CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	**Application Number:**
Address: **Email:**	**Application Date:** **County and State:**
Telephone:	**Watershed:** **Subaccount:**
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

1. ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

2. This is an application to participate in the:

☐ **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**	☐ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
☐ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** ☐ **CSP Renewal**	☐ **Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)**
☐ **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** ☐ **EQIP** ☐ **CSP**	☐ **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** ☐ **ACEP- (WRE)** ☐ **Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)**

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

☐ **Individual**

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

Name: **Tax Number:**

☐ **Entity** (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

Name: **Tax Number:**

b) ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

☐ **Joint Operation** (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

Name: **Tax Number:**

b) ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

4. **A Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and current registrations in the System for Award Management (SAM) database are required for receiving payment under an Employer Identification Number (EIN). An EIN is also known as a Federal Tax Identification Number, and is used to identify a business entity.**

   Please note that entity-applicants must obtain a DUNS number, register it under the legal business name which matches the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records for the applicable EIN, and such legal business name must match the name identified above as the applicant requesting participation in the named program. If your entity does not have a DUNS number, information is available at **http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform To register with SAM, go to https://www.sam.gov/**

   DUNS Number: **Registration Activation Date**

5. **Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?**

   ☐ **Crop Production** **Crop Type:**
   ☐ **Livestock Production** **Livestock Type:**

6. **The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):**

   ☐ **Private Land**
   ☐ **Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)**
   ☐ **Tribal, Allotted, Ceded or Indian Land**

7. **You certify that control of the land offered under the application is evidenced by:**

   ☐ **Deed or other evidence of land ownership (required for all ACEP-WRE applications)**
   ☐ **Written lease agreement**
   Years of control are through
   ☐ **Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):**
   Years of control are through

8. ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?**

9. **Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply)**

   ☐ **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher**
   ☐ **Beginning Farmer or Rancher**
   ☐ **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher**
   ☐ **Veteran Farmer or Rancher**
   ☐ **Not Applicable**

   If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self-certification requirements. Definitions are provided below. For more information please go to this website: http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher – The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Beginning Farmer or Rancher– The term "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" means a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and who
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher- The term "Socially Disadvantaged" means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

Veteran Farmer or Rancher- The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a farmer or rancher who:

- Served in the active military, naval, or air service, and
- Who was discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable, and
- Who has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10consecutive years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

10. Is any of the land offered for enrollment under this application:

☐ **Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)**
☐ **Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP**
☐ **Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP**
☐ **Not Applicable**

Certification in any of these categories is to assist with planning and will not automatically result in the application being considered in any initiatives made available for organic-related production. Applicants must specifically request to participate in an organic initiative. Note that the EQIP Organic Initiative has a lower payment limitation ($20,000/year and $80,000 over any 6-year period per person or legal entity) than payments made to a person or legal entity under General EQIP.

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will obtain the landowner's signature on the contract or provide written authorization to install structural or vegetative practices. The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by CCC. The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify land control or certify eligibility as Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the Participant to provide accurate information to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the FSA.

Each participant that is a non-individual receiving payment under an EIN is required to be registered in the CCR on SAM.gov before submitting this application and must provide a valid DUNS number on this application. Each applicable entity must continue to maintain an active registration with current information at all times during which it has a conservation program contract/agreement or an active application under consideration. NRCS may not enter into a conservation program contract/agreement with a non-individual until the all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements have been met. If a non-individual has not fully complied with these requirements by the time NRCS is ready to award the conservation program contract/agreement, NRCS may determine that the non-individual is not qualified to receive a conservation program contract/agreement and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

11. ☐ Yes ☐ No I have received a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix.

Applicant Signature	**Date**

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To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign, and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov , or write to:

USDA
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through

the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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