



Agricultural Act of 2014

# Longleaf Pine Initiative

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## Virginia Overview

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making financial and technical assistance available to landowners interested in restoring Longleaf pine forest on Virginia agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest and Tribal land.

Approved participants will receive financial assistance for implementing conservation practices such as planting Longleaf pine, installing firebreaks, conducting prescribed burning and controlling invasive plants.

Owners must offer at least two acres of land to maintain or improve existing habitat.



The Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI) is part of the NRCS "all-lands" approach to conservation, which addresses priority resource concerns such as those of the Longleaf pine ecosystem.

At the time of European settlement, Longleaf pine forests covered over one million acres in southeast Virginia. By 1850, nearly all of Virginia's Longleaf forest had vanished. Conservationists are now working to restore its native range in parts of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. NRCS and its partners are working directly with private landowners to implement conservation practices to protect, improve and restore Longleaf pine forests.

These activities will offer environmental, economic, and wildlife benefits for generations to come. Longleaf pine forests are more resistant to insect and disease infestation, wildfires, and storm damage than other pine species. They also help to improve water quality and support a complex ecosystem of wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, ferns, and game and non-game species.



## Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm lands.

Applicants must:

- Be engaged in agriculture or forestry and have a farm number and tract established with the Farm Service Agency
- Control or own eligible land
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an EQIP plan of operations to meet their objectives

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

## Key Resource Concerns

Upland Wildlife Habitat Creation – Community can consist of hardwood

savannas, Longleaf pine forests, wildflower meadows, and early successional habitat for quail, rabbits, and other species.

**Sample practices:** field borders, hedgerow establishment, Longleaf pine establishment, fescue conversion, pollinator habitat.

Habitat Maintenance – Potential projects include invasive species control, seasonal water management, early successional habitat management and natural food rejuvenation.

**Sample practices:** disking, prescribed burning, herbicide application, pre-commercial thinning to promote hardwoods



*For successful stands of Longleaf pine, the sites must be carefully prepared with competitive vegetation controlled.*

## How to apply

Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted).

NRCS will help eligible producers develop an EQIP plan of operations, which will become the basis of the EQIP contract.

EQIP applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

## More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or [www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill).

## Find your local USDA Service Center

<http://offices.usda.gov>

## Restoring the Northern Limit of the Longleaf Pine

### Legend

Targeted Counties	NAME
	Newport News
	Norfolk
	Northampton
	Poquoson
	Portsmouth
	Prince George
	Southampton
	Suffolk
	Surry
	Sussex
	Virginia Beach
	Williamsburg
	York

