



# Farm Bill Program Participation Timescale & Flowchart

**Call NRCS to schedule a Conservation Consultation**

1 - 4 weeks



**Conservation Consultation**

Landowner should first complete conservation plan worksheet items and confirm with Farm Service Agency eligibility for USDA programs. This meeting is intended to identify resource concerns and the landowner's objectives for the farm. A site visit may or may not be needed at this stage.

1 - 2 weeks



**Develop Conservation Plan**

(A Conservation Plan is a schedule of landowner decisions to protect natural resources on his/her property.)

1 to 12 months



**Discuss Program Options/Availability**

Farm Bill Programs, sometimes including cost sharing, may be utilized to address resource concerns in the conservation plan when appropriate. Program availability is dependent on congressional appropriations for each program.

2-4 weeks



**Possible Revision**

**Completion of Farm Bill Program Application**

After the Conservation Plan is completed it must be signed and certified by the appropriate parties including the landowner, County Conservation District, and the FSA County Committee. Landowner signs a Conservation Program Application/Contract and a Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations

1 to 6 months (depending on application deadline)



**Notification of application status**

Deferred

Approved

**Sign Legal & Binding Contract**

**Begin Practice Implementation**  
1 week to 1 year (depending on practice)

**Programs**

- EQIP– Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- WHIP– Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- WRP– Wetland Reserve Program
- GRP– Grassland Reserve Program
- CSP– Conservation Security Program

**Responsibilities**

- Landowner
- NRCS
- Landowner & NRCS
- TSP or NRCS

Timescale varies depending on practices installed, schedule of implementation, NRCS workload, landowner initiative and conservation program application dates.

**Receive payment/cost share**  
After the practice(s) has been completed, applicant submits receipts to NRCS to receive cost share/incentive payments.

Pay contractor & submit receipts to NRCS  4 to 6 weeks

NRCS or TSP inspection and evaluation of the construction/implementation of practice is necessary for certification.

**Implement/Construct Practice**

1 to 6 weeks Hire Contractor

TSP or NRCS Completes Conservation Practice Design

Develop & Sign a Conservation Contract Modification

Select a TSP from the TechReg register

Yes  No

**Use a Technical Service Provider— Yes? No?**  
Technical Service Providers are experts outside of USDA who are certified to provide technical assistance on behalf of USDA. Technical assistance includes planning and implementing conservation practices. NRCS can reimburse producers for technical assistance provided by TSPs. A list of TSPs can be found at <http://techreg.usda.gov>