



Georgia Quick Facts:

Number of NRCS Employees = 215

Number of NRCS Field Offices = 124

Acres of Cropland = 4 million or 10.9% of the state

Acres of Forestland = 29.9 million or 58% of the state

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps people help the land through scientifically based, locally led voluntary conservation efforts. Created during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s as the Soil Conservation Service, NRCS has expanded beyond preventing soil erosion to conserving and improving all natural resources on private lands.

More than 70% of the land in the continental United States is privately owned—that's more than 1.4 billion acres.

CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES IN GEORGIA



NRCS and State partners visit with landowners to inspect gopher tortoise burrows.

Purpose: Longleaf pine forests once encompassed more than 90 million acres of the North American landscape. Today, only 3.4 million acres remain and, yet, longleaf pine forests represent some of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems. The longleaf pine ecosystem provides critical habitat for 29 threatened and endangered species. The Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI) began when an interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding among USDA, the Department of Interior and the Department of Defense identified the longleaf pine ecosystem as a priority resource concern. As part of this initiative, NRCS is helping private landowners improve the sustainability and profitability of longleaf pine forest ecosystems with the following conservation practices: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, restoration and management of rare or declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment. NRCS provides landowners technical and financial assistance.

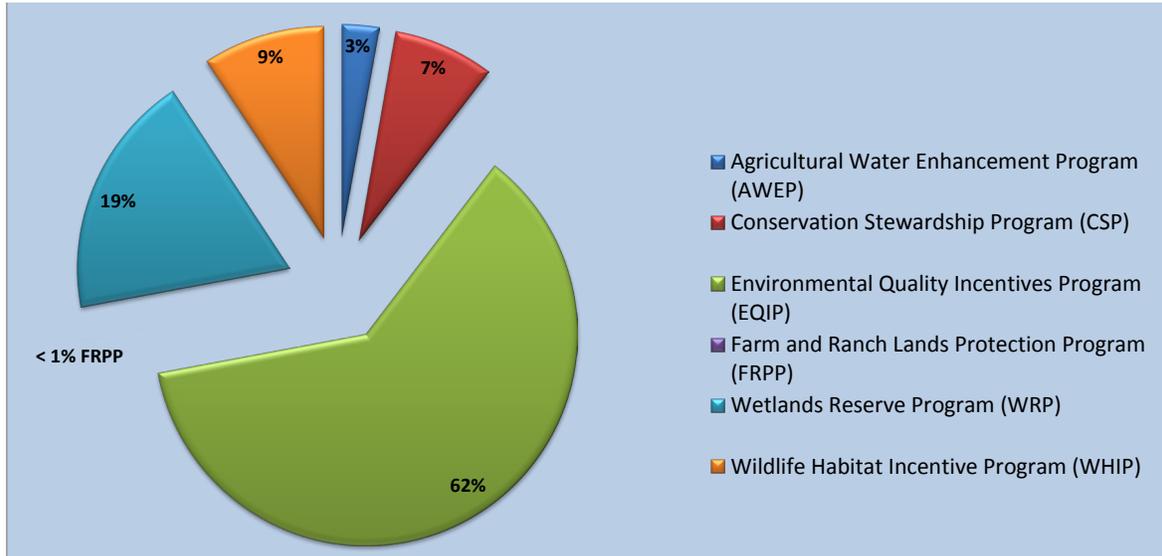
Highlights: The LLPI was established in 2010 to offer an avenue for NRCS to support America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. Since that time, NRCS investments in Georgia total more than \$11 million dollars to assist approximately 700 landowners in planting and managing more than 39,000 acres of longleaf forests. In the last fiscal year, we funded 220 contracts covering 11,683 acres for roughly \$3.5 million dollars. While, passionate landowners are important to longleaf restoration and protecting species like the gopher tortoise, collaborating with partners plays a big role in LLPI's success. NRCS works closely with Georgia's Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Forestry Commission to help private landowners preserve the legacy of the longleaf pine ecosystem.



Picture of a Gopher Tortoise

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NRCS FY 2013 Percentage of Financial Assistance to Georgia Participants by Program



FY 2012 and FY 2013 Contracts and Financial Assistance to Georgia Participants by Program

Program	Number of Contracts/Agreements		Financial Assistance to Producers	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
AWEP	199	171	\$1,332,000	\$1,275,441
CSP	475	270	\$6,944,000	\$3,537,363
EQIP	1,890	1,940	\$25,846,000	\$28,555,111
FRPP	0	1	\$150,000	\$2,000
GRP	0	0		
HFRP	0	0	\$227,000	
WRP	20	9	\$13,011,000	\$8,638,978
WHIP	215	203	\$5,753,000	\$4,295,286
Grand Total	2,799	2,594	\$53,263,000	\$46,304,180

Discretionary funds through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) for Georgia in FY 2013 is \$9.4

Sources: FMMI, ProTracts 10/25/2013 and NEST 10/21/2013

NRCS strives to provide current and correct information in a timely manner. Please contact your state conservationist or an NRCS legislative specialist if you need assistance. You can reach NRCS Legislative Affairs Division at (202) 720-2771.

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 Helping People Help the Land