

Why is CEAP important?

Agricultural leaders value conservation programs and their importance in protecting and restoring the environment and natural resources on which farmers and ranchers depend. Billions of dollars in federal funding have supported the implementation of conservation programs and practices on private lands in the United States. The information from the CEAP survey will provide the farming community, the general public, legislators, and others involved in environmental policy with a current accounting of the environmental impacts of conservation practices. It will also help determine what resources farmers may need to further protect the soil, water and related resources.

To learn more about CEAP visit:

www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Conservation_Effects_Assessment_Project/index.asp

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap



For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.

National Resources Inventory Conservation Effects Assessment Project

Survey of Farming
and Conservation Practices

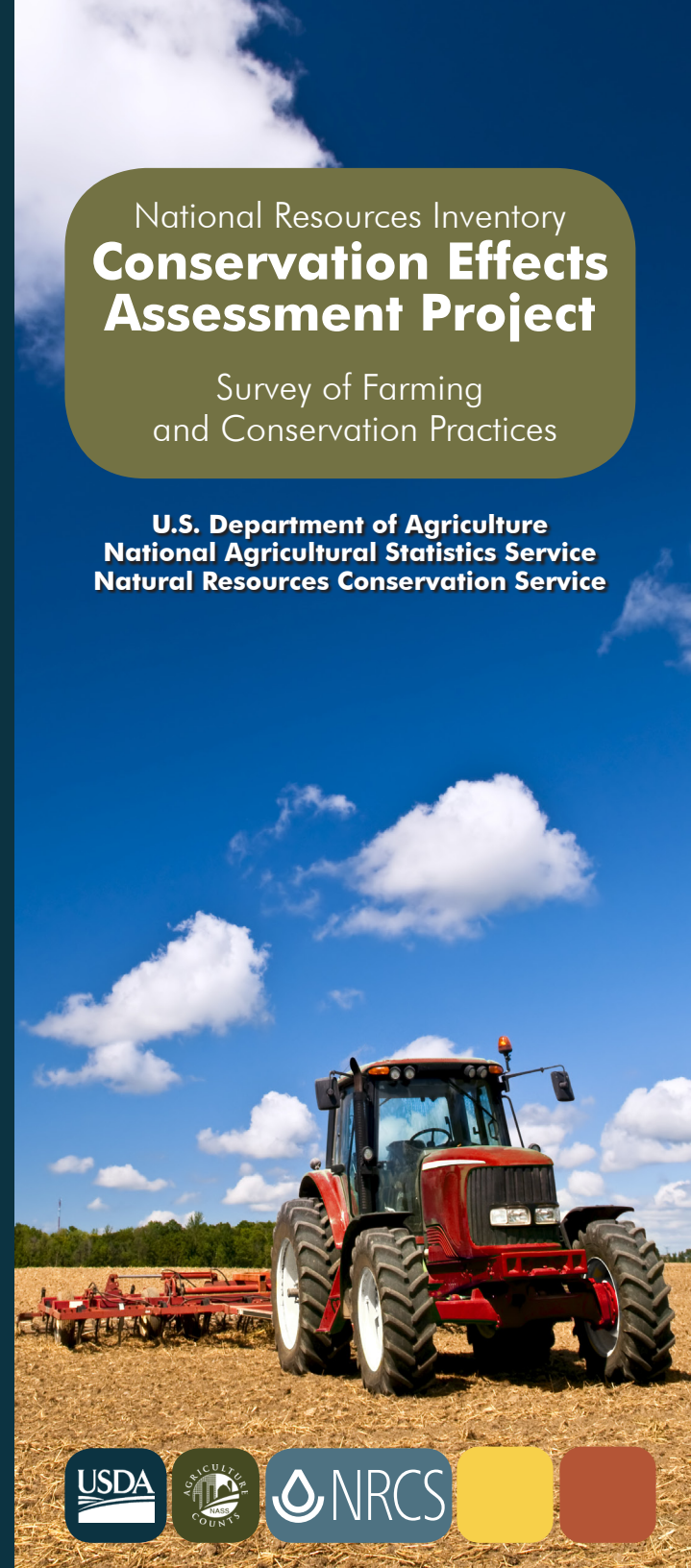
**U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service**



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What is the CEAP Survey?

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey collects information from farmers about farming and conservation practices on their cropland. The information collected through the CEAP survey is vital to help determine not only the effectiveness of existing conservation practices but also what resources farmers may need to further protect the soil, water and related resources in selected watersheds and to document on-farm conservation accomplishments.

Why participate in CEAP?

The survey captures producers' current farming and management practices, including conservation practices designed to help protect soil and water resources. Each year, the survey provides a complete picture of conservation practices in selected watersheds. This information is used to maintain, modify and improve programs that assist farmers in planning and installing on-farm conservation practices. Changes made to these conservation programs have the potential to further reduce sediment and nutrient losses from cropland.

Maintaining conservation programs in the United States benefits producers by protecting the environment on which their livelihoods depend. The programs provide financial incentives such as rental payments and cost-sharing incentives to offset the cost of installing conservation practices. USDA conservation programs currently benefiting farmers include:

- » Agricultural Management Assistance
- » Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- » Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- » Conservation Reserve Program
- » Conservation Security Program
- » Conservation Stewardship Program
- » Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- » Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
- » Wetlands Reserve Program
- » Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

In addition to these and other federal programs, assistance is available from state agencies and nonprofit organizations. Also, many farmers install conservation practices without public incentives or assistance.

How is CEAP conducted?

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the CEAP survey in selected watersheds. Since they were last surveyed, area farmers may have changed their on-farm best management practices. Collecting updated information helps document the prevalence of conservation practices and provides the base from which to strengthen conservation planning, implementation and management.

NASS representatives visit farms in the selected areas to collect information such as on-farm production practices; chemical, fertilizer and manure applications; integrated pest management; and installed conservation practices. As with all NASS surveys, respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347) that their individual information will be kept confidential.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service combines the data collected with information from its field office records and hydrologic, climate and soil databases to estimate environmental and management conditions for the selected areas.

