
 - a. Plant Condition - Threatened or Endangered Plant Species
 - b. Fish and Wildlife - Threatened and Endangered Species

Agricultural lands treated for which wildlife habitat is the primary or secondary resource concern, acres

Definition: Acres on which wildlife habitat management practices have been applied in the fiscal year, where wildlife habitat management is the primary or secondary resource concern.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the total number of acres managed for wildlife and,
- the total number of customers assisted with wildlife habitat management.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, POINTS (RC&D only), or direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Acres of wildlife habitat planned or applied are entered as addressing upland or wetland habitat, and the results are summarized. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), and national conservation program will be linked when using the planning and recording tools. The data are extracted and calculated, as defined in the “Calculation Used” section of this description.

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

This measure is the sum of the acreage of wildlife habitat management completed within the current fiscal year, and includes the acreage completed for both non-RC&D and RC&D programs. With the exception of RC&D, this will be measured by adding together the acreage applied for Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646), and Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647).

RC&D reporting does not have associated NRCS practices. Acreage of agricultural lands treated for wildlife habitat within the RC&D POINTS application is determined by where wildlife habitat has been identified as a primary resource concern.

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Business Rules

1. This performance measure is a sum of the acres of specific practices, 643, 644, 645, 646, and 647 for non-RC&D programs and acres of agricultural lands treated where wildlife habitat is the primary concern for the RC&D program.
2. It is not dependant on the acreage of the land units on which the practices are applied nor is it dependant on the land use.
3. All land uses are to be considered.
4. RC&D will report acres of agricultural lands treated where wildlife habitat is the primary concern.
5. RC&D data entry will be accomplished through the RC&D portion of POINTS. Acres reported through RC&D projects will not have a practice associated with it due to the fact that RC&D does not provide direct technical assistance in the fashion of NRCS field offices
6. All management systems or practies reported must be applied, according to State standards, and documented in the case file, according to NRCS policy.
7. This performance measure may be applied to any land use allowed by the State standard. Two separate categories are reported: wildlife habitat as a primary resource concern and wildlife habitat as a secondary resource concern.

Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) applied, number

Definition: The number of comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) applied. A CNMP (conservation plan for an animal feeding operation) is a grouping of conservation practices and management activities that, when implemented as part of a conservation system, help ensure that production and natural resource protection goals are achieved.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the number of comprehensive nutrient management plans applied and
- the number of customers assisted with comprehensive nutrient management plans and assisted with the application of nutrient management for agronomic use of manure.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. CNMPs applied are measured in numbers and are extracted from the above-mentioned planning and recording tools. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

The number of plans designated as CNMP plans within PRS that have been applied within this fiscal year. Plans are designated as CNMP plans if they contain the practice, CNMP (practice code 100). The plan must have the CNMP practice with an applied date within the current fiscal year for the plan to be counted as a CNMP applied. The plan is not required to have a plan approval date within the current fiscal year.

Example

Field staff has assisted a landowner in planning a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to manage poultry litter from an animal feeding operation. The plan includes a waste storage facility (313), nutrient management (590) on 160 acres, and 75 feet of conservation buffer below the production area. Completion of the CNMP will also complete the Resource Management System Level conservation plan that covers the land unit (240 acres). The Resource Management System Level conservation plan is intended to improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and forage resources. An erosion concern does not exist. If there were an erosion problem, conservation planning policy would require that it would be written to a sustainable level, as part of a Resource Management System level conservation plan.

What will be extracted?

In this example, several things can be extracted:

- CNMP applied – one CNMP is reported as applied when the nutrient management (590) has been reported as applied, according to NRCS standards and specifications.
- Waste Management applied – one waste storage facility (313) is reported when applied.
- Nutrient Management applied – 160 acres of nutrient management (590) is reported when the practice is first applied. Recurring practices, such as nutrient management, generally are not reporting in the following years, unless significant revision has occurred.
- Conservation Buffers applied – 75 feet of riparian forest buffer is reported when applied.
- Customers assisted, by race, gender, ethnicity, and disability

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Business Rules

1. The plan must contain the CNMP practice (practice code 100) with a practice applied date within the current fiscal year.
2. The Plan Approval Date is not required to be within the current fiscal year.
3. All plans must be documented in the case file as required by NRCS policy.
4. CNMPs are planned in accordance with CNMP technical guidance and will, as a minimum, document the AFO owner's or operator's consideration of the six CNMP elements. It is recognized that a CNMP may not contain all six elements; however, they need to be considered by the AFO owner/operator during the development of the CNMP, and the owner's and/or operator's decisions, regarding each, must be documented.

Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) written, number

Definition: The number of comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) written within the current fiscal year. A CNMP (conservation plan for an animal feeding operation) is a grouping of conservation practices and management activities that, when implemented as part of a conservation system, help ensure that production and natural resource protection goals are achieved.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year:

- the number of comprehensive nutrient management plans written,
- the number of acres planned where an animal feeding operation (AFO) is planning to apply manure in accordance with the NRCS nutrient management standard (590), and
- the number of customers assisted with comprehensive nutrient management plans and with the planned application of nutrient management for agronomic use of manure.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. CNMPs written are measured in numbers and are extracted from the above-mentioned planning and recording tools. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Contributing Conservation Practices (if not a direct entry value)

While there are specific practices that are utilized within a CNMP, such as Nutrient Management (590), these specific practices do not determine if the plan is counted as a CNMP written. Any practice planned within a CNMP-designated plan serves to meet the requirements of this performance measure.

Calculation Used

The number of plans designated as CNMP plans within PRS that have been written (or planned) within this fiscal year. Plans are designated as CNMP plans if they contain the practice, CNMP (practice code 100). The plan must have the CNMP practice within the plan, and the plan must have a plan approval date within the current fiscal year. It is not required that the CNMP practice be planned to be applied within the current fiscal year.

Example

N/A

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National Clean Water Leader
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Business Rules

1. The number of plans, designated as CNMP plans within PRS, which have a plan approval date within the current fiscal year and contain the CNMP Practice (practice code 100).
2. All plans must be documented in the case file as required by NRCS policy.
3. CNMPs are planned in accordance with CNMP technical guidance and will, as a minimum, document the AFO owner's or operator's consideration of the six CNMP elements. It is recognized that a CNMP may not contain all six elements; however, all need to be considered by the AFO owner/operator during the development of the CNMP, and the owner's and/or operator's decisions, regarding each must be documented.

Farmland and grazing lands protected by conservation easements, cumulative acres

Definition: Acres of cropland, grassland, rangeland, shrubland, incidental forestland, native or naturalized pasture on which NRCS has acquired a conservation easement, including easements acquired in past fiscal years.

This measure is intended to include all acres enrolled in FRPP and GRP.

Purpose

This performance measure allows NRCS to:

- maintain a cumulative tally of acres of land protected by a conservation easement funded through FRPP, previous FPP and GRP.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure will be entered through the POINTS database application. It is a State level measure and is to be recorded on a daily basis (when a conservation easement is acquired).

Calculation Used

Sum of all easement acreage in the POINTS database for FRPP, FPP and GRP.

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Business Rules

1. The easement must be registered with the courthouse for the acreage to be counted. Pending easements do not count towards this measure.

Land with nutrient management enhancements applied that exceed quality criteria, acres

Definition: Acres with Nutrient Management applied at a level that exceeds the minimum quality criteria for an effective planned nutrient management system, according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) that have nutrient management applied to a level that exceeds the minimum requirements of an effective planned nutrient management system, and
- the number of customers enrolled in the Conservation Security Program that have met these requirements.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

ProTracts. Data will be harvested from the ProTracts data warehouse upon practice application certification (via 1245).

Conservation Security Program (CSP) activities have been created in the Practice Codes List to track management enhancements. CSP activity code **ENM** is the Enhancement – Nutrient Management code that applies to enhanced nutrient management activities.

Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where practice equals “Enhancement – Nutrient Management (ENM)”, and the practice application date is within current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. Land must be enrolled in CSP.
2. Enhancement must be applied in current fiscal year.

Land with pest management enhancements applied that exceed quality criteria, acres

Definition: Acres with Pest Management applied at a level that exceeds the minimum quality criteria for an effective planned pest management system, according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres enrolled in the Conservation Security Program (CSP) that have pest management applied to a level that exceeds the minimum requirements of an effective planned pest management system, and
- the number of customers enrolled in the Conservation Security Program that have met these requirements.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

ProTracts. Data will be harvested from the ProTracts data warehouse upon practice application certification (via 1245).

Conservation Security Program (CSP) activities have been created in the Practice Codes List to track management enhancements. CSP activity code **EPM** is the Enhancement – Pest Management code that applies to enhanced pest management activities.

Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects, and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools.

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of land unit acres where practice equals “Enhancement – Pest Management (EPM)”, and the practice application date is within current fiscal year.

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Business Rules

1. Land must be enrolled in CSP.
2. Enhancement must be applied in current fiscal year.

Local businesses created in rural communities through RC&D assistance, number

Definition: The number of businesses created through RC&D projects. This includes: farm, non-farm, aquaculture, micro-enterprise and/or natural based industry. Businesses created may include, but are not limited to, manufacturing, service, value-added agriculture, tourism, home-based, or energy related.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners in RC&D to report for each fiscal year:

- The number of total local business created in rural communities within a given fiscal year through RC&D assistance.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

POINTS (RC&D Area level) – Quarterly basis

Calculation Used

Count of the number of businesses created within the current fiscal year. Include all businesses, both those that directly or indirectly rely on farm, ranch, or aquaculture production and those that are not related directly or indirectly to farm, ranch, or aquaculture production.

Example

An example of a value added business is a portable slaughter house to assist producers within a local area to add value at the farm level for their animal products.

A non-agricultural business that provides services to landowners to decrease the fire fuel load in forested areas that have homes and businesses threatened by fire hazards.

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Business Rules

1. This is only for new businesses created as a result of a project within the fiscal year.

Local jobs created in rural communities through RC&D assistance, number

Definition: The number of jobs created through RC&D projects. This includes jobs that are: 1) created in a business that directly or indirectly relies on farm, ranch, or aquaculture production and 2) jobs created in a business that is not related directly or indirectly to farm, ranch or aquaculture production.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners in RC&D to report for each fiscal year:

- The number of total jobs within a given fiscal year as a result of RC&D projects.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

POINTS (RC&D Area level) – Quarterly basis

Calculation Used

Total number of permanent full-time, permanent part-time and seasonal/temporary jobs that are entered into POINTS in two job benefit categories: 1) jobs created in a business that directly or indirectly relies on farm, ranch, or aquaculture production and 2) jobs created in a business that is not related directly or indirectly to farm, ranch or aquaculture production.

Example

A job created through implementation of an agri-tourism project will be counted in jobs created in a business that directly relies on farm, ranch or aquaculture production.

A job created through development of art or native craft items, such as Native American pottery, will be counted in jobs created in a business that is not related directly or indirectly to farm, ranch or aquaculture production.

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Business Rules

1. Only those jobs that are for more than 3 weeks in duration are to be included.

Long-term contracts completed during the fiscal year (all measures installed) for the purpose of water quality improvement, number

Definition: Number of long-term contracts where all Contract Item Numbers were completed by the end of the fiscal year to improve water quality.

Purpose

To identify the number of fully implemented land treatment contracts in the current fiscal year. The water quality issues the conservation plans and corresponding contracts were written to address are treated at completion, resulting in an improvement in water quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Watershed Operations, Public Law 534 (PL-534), Small Watersheds, Public Law 566 (PL-566)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The number of completed long-term contracts will be reported through POINTS. A transition is being planned to collect these data from ProTracts in the future.

The data is to be entered on a quarterly basis, at the state level.

Calculation Used

Count of completed long-term contracts.

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Business Rules

1. Status Review has to be completed for the contract in the current fiscal year.
2. Closing forms signed by contractee(s) and NRCS.
3. Payment made for practices installed and certified by NRCS.

Prime, unique, or important farmland protected by conservation easements from conversion to non-agricultural uses, cumulative acres

Definition: Acres classified as prime, unique or important farmland, as defined below, that are protected by the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) conservation easements that NRCS has funded, including easements acquired in past fiscal years.

This measure is intended to be a subset of the “Farmland and grazing lands protected by conservation easement, cumulative acres” measure.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing feed, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and labor, without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary.

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the Secretary. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

Important farmland is farmland of Statewide or local importance and is used for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops. The appropriate State or local government agency determines Statewide or locally important farmland with concurrence from the State Conservationist.

Purpose

This measure will permit the agency to maintain a cumulative total of acres of land classified as prime, unique, or important farmland protected by Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program conservation easements.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure will be entered into the FRPP POINTS screens at the state level, as easements are acquired.

Calculation Used

Sum the acres of prime, unique or statewide important soils protected by a FRPP or earlier FPP easement. This is a cumulative measure; perform the sum against all easements recorded in the FRPP POINTS database.

Example

N/A

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Business Rules

1. The easement must be registered with the courthouse for the acreage to be counted. Pending easements do not count towards this measure.
2. Only count the acres of land in the easement that qualify as prime, unique or statewide important farmland.

Reduction in potential sediment delivery from cropland, percent

Definition: The reduction in tons of potential cropland sediment delivery resulting from sheet and rill erosion.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the reduction in tons of potential cropland sediment as a percentage reduction against a baseline of total tons of farm field sediment resulting from sheet and rill erosion, and
- the number of customers assisted in reducing sediment delivery on cropland.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), conservation physical effects and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Performance Measure Calculation

1. The total reduction in tons of farm field sediment resulting from sheet and rill erosion following the installation of conservation treatment measures. Derived from the impact listed with the Conservation System Guide or as amended when reporting.
2. Divide the total tons reduced from number 1 above by 997,200,000,000 or 997.2 million tons, the baseline total tons (2001 NRI) of farm field sediment resulting from sheet and rill erosion.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Business Rules

1. This measure is not intended to measure reduction in sediment delivery to surface waters.
2. Sheet and rill erosion reductions contribute to this performance measure.
3. Wind erosion reductions, Classic gully erosion reductions, and Ephemeral gully erosion reductions do not contribute to this performance measure.

Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed for water or air quality, number and acres

Definition: The number and acres of finalized (see business rules below) watershed-level or area-wide plans that include specific, measurable conservation goals and milestones for water or air quality impacts.

These plans cover an area comprised of multiple land ownerships with common and interdependent natural resource concerns, such as in a watershed. The acreage of these plans will generally vary from several tens of thousands of acres to 300,000 acres. The plans are prepared and implemented in cooperation with one or more local governments and land owner representatives from the planning area.

Purpose

This performance measure allows NRCS to report the acreage covered by watershed and area-wide plans that include specific, measurable conservation goals and milestones for water or air quality impacts; as well as the number of these plans that have been approved.

Conservation implementation is achieved through the planning and application of on-farm individual practices on individual land units, in the context of the resource objectives of the overall planning area.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); Watershed Survey and Planning (PL-06); Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

POINTS, PRS. A POINTS screen is being created to capture Watershed and Area-Wide plans.

Calculation

Acres are calculated as the sum of acres contained in each distinct watershed or area-wide plan that has been approved in the fiscal year.

Number is the number of distinct watershed or area-wide plans that have been approved in the fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Business Rules

1. The intent is to capture finalized, approved plan. Drafts or data collection efforts should not be reported. The approval of the plan will generally determine acceptability. The approving authority is variable; it may be a federal, state, or local agency, conservation district, watershed association, or an ad hoc group.
2. Plan must be approved in the current fiscal year.
3. Must include specific, measurable conservation goals.
4. Subject to rules 2 and 3 above, an area-wide or watershed plan can be reported even if it is a subset of a larger area-wide plan previously reported. Conversely, an area-wide plan may be reported if it includes a subset area previously reported.
5. RC&D project plans can be included if they include specific, measurable conservation goals and milestones for water or air quality impacts, and if they relate to implementation of the approved RC&D Area Plan.
6. Coordinated Resource Management Plans should be included.
7. 319 plans or TMDL plans should be included.
8. River basin studies should not be included.

Wetlands created, restored, or enhanced, acres

Definition: Acres of wetlands creation (658), wetlands restoration (657), and wetlands enhancement (659) applied

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for a fiscal year wetlands created, restored or enhanced.

Wetlands created (658): A wetland that has been created on a site location which historically was not a wetland or is a wetland but the site will be converted to a wetland with a different hydrology, vegetation type, or function than naturally occurred on the site.

Wetlands restored (657): A rehabilitation of a drained or degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to the natural condition to the extent practicable.

Wetlands enhanced (659): The modification or rehabilitation of an existing or degraded wetland, where specific functions and/or values are modified for the purpose of meeting specific project objectives. Some functions may remain unchanged while others may be degraded.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced are entered and the results are measured nationally as a percent of the total of the nation's agricultural wetlands. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff providing assistance (agency affiliation), and national conservation program will be linked when using the planning and recording tools

Basic customer information, including customer name, type, and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of the acres of practices Wetland Creation (658), Wetland Restoration (657), and Wetland Enhanced (659) that have a practice application date within the current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Business Rules

1. This performance is a summary of the acres of specific practices, 657, 658, and 659. It is not dependant on the acreage of the landunits on which the practices are applied nor is it dependant on the landuse. All landuses are to be considered.
2. Practice application dates must be within the current fiscal year.

Wetlands protected by 30-year or permanent easements, acres

Definition: Acres of wetlands enrolled in WRP 30-year or permanent easements, annually.

Purpose

This performance measure NRCS and its conservation partnership to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres of wetland easements acquired (either 30 year or permanent) through the Wetland Reserve Program in the current fiscal year.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The data are entered through the WRP POINTS application at the State level on a quarterly basis.

Calculation Used

Sum of wetland acres acquired through registered WRP easements in the current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Business Rules

1. The easement must be registered with the courthouse in the current year for the wetland acreage to be counted.
2. This measure does not include associated upland acres enrolled in these easements, only the wetland acreage.
3. Caution: Understand that easement acreage recorded in the current fiscal year may have initially been signed up in an earlier fiscal year. Will not necessarily align with the current fiscal year's WRP allocation.

Assessments completed of the condition of watershed dams to determine if threats to public health and safety exist, number

Definition: Number of dam assessments completed this fiscal year to determine if threats to public health and safety exist.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year:

- the number of watershed dams assessed for functional integrity, with the purpose of identifying the existence of threats to public health and safety.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Watershed application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Sum of assessments completed for current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Business Rules

1. Rehabilitation of dams pertains to those impoundments constructed through Public Law 566, Public Law 534, Resource Conservation and Development or pilot programs.

Dams with watershed rehabilitation plans authorized, number

Definition: The number of watershed rehabilitation plans that have been authorized.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year the number of watershed dams which failed a public safety assessment and that have authorized rehabilitation plans.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Watershed application in POINTS. Data should be entered once a year by the state office.

Calculation Used

Count of watershed rehabilitation plans authorized during the current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager
Financial Assistance Programs
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Bruce Julian, Branch Chief, Water Resources Programs
202-720-3042
bruce.julian@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Only count rehabilitation plans that have been authorized by the Chief by letter.

Flood prevention or mitigation measures installed, including structures, easements and other measures; number

Definition: Number of flood prevention or mitigation measures installed during the fiscal year. Includes structures, easements, or similar measures for the purpose of flood damage reduction.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year the number of flood prevention or mitigation measures installed.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Watershed Operations, Public Law 534 (PL-534), Small Watersheds, Public Law 566 (PL-566)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Watershed application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Count of structures, easements or other flood prevention or mitigation measures installed during the fiscal year for the purpose of flood damage reduction.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watersheds Program Leader
Financial Assistance Programs Division
USDA-NRCS
Rm 6019-S
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Stu Simpson
202-720-8770
stuart.simpson@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. The flood prevention or mitigation measure must be installed in the current fiscal year.
2. Flood Prevention must be a Project Purpose in the Watershed Operations project record.

Irrigation efficiency improved, acre feet

Definition: Acre-feet of water used more efficiently through conservation practices applied on irrigated land.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the volume of water conserved through measures applied to reduce the acre feet of water applied to cropland.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Ground and Surface Water Conservation (G&SWC); Klamath Basin, Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry points of data can be through Toolkit, ProTracts, or through direct entry in PRS. Data should be entered daily in the field office. Customer data, including status, service assistance date, location, staff person providing assistance (used to derive agency affiliation), conservation physical effects and associated conservation practices are linked when using the planning and recording tools, and through the use, in part, of the conservation system guides (CSGs).

Basic customer information, including customer name and status (race, gender, ethnicity, and disability) will be entered and maintained through the SCIMS application and linked to the reported performance for that customer.

Calculation Used

Sum of the percentage of the System Impact assigned to the conservation practice being reported for Water Quantity Resource Concern times the quantity of practice being applied.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Water Management Engineer
Rm 6136 S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Tom Spofford
202-720-6037
Thomas.Spofford@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. “Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land” contributes to this performance measure.
2. “Water Quantity – Excessive Seepage, Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding, Excessive Subsurface Water, Inadequate Outlets, Reduced Capacity of Conveyances by Sediment Deposition, Reduced Storage of Water Bodies by Sediment Accumulation, Aquifer Overdraft, Insufficient Flows in Water Courses” all do not contribute to this performance measure.

Multipurpose water supply reservoirs installed

Definition: Dams and reservoirs installed for the purpose of water supply and flood control, but could include other purposes such as recreation and wildlife habitat.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year the number of dams and reservoirs installed for the primary purpose of flood control but also meeting recreation and/or wildlife habitat purposes.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Watershed Operations, Public Law 534 (PL-534), Small Watersheds, Public Law 566 (PL-566)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Watershed application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Count of the number of dams and reservoirs installed within the current fiscal year where the principal purpose is equal to “water supply” or “flood control”.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watersheds Program Leader
Financial Assistance Programs Division
USDA-NRCS
Rm 6019-S
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Stu Simpson
202-720-8770
stuart.simpson@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. The principal purpose must equal either “water supply” or “flood control”.
2. Additional purposes beyond water supply will be identified in POINTS.

Unsafe dams rehabilitated or removed, number

Definition: The number of dams that have been rehabilitated or removed under the Watershed Rehabilitation provision of the watershed program.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year the number of dams meeting the terms of the Watershed Rehabilitation provision of the watershed program and that have been rehabilitated.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Watershed application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Count of rehabilitated dams completed for current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager
Financial Assistance Programs
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Bruce Julian, Branch Chief, Water Resources Programs
202-720-3042
bruce.julian@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Only count dams for which all planned rehabilitation implementation actions are completed.
2. Rehabilitation of dams pertains to those impoundments constructed through Public Law 566, Public Law 534, Resource Conservation and Development or Pilot programs.

User accesses of specific water supply forecast and data reports, number

Definition: User accesses of snow survey data and forecasts.

Purpose:

This performance measure identifies the number of accesses of snow survey data and forecasts by customers within a fiscal year.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Snow Survey (SNOW)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure will be recorded through the POINTS - Snow Survey database. It is a national level measure, to be recorded quarterly.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Hydraulic Engineer
Conservation Engineering Division
Rm 6136-S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Jon Werner
202-720-0772
jon.werner@usda.gov

Water supply forecasts issued, number

Definition: The number of water supply forecasts issued by the Snow Survey program.

Purpose:

This performance measure will allow the agency to identify the number of water supply forecasts generated by the Snow Survey program within a fiscal year.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Snow Survey (SNOW)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure will be entered through the POINTS - Snow Survey database. It is a national level measure and is to be reported quarterly.

Calculation Used

Sum of the total number of water supply forecasts issued within the current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Hydraulic Engineer
Conservation Engineering Division
Rm 6136-S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Jon Werner
202-720-0772
jon.werner@usda.gov

Watershed or area-wide resource plans, studies, or inventories for flood prevention or mitigation, number

Definition: The number of finalized watershed-level or area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories for which flood prevention or mitigation is the primary objective.

These plans cover an area comprised of multiple land ownerships with common and interdependent natural resource concerns, such as in a watershed. The plans are prepared and implemented in cooperation with one or more local governments and land owner representatives from the planning area.

Purpose

This performance measure allows NRCS and its conservation partners to report the number of finalized watershed-level or area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories for which flood prevention or mitigation is the primary objective.

Conservation Programs with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Watershed Surveys and Planning (PL-06).

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The single entry point of data is through the POINTS Area-wide plans data entry screen. Data should be entered daily in the watershed project or field office.

Calculation

Number is the number of distinct watershed or area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories that have been approved in the fiscal year and where the primary objective (resource concern) is flood prevention or mitigation.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Branch Chief, Conservation Planning
Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division
Rm 5233-S
USDA-NRCS
Washington, DC

Current Contact:
Dave McKay
202-720-1835
david.mckay@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. The intent is to capture finalized, approved plan, study or inventory. Drafts or data collection efforts should not be reported. The approval of the plan, study or inventory will generally determine acceptability. The approving authority is variable; it may be a federal, state, or local agency, conservation district, watershed association, or an ad hoc group.
2. Plan, study or inventory must be approved in the current fiscal year.
3. An area-wide or watershed plan can be reported even if it is a subset of a larger area-wide plan previously reported. Conversely, an area-wide plan may be reported if it includes a subset area previously reported, or reported in conjunction with related resource concerns.
4. Coordinated Resource Management Plans should be included.
5. River basin studies could be included.

Watershed or area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories for water conservation or water supply, number

Definition: The number and acres of finalized watershed-level or area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories for which water conservation or water supply is the primary objective.

These plans cover an area comprised of multiple land ownerships with common and interdependent natural resource concerns, such as in a watershed. The plans are prepared and implemented in cooperation with one or more local governments and land owner representatives from the planning area.

Purpose

This performance measure allows NRCS and its conservation partners to report the number of watershed and area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories for which water conservation and water supply are the primary objective.

Conservation Programs With Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); Watershed Survey and Planning (PL-06)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The single entry point of data is through the POINTS Area-wide plans data entry screen. Data should be entered daily in the watershed project or field office.

Calculation

Sum of the total number of distinct watershed and area-wide resource plans, studies or inventories that have been approved in the fiscal year.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Branch Chief, Conservation Planning
Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance Division
Rm 5233-S
USDA-NRCS
Washington, DC

Current Contact:

Dave McKay
202-720-1835
david.mckay@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. The intent is to capture finalized, approved plan, study or inventory. Drafts or data collection efforts should not be reported. The approval of the plan, study or inventory will generally determine acceptability. The approving authority is variable; it may be a federal, state, or local agency, conservation district, watershed association, or an ad hoc group.
2. Plan, study or inventory must be approved in the current fiscal year.
3. An area-wide or watershed plan can be reported even if it is a subset of a larger area-wide plan previously reported. Conversely, an area-wide plan may be reported if it includes a subset area previously reported, or reported in conjunction with related resource concerns.
4. Coordinated Resource Management Plans should be included.
5. River basin studies could be included.

New NRCS technology which achieves stated design expectations for performance, is delivered on time as scheduled, and within budget, percent

Definition: The number of technology products completed on time, within budget and meeting design expectations during the current fiscal year.

Purpose

This measure permits the agency to account for technological products developed. A count of accomplishments will be collected of new technology products completed in the fiscal year, which were completed on-time, within budget and meeting expectations.

This measure is reported as a percent of total technology products under development.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure is entered through screens in POINTS at the national level on a quarterly basis.

Calculation Used

Count of technology products, completed within budget, on time and satisfactorily, divided by the total number of technology projects under development.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Field Office Technical Guide Coordinator
Ecological Sciences Division
Rm 6165-S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Bill Boyer
202-720-0307
Bill.Boyer@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Technology product must be underway or initiated during the fiscal year;
2. To qualify, technology products must have a plan that outlines the design expectations, a delivery schedule (project plan), and budget.
3. To qualify, a technology product will be those requiring an investment of \$50,000 or more (including staff salary) or funded in total or part by a national line item.

New and updated Web Soil Surveys, number and acres

Definition: Number and acres of new and updated soil surveys published within the fiscal year to the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), and made available as Web Soil Surveys.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year:

- the number and acres of soil surveys that have been completed, correlated, approved, and posted as Web Soil Surveys within the current fiscal year, meeting the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NSSC).

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Soil Survey (SOIL)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The entry point of data is through Soil Survey Schedule only. Data should be entered at least quarterly in the State office. Goals and performance will be entered and maintained through the Soil Survey Schedule application only; data will be harvested from that database and displayed within the IAS performance reports, contained within PRS and the CIS.

Calculation Used

- Count of Web Soil Surveys.
- Acres of those soil surveys contained within the count above.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Director
USDA, NRCS, Soil Survey Division
14th and Independence Ave., SW.
Room 4250-S
Washington, DC 20250

Current Contact:
Michael Golden
202-720-1820, Fax 202-720-4593
Michael.Golden@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Count and acres will be available only on a national, regional, and State basis, and NOT on an individual county, soil survey area, or other sub-state level.

New plant materials released to commercial growers, number

Definition New conservation plant materials released to commercial growers.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year the number of new conservation plant materials released to commercial growers.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Plant Materials (PLANTS)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Plant Materials application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Sum of the total number of plant materials released within the current fiscal year.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Plant Materials Specialist
Ecological Sciences Division
Rm 6157-S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Bob Escherman
202-720-0536
Robert.Escherman@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. New conservation plant materials must have a completed release notice and environmental evaluation, including all appropriate signatures, to qualify.
2. Adequate quantities of seed or vegetative materials must be available to commercial growers at the time of release.

Plant materials technical documents prepared and transferred to customers, number

Definition Technical documents about conservation plants or plant technology, published for distribution to the general public.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its conservation partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the number of technical documents on conservation plants or plant technology published for distribution to the general public.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Plant Materials (PLANTS)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

Entry point of data is through the Plant Materials application in POINTS. Data should be entered quarterly by the state office.

Calculation Used

Count of the total number of technical documents published that address conservation plans or plant technology.

Example

Books, Major Publications, Plant Fact Sheets, Plant Guides, Planting Guides, Published Abstracts, Journal Articles, Release Brochures, Symposium Proceedings, and Technical Notes.

This performance measure is intended to measure the number of unique documents published, not the total number of actual copies of documents conveyed to the public.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Plant Materials Specialist
Ecological Sciences Division
Rm 6157-S
14th St and Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Bob Escherman
202-720-0536
Robert.Escherman@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. For documents to qualify, citations must be included in the Plant Materials Operations and Management System (POMS) database and
2. The electronic file must be sent to the National Plant Materials Center for posting to the Web.

Release modules from 2003 Annual NRI on wetlands, soil erosion, and land use change, unit

Definition: Tabular results and supporting graphics incorporating the most up-to-date NRI data, along with documentation, interpretation, assessment, and statistical analysis of the results are posted to the agency's NRI web site.

Purpose:

This performance measure allows the NRCS to:

- identify delivery to the public of products released in the current fiscal year through the National Resource Inventory program.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance - NRI

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

This performance measure is reported at the National level on a quarterly basis through written communication to the Deputy of Strategic Planning and Accountability.

Calculation Used

Accounting of each module published to the NRI Website within the current fiscal year.

Example

N/A

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Statistician, Leader for Survey Methods and Statistical Analysis
Resource Inventory and Assessment Division
USDA-NRCS
5601 Sunnyside Ave
Room 1-2110B, Stop Code: 5475
Beltsville, MD 2070

Current Contact:

Jeff Goebel

301-504-2284

Jeff.Goebel@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. FY 2005 Modules to be released:
 - a. Wetlands
 - b. Soil Erosion
 - c. Land Use Change

Digital soil surveys (SSURGO) made available, number and acres

Definition: Number and acres of SSURGO-certified soil surveys available on the NRCS Soil Data Mart.

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS to report for each fiscal year:

- the number and acres of soil surveys that have been digitized to SSURGO standards and specifications.

Conservation Program(s) with Targets Set

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The entry point of data is through Soil Survey Schedule only. Data should be entered at least quarterly in the State office. Goals and performance will be entered and maintained through the Soil Survey Schedule application only; data will be harvested from that database and displayed within the IAS performance reports, contained within PRS and the CIS.

Calculation Used

- Count of soil surveys, SSURGO-certified, published, and made available on the NRCS website within the current fiscal year.
- Acres of those soil surveys contained within the count above.

Example

Not Applicable

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Director, USDA, NRCS, Soil Survey Division
14th and Independence Ave., SW.
Room 4250-S
Washington, DC 20250

Current Contact:
Michael Golden
202-720-1820
Michael.Golden@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Count and acres will be available only on a national, regional, and State basis, and NOT on an individual county, soil survey area, or other sub-state level.

Soil surveys mapped or updated, acres

Definition: Total acres of initial or updated soil surveys with accompanying field documentation within the fiscal year, completed to the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS).

Purpose

This performance measure permits NRCS and its partners to report for each fiscal year:

- the acres of soil surveys that have been mapped, either initially or as a result of an updating effort.

Conservation Program with Targets Set

Soil Survey (SOIL)

Software Interface Entry Point(s)

The entry point of data is through Soil Survey Schedule only. Data should be entered at least quarterly in the State office. Goals and performance will be entered and maintained through the Soil Survey Schedule application only; data will be harvested from that database and displayed within the IAS performance reports, contained within PRS and the CIS.

Calculation Used

- Acres of soil surveys mapped or updated to the standards and specifications of the NCSS within the current fiscal year.

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Director, USDA, NRCS, Soil Survey Division
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Washington, DC 20250

Current Contact:
Michael Golden
202-720-1820
Michael.Golden@usda.gov

Business Rules

1. Acres will be available only on a national, regional, and State basis, and NOT on an individual county, soil survey area, or other sub-state level.