

Performance Measure Definitions FY2007 – FY2010

Introduction & Overview

The NRCS web-based performance measurement approach, established in 1998, was intended to strengthen the linkage between annual performance measures and strategic objectives, and enhance data quality and accessibility. The longer term vision was to: 1) make performance reporting transparent to field staff by “harvesting” data from conservation plans, and 2) engage the scientific community to translate NRCS’ planned and applied practices into environmental outcomes. Since that time, Agency investments in business tools, modeling, and information technology has created new opportunities for implementing a transparent system that effectively and efficiently reports progress toward agency strategic goals. The annual performance measures defined in this document represent the next step toward this vision.

Purpose

The purpose of the Agency’s annual performance measures is to provide the link between the day-to-day activities on the landscape and the agency’s long-term strategic objectives, as outlined in the NRCS Strategic Plan, 2005 – 2010. Annual measures reflect the annual increment of progress toward the long-term performance targets. These annual measures provide the foundation for the agency’s annual performance budget formulation, budget and performance integration reporting, and Program Assessment Rating Tool process. Essential data elements gathered through these measures make it possible to meet agency reporting requirements, from Civil Rights reports to congressional inquiries.

Data Quality

NRCS has a responsibility to ensure that our data meet high standards for quality. Regular review of performance data by users and oversight staff throughout the year will help ensure the accuracy of Agency performance data. Identifying and correcting data anomalies on a regular basis can minimize the end of year data quality review and attestation task, result in better quality data throughout the year, and improve the utility of agency performance data for a variety of users and uses.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Quality of Information Guidelines provide general guidance to all USDA agencies on quality of information delivered to all users within and outside the agency. Ensuring the quality of Agency performance data is a first step in assuring that agency use of these data in information products meets these guidelines.

Data Entry Points

Data entry is primarily through the appropriate automated business tools, Customer Service Toolkit, ProTracts, or POINTS. However, there are instances where implementation action may still need to be reported directly in Performance Results System (PRS) screens, as well as several measures that can only be reported through PRS. These instances of specialized reporting should diminish over time, as business tool development continues. Specific data entry points are noted in the measure definitions.

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

Reporting Frequency

Reporting is relatively automatic for performance data that are harvested from the automated business tools. However, in instances where progress must be entered using PRS screens or program tracking business tools, performance should be updated regularly as reportable items are completed. Agency national level performance reports are issued weekly for top leadership review. These reports contain the performance data for the Fiscal Year (FY) submitted through the prior week. Thus, regular reporting will ensure that leadership is operating based on the most current and appropriate information.

Recurring practices

Recurring practices are reported the year they are first applied for annual measures, recognizing that they will be applied according to schedule in future years for the life of the practice. When recurring practices are revised in the planning process and altered, such that a new plan is developed, and then applied, it is considered newly applied and is also reported. The benefits of all practices applied, recurring or not, will be captured in long-term outcome reporting.

Land uses

Certain annual measures apply only to certain land uses, which are noted in the definitions. These land use definitions are consistent with the official NRCS designations contained in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH_600.31 (c)), and used in the Customer Service Toolkit application. The following land uses are used in one or more of the performance measures:

- **Crop** - Land used primarily for the production of field crops or orchard crops alone or in association with sod crops.
- **Hay** - Land on which perennial plants are managed and harvested for hay. (Annual plants planted for hay, and forage crops in short-term rotation are cropland.)
- **Forest** - Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural, or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products.
- **Grazed Forest** - Forest land that produces understory vegetation that is used for the production of livestock.
- **Grazed Range** - Rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock; including native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
- **Native or 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 or introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles.
- **Pasture** - Grazing lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops.

Performance Measure Numbering System

The annual performance measures are numbered to align with the new agency strategic plan according to the table below:

Measure Number		Strategic Plan Goal
Series	Sub-Series	
0		Multiple Strategic Goals
1		High Quality, Productive Soils
	1.1	Cropland Soil Quality
2		Clean and Abundant Water
	2.1	Water Quality
	2.2	Water Conservation
3		Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
	3.1	Grassland, Rangeland, and Forest Ecosystems
	3.2	Working Lands and Waters for Wildlife
	3.3	Wetlands
4		Clean Air - reserved
5		Adequate Energy - reserved
6		Working Farms and Ranch Lands
	6.1	Viable Agricultural Sector and Natural Resource Quality

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Measure: 6.12: Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D projects, acres..	31
Measure: 6.13: Local businesses created or retained in rural communities, number	32

Measure: 0.10: Conservation plans written, acres

Definition: Conservation plans developed or revised during the fiscal year to treat soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource concerns. Conservation planning is conducted in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH 180_600). All land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: This measure is essential to achieving the agency's outcomes for soil quality, water quality and quantity, plant and animal communities, air, energy, and farm and ranch viability and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans or revised plans where:

- the plan approval date is within the current fiscal year, and
- at least one conservation practice was planned.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage of land units are reported only for the fiscal year in which the planning work is accomplished.
2. Land units planned are counted once toward this performance measure unless the plan is revised and a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit.
3. A Revised Plan is one that has been changed by mutual agreement of NRCS and the client to the extent that a new conservation plan needs to be generated and signed by the client to show changes in land unit boundaries, resource management systems, the set of practices included in the system, technology, or the type of enterprise (see NPPH, 600.70, Plan Revision).
4. Practices need not be scheduled to be applied within the fiscal year in which the land unit acreage planned is being reported.
5. All land uses are eligible.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit

PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA/NRCS

Director

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Measure: 0.20: Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed, number

Definition: Watershed or area-wide plans developed and approved. A watershed or area-wide conservation plan is developed with stakeholders or clients for a watershed or other geographic area defined by stakeholders or clients. The watershed or area-wide conservation plan addresses all identified resource problems, contains alternative solutions that meet the minimum quality criteria for each resource, and addresses applicable laws and regulations. These plans must include specific, quantifiable conservation goals and milestones for natural resource impacts. These plans cover an area comprised of multiple land ownerships and operations with common and interdependent natural resource concerns, and are on a larger scale than site-specific plans. Performance is reported in numbers.

Eligible plans include:

- Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook
- PL-566 Watershed Plans developed by the Watershed Surveys and Planning Program (PL-06)
- Resource Conservation and Development Project Plans that address natural resource concerns, in accordance with the Conservation Programs Manual 440_Part 513_Subpart C_513.26.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: This measure is essential to achieving the agency's outcomes for soil quality, water quality and quantity, plant and animal communities, air, energy, and farm and ranch viability and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Watershed Surveys and Planning (PL-06)

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of the number of:

CTA watershed or area-wide plans;

PL-566 Watershed Plans; and

RC&D Project Plans

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Final, approved plans are reported. Interim steps, drafts, data collection, or assessment efforts are not reportable. The approving authority varies; it may be a Federal, State, or local agency, conservation district, watershed association, or an ad hoc group.
2. The Plan must be approved in the current fiscal year.

3. Subject to rules 1 and 2 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.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS (CTA Watershed and Area-wide Plans screen)
Watershed POINTS
RC&D POINTS

Data Stewards (Business Area Experts)

CTA:
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Conservation and Watershed Planning Branch
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Measure: 1.00: Digital soil surveys (SSURGO) made available, number.

Definition: Published SSURGO-certified soil surveys available on the NRCS Soil Data Mart. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the total number of soil surveys that are SSURGO-certified, published within the fiscal year, and made available on the NRCS Soil Data Mart for the first time.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. A soil survey must be SSURGO-certified, published, and available through the NRCS Soil Data Mart.

Data Entry Point(s)

Soil Data Warehouse

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Director, USDA, NRCS, Soil Survey Division
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Current Contact:

Ken Lubich
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Measure: 1.01: New or updated Web Soil Surveys, number.

Definition: New or updated soil surveys published to the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), and made available in Portable Document Format (PDF) on Web Soil Survey. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:
Soil Survey (SOIL)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the total number of soil surveys published within the current fiscal year in a Portable Document Format (PDF) on Web Soil Survey.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. New or updated soil surveys that meet National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) standards and specifications are reported.
2. Surveys must be placed on the Web Soil Survey during the current fiscal year in PDF format, with an Edition Date of the current or previous calendar year.
3. Surveys counted in previous years are not reported. Surveys counted in previous years include those placed on Web Soil Survey in a previous year with edition dates of 2004 or later, or surveys reported in NASIS as having had maps sent to the printer (obligating funds for printing through GPO) in FY2001 or later.

Data Entry Point(s)

Soil Survey Scheduler
Soil Data Warehouse

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 1.02: Soil surveys mapped or updated, acres.

Definition: Initial or updated soil surveys with accompanying field documentation mapped or updated within the fiscal year. All acreage meets the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS). Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Soil Survey (SOIL)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of acres of soil surveys mapped or updated within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Acres mapped or updated that meet the standards and specifications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS).

Data Entry Point(s)

Soil Survey Scheduler

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 1.10: Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality, acres

Definition: Cropland and hay land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve soil quality has been applied during the fiscal year. Cropland and hay land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

Selected conservation practices:

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Alley Cropping (ac)	311	Mulching (ac)	484
Atmospheric Resources Quality Management (ac)	370	Nutrient Management (ac)	590
Conservation Cover (ac)	327	Pasture & Hay Planting (ac)	512
Conservation Crop Rotation (ac)	328	Pest Management (ac.)	595
Contour Buffer Strips (ac)	332	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (ac) (329B)	345
Contour Farming (ac)	330	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till (ac) (329A)	329
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (ac)	331	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (ac) (329C)	346
Cover Crop (ac)	340	Residue Management, Seasonal (ac)	344
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Cross Wind Ridges (ac)	589A	Row Arrangement (ac)	557
Cross Wind Trap Strips (ac)	589C	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac)	610
Deep Tillage (ac)	324	Silvopasture Establishment (ac)	381

Field Border (ft)	386	Stripcropping (ac)	585
Forage Harvest Management (ac)	511	Terrace (ft, m)	600
Grassed Waterway (ac)	412	Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (ft)	603	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	449	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (ft)	650

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- the land use is cropland or hay land,
- at least one selected conservation practice was applied, and
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied on all or some part of the land unit. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or only part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the land unit acreage.
4. Land unit acreage is reported for this measure only once per program in any fiscal year, even though more than one selected practice may be applied on the land unit under a specific program.
5. The "Total" reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflects the acres of land units where selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve soil quality. Each land unit that has had one or more selected conservation practices applied is counted only one time in the "Total."
6. Eligible land uses are cropland and hay land.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit
ProTracts
PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 2.00: Water supply forecasts issued, number

Definition: Water supply forecasts issued by the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting program. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape. Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Snow Survey (SNOW)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the total number of water supply forecasts issued within the current fiscal year.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS-Snow Survey

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 2.10: Land with conservation applied to improve water quality, acres

Definition: Land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve water quality has been applied during the fiscal year. All land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

Selected conservation practices:

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Access road (ft)	560	Prescribed Grazing (ac)	528
Alley Cropping (ac)	311	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (ac) (329B)	345
Animal Mortality Facility (no)	316	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till (ac) (329A)	329
Atmospheric Resources Quality Management (ac)	370	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (ac) (329C)	346
Channel Bank Vegetation (ac)	322	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Conservation Cover (ac)	327	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)	390
Constructed Wetland (ac)	656	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac)	610
Contour Buffer Strips (ac)	332	Sediment Basin (no)	350
Contour Farming (ac)	330	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (ft)	580
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas (ac)	331	Stream Crossing (no)	578
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342	Stripcropping (ac)	585
Deep Tillage (ac)	324	Terrace (ft)	600
Filter Strip (ac)	393	Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	612
Forest Stand Improvement (ac)	666	Waste Storage Facility (no)	313
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac)	561	Waste Treatment (ac)	629
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (no & ac)	441	Waste Treatment Lagoon (no)	359
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	449	Wastewater Treatment Strip (ac)	635
Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land (ac)	543	Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land (ac)	544	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Manure Transfer (no)	634	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (ft)	650
Mulching (ac)	484	Wetland Creation (ac)	658
Nutrient Management (ac)	590	Wetland Enhancement (ac)	659
Pest Management (ac.)	595	Wetland Restoration (ac)	657

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied, and
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied on all or some part of the land unit. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or only part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the land unit acreage.
4. Land unit acreage is reported for this measure only once per program in any fiscal year, even though more than one selected practice may be applied on the land unit under a specific program.
5. The "Total" reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflects the acres of land units where selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve water quality. Each land unit that has had one or more selected conservation practices applied is counted only one time in the "Total."
6. All land uses are eligible.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit

ProTracts

PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 2.11: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) written, number

Definition: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) developed or revised within the current fiscal year. CNMPs are planned in accordance with the National Planning Procedures Handbook, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance (NPPH_600.5). Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of CNMPs as entered into the Field Level Measures section on the PRS Data Entry website during the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The performance reported under this measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. CNMP plans, designated within PRS, must have a plan approval date within the current fiscal year and one or more conservation practices planned.
3. CNMPs Written are counted only once toward this performance measure unless the plan is revised and a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit and PRS, as a result of significant changes or revisions to the CNMP.
4. Use the CNMP Written screen in the Field Level Measures section on the PRS Data Entry website to assign the program for each CNMP Written. A CNMP written with time charged to CTA using the Conservation Planning activity code should be reported as progress for CTA in PRS. A CNMP written using EQIP technical assistance with the time charged to the Contract Planning activity code should be reported as progress for EQIP in PRS.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit

PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA/NRCS

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Measure: 2.12: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMP) applied, number

Definition: Comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) applied within the current fiscal year. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the number of CNMPs reported as applied using practice code 100.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The performance reported under this measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. All required component practices have been applied and at least one of these practices was applied in the current fiscal year.
3. CNMPs Applied are counted only once toward this performance measure unless the plan is revised as a result of significant changes or revisions to the CNMP, and a new plan approval date is assigned in Toolkit and PRS, and additional practices are applied.
4. When the plan has been designated as a CNMP plan within PRS and CNMP practice code 100 is reported as applied, the plan is counted as a completed (applied) CNMP plan.
5. The Plan Approval Date is not required to be within the current fiscal year.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit
PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 2.13: Long-term contracts completed during the fiscal year (all measures installed) for the purpose of water quality improvement, number.

Definition: Long-term contracts to improve water quality where all Contract Item Numbers were completed by the end of the fiscal year. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: The quality of surface waters and ground water is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Flood Prevention Operations, Public Law 534 (WF-03)
Small Watershed Operations, Public Law 566 (WF-08)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of long-term contracts with all measures installed that were completed within the fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. A contract Status Review is completed within the current fiscal year.
2. Closing forms are signed by contractee(s) and NRCS.
3. Payment made for practices installed and certified by NRCS.

Data Entry Point(s)

POINTS (Watershed)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watersheds Program Leader
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Current Contact:
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Measure: 2.20: Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency, acres

Definition: Land on which at least one selected conservation practice to improve irrigation water management has been applied during the fiscal year. All land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Selected conservation practices:

Practice (units)	Code		Practice (units)	Code
Irrigation Canal or Lateral (ft.)	320		Irrigation System, Sprinkler (no.) and ac.)	442
Irrigation Water Conveyance (ft.)	428 A- 428 C		Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (no. and ac.)	443
Irrigation Field Ditch (ft.)	388		Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (no.)	447
Irrigation Land Leveling (ac.)	464		Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (ft.)	430 AA – 430 HH
Irrigation or Regulating Reservoir (no.)	552		Irrigation Water Management (ac.)	449
Irrigation Storage Reservoir (No. and ac-ft)	436		Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac)	610
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (no.) and ac.)	441		Structure for Water Control (no.)	587

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
- Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Ground and Surface Water Conservation (G&SWC)
- Klamath Basin
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied in the current fiscal year, and
- all land uses are eligible.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.

2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied on all or some part of the land unit. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or only part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.
3. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the land unit acreage.
4. Land unit acreage is reported for this measure only once per program in any fiscal year, even though more than one selected practice may be applied on the land unit under a specific program.
5. The "Total" reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflects the acres of land units where selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve irrigation efficiency. Each land unit that has had one or more selected conservation practices applied is counted only one time in the "Total."
6. All land uses are eligible.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit
ProTracts
PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA/NRCS
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Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
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Measure: 2.21: Dams rehabilitated or removed, number.

Definition: Dams that have been rehabilitated or removed to protect or improve public health and safety. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the number of dams rehabilitated or removed for which all planned implementation actions are complete, and the completion date is in the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Dams rehabilitated or removed where all planned implementation actions are complete.
2. Completion date is in the current fiscal year.
3. Rehabilitation of dams pertains only to those impoundments constructed through Public Law 566 and Public Law 534.

Data Entry Point(s)

POINTS (Watershed)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager
Financial Assistance Programs
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Washington, DC 20250

Current Contact:

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Measure: 2.22: Dams with watershed rehabilitation plans authorized, number.

Definition: The number of watershed rehabilitation plans that have been authorized.
Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of watershed rehabilitation plans authorized within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Count only rehabilitation plans that have written authorization by the Chief, NRCS.

Data Entry Point(s)

POINTS (Watershed)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watershed Rehabilitation Manager
Financial Assistance Programs
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Washington, DC 20250

Current Contact:
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Measure: 2.23: Flood prevention or mitigation measures installed, including structures, easements, and other measures; number.

Definition: Flood prevention or mitigation measures installed during the fiscal year for the purpose of flood damage reduction. Reportable measures include: structures, easements, or similar measures. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Flood Prevention Operations, Public Law 534 (WF-03)
Small Watershed Operations, Public Law 566 (WF-08)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of flood prevention or mitigation measures with installation completed in the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Flood Prevention must be a Project Purpose in the Watershed Operations project record.
2. The measure installation must be completed within the current fiscal year.

Data Entry Point(s)

POINTS (Watershed)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watersheds Protection and Flood Prevention Program Leader
Financial Assistance Programs Division
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Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:
Stu Simpson
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Measure: 2.24: Multi-purpose water supply reservoirs installed, number.

Definition: Dams and reservoirs installed for the primary purpose of water supply or flood control. Other benefits may include, but are not limited to, recreation and wildlife habitat. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Flood Prevention Operations, Public Law 534 (WF-03)

Small Watershed Operations, Public Law 566 (WF-08)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of dams and reservoirs installed where the principal purpose is water supply or flood control, and installation is completed within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. The principal purpose for installation must be water supply or flood control.

Data Entry Point(s)

POINTS (Watershed)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Watersheds Protection and Flood Prevention Program Leader

Financial Assistance Programs Division

USDA-NRCS

Rm 5234-S

Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Stu Simpson

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Measure: 3.00: New plant materials released to commercial growers, number

Definition: New conservation plant materials released to commercial growers. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Plant Materials (PLANTS)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of new plant materials released to commercial growers within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. New conservation plant materials must have a completed release notice and environmental evaluation, including all appropriate signatures, to be reported.
2. The release occurs within the current fiscal year.
3. Adequate quantities of seed or vegetative materials must be available to commercial growers at the time of release.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS (PRS-Plant materials data entry screen)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Plant Materials Specialist
Ecological Sciences Division
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Washington, DC 20013

Current Contact:

Bob Escherman
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Measure: 3.01: 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. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Plant Materials (PLANTS)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the total number of technical documents published that address conservation plants or plant technology and that are released within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. For a document to qualify, citations must be included in the Plant Materials Operations and Management System (POMS) database.
2. The electronic file must be sent to the National Plant Materials Center for posting to the Web.
3. The release occurs within the current fiscal year.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS (PRS-Plant materials data entry screen)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

National Plant Materials Specialist
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Current Contact:

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Measure: 3.10: Grazing and forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base, acres

Definition: Grazing or forest land units on which at least one selected conservation practice has been applied to protect or improve the resource base during the fiscal year. Grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, pasture, and forest land uses are eligible. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient.

Selected conservation practices:

Practice (units)	Code	Practice (units)	Code
Animal Trails and Walkways (ft)	575	Range Planting (ac)	550
Brush Management (ac)	314	Recreation Area Improvement (ac)	562
Channel Bank Vegetation (ac)	322	Riparian Forest Buffer (ac)	391
Channel Stabilization (ft)	584	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (ac)	390
Critical Area Planting (ac)	342	Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (ac)	610
Early Successional Habitat Development (ac)	647	Spring Development (no)	574
Fence (ft)	382	Stream Crossing (no)	578
Firebreak (ft)	394	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (ac)	395
Forage Harvest Management (ac)	511	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (ft)	580
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (ac)	490	Tree/Shrub Establishment (ac)	612
Forest Stand Improvement (ac)	666	Tree/Shrub Pruning (ac)	660

Forest Trails and Landings (ac)	655		Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	645
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (ac)	548		Use Exclusion (ac)	472
Heavy Use Area Protection (ac)	561		Waste Utilization (ac)	633
Hedgerow Planting (ft)	422		Water and Sediment Control Basin (no)	638
Irrigation System / Microirrigation (no & ac)	441		Water Well (no)	642
Mulching (ac)	484		Watering Facility (no)	614
Nutrient Management (ac)	590		Wetland Creation (ac)	658
Pasture and Hay Planting (ac)	512		Wetland Enhancement (ac)	659
Pest Management (ac)	595		Wetland Restoration (ac)	657
Pipeline (ft)	516		Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (ac)	644
Pond (no)	378		Wildlife Watering Facility (no)	648
Prescribed Burning (ac)	338		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (ft)	380
Prescribed Grazing (ac)	528		Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650
Prescribed Forestry (ac)	409			

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of land unit acreage in conservation plans where:

- at least one selected conservation practice was applied,
- the practice application date is within the current fiscal year, and
- the land use is grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, pasture, or forest.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. The acreage reported under this performance measure is only for the fiscal year in which the performance is accomplished.
2. The total land unit acreage is reported when one or more selected practices are applied on all or some part of the land unit. Selected practices may have different measurement units (e.g., acres, number, feet, etc.) and may be placed on all or only part of the land unit. To address this variability, the total acres of the land unit are counted toward the performance measure.

3. Where more than one program is used to apply selected practices on the same land unit within a single fiscal year, each program is credited with the land unit acreage.
4. Land unit acreage is reported for this measure only once per program in any fiscal year, even though more than one selected practice may be applied on the land unit under a specific program.
5. The "Total" reported in PRS Section 6 Reports reflects the acres of land units where selected conservation practices were applied during the fiscal year to improve grazing and forest land resources. Each land unit that has had one or more selected conservation practices applied is counted only one time in the "Total."
6. Eligible land uses are grazed range, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, or pasture, and forest.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit
PRS
ProTracts

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA/NRCS
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Current Contact:
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Measure: 3.20: Non-Federal land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality, acres

Definition: Non-Federal land on which fish and wildlife habitat management practices have been applied in the fiscal year. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcomes: Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of acreage on which one of the following conservation management practices has been applied in the fiscal year: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), or Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395).

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. Practice application date must be in the current fiscal year.
2. All land uses are eligible.
3. Non-Federal land includes private, State, and Tribal land and water bodies.

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit
PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

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Measure: 3.30: Wetlands created, restored, or enhanced, acres

Definition: Wetlands creation (658), wetlands restoration (657), and wetlands enhancement (659) applied. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

Conservation Technical Assistance – Grazing Lands Conservation (CTA-GLC)

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of Wetland Creation (658), Wetland Restoration (657), or Wetland Enhanced (659) conservation practices acres applied within the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

All conservation planning and application will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant agency policy and technical guidance, and using agency approved business tools to conduct these activities, as appropriate. The following business rules apply:

1. Conservation practices 657, 658, and 659 count toward this performance measure.
2. Practice application date must be within the current fiscal year.
3. All land uses are eligible

Data Entry Point(s)

Customer Service Toolkit

PRS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA/NRCS

National Wildlife Biologist

Ecological Sciences Division

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Measure: 6.10: Farmland, forest land, and wetlands protected by conservation easement, acres

Definition: Land under easement in which NRCS has acquired a property interest. Performance is reported in acres. Note: This measure does not include upland acres protected under the Wetland Reserve Program.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Calculation

FRPP, GRP, and HFRP:

This measure is calculated as the sum of all easement acres recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year.

WRP:

This measure is calculated as the sum of all wetland acres included in easements that were recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. The easement recorded date determines the year that performance is reported.
2. Pending easements do not count toward this measure.
3. Acres for each easement should be entered separately.
4. For WRP, only wetland acres are included. Associated upland acres that may be part of the easement are not included in this measure.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS (state level data entry screen)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

USDA, NRCS

Easement Programs Division

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GRP: Floyd Wood

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HFRP: Floyd Wood

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Measure: 6.11: Prime, unique, or important farmland protected by conservation easements from conversion to non-agricultural uses, acres

Definition: Prime, unique or important farmland, as defined below, that is protected by conservation easements. Performance is reported in acres.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing 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.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum the acres of prime, unique or statewide important soils protected by FRPP easements that were recorded at the courthouse in the current fiscal year. Each easement's acres should be entered separately.

Business Rules

1. The easement recorded date determines the year that performance is reported.
2. Pending easements do not count toward this measure.
3. Only count the acres of land in the easement that qualify as prime, unique, or statewide important farmland.
4. Acres for each easement should be entered separately.

Data Entry Point(s)

PRS (FRPP state level data entry screen)

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program National Leader
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Measure: 6.12: Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D projects, acres

Definition: Land and water resources benefitted by completed RC&D land conservation, land management or water management projects. Performance is reported in acres.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:
Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of acres associated with completed RC&D projects under the following benefits categories:

- Acres Treated: Cropland
- Acres Treated: Grazing Land
- Acres Treated: Forestland
- Acres Treated: Mined or Reclaimed Land
- Agricultural Land Preserved or Protected
- Water Bodies Created
- Water Bodies Improved

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Project must be completed in the current fiscal year.

Data Entry Point(s)

RC&D POINTS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Team Leader, Resource Conservation & Development Program
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Resource Conservation & Development and Rural Lands Division
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Current Contact:
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Measure: 6.13: Local businesses created or retained in rural communities, number

Definition: Businesses created or retained through RC&D projects. Businesses created are businesses not in existence prior to RC&D assistance. Businesses retained are businesses established prior to RC&D assistance, for which RC&D assistance is used to retain it within the RC&D area. Businesses within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors are eligible. Performance is reported in numbers.

Strategic Plan Outcome: Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

Conservation Programs with Targets for this Measure:

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Calculation

This measure is calculated as the sum of new businesses created or businesses retained with RC&D assistance in the current fiscal year.

Business Rules for PRS Reporting

1. Businesses are operational in the current fiscal year.
2. Businesses created or retained within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors are eligible.

Data Entry Point(s)

RC&D POINTS

Data Steward (Business Area Expert)

Resource Conservation and Development Program National Manager
Resource Conservation and Development and Rural Lands Division
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Current Contact:

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