



# USDA Conservation Programs

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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- **NRCS' flagship program for helping producers apply conservation practices on their land**
- **Provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns**
- **Benefits include:**
  - Improving air, soil and water quality
  - Conserving water
  - Preventing soil erosion
  - Enhancing wildlife habitat
  - Mitigating impacts from climate change
- **NRCS accepts applications year-round**
- **In fiscal year 2020, NRCS invested \$1.3 billion to help producers implement conservation practices on 10.7 million acres**



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# Conservation Stewardship Program

- **Nation's largest conservation program in terms of numbers of acres**
- **Helps producers take their conservation activities to the next level**
- **NRCS accepts applications year-round**
- **In fiscal year 2020, NRCS invested \$533 million to help producers implement conservation practices on 9.6 million acres**



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# Conservation Practices



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# Conservation Practices

- **Land and crop management choices that producers can implement to conserve natural resources**
- **About 170+ conservation practices available through NRCS programs**
- **Practices often work in systems**
  - For example, irrigation water management is used with sprinkler system, pumping plant or irrigation pipeline
- **EQIP is a cost-share program**
  - Practices are cost-share



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# Inefficient Irrigation Water Use

- **Inefficient use of irrigation water impacts onsite and offsite water quality and quantity. Irrigation systems and water management practices can waste water and negatively affect farm profitability.**
- **USDA offers programs and practices that help farmers improve irrigation water systems while gaining efficiencies and reducing costs.**
- **Practices focus on conservation of the water used, conversion to efficient systems and in some cases ground water recharge.**
- **Managing irrigation water:**
  - Improve irrigation water use efficiency
  - Minimize irrigation-induced soil erosion
  - Improve poor plant productivity and health
  - Reduce energy use



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# Key Practices

- **(442) Sprinkler system**
  - Replacing existing old leaking sprinklers with new sprinkler systems
  - Flood to sprinkler
  - Sprinkler renovation
- **(430) Irrigation Pipeline**
  - Piping ditches to reduce ditch loss
  - Replacing existing above ground leaky pipe with buried pipeline/mainline
- **(533) Pumping Plant**
  - Replace existing inefficient pumps or mismatched pumps with new efficient pump to increase energy savings
- **(449) Irrigation Water Management**
  - Soil moisture sensors with Data Logger-help to manage water and make irrigation decisions



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# NRCS Contact Information

## **Tulelake Project Area**

**611 Man Street  
Tulelake, CA 96134  
(530) 667-4247 x 104**

## **Alturas Service Center**

**221 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
(530) 233-4137**



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