

# Conservation Technical Assistance



The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CTA provides technical capabilities and expertise to a variety of landowners seeking to apply conservation practices on the land.

Utilization of CTA helps landowners accomplish greater adoption of conservation practices on their property. CTA can be used to prepare landowners for participation in financial assistance programs, but there also remains a strong demand for technical assistance from landowners not seeking any form of financial assistance. These are often landowners who want to be good stewards of their natural resources but who require assistance in planning, designing and implementing conservation practices.

## **Funding Distribution**

CTA funds are distributed through the NRCS Conservation Operations account in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. The Conservation Operations account includes CTA, the snow survey, the soil survey, the grazing lands conservation initiative, the plant material centers and computer and information technology support for all NRCS computers.

CTA funds are also used for NRCS staff to enter into cost-share agreements with state and local agencies including conservation districts. They allow local, state and federal resources to be maximized in the efficient delivery of conservation programs. Workload remains high for conservation programs while funding for CTA remains critically low.

The President's 2010 budget recommendation includes \$867,197,000 for Conservation Operations, the House-passed Agriculture appropriations bill includes \$874,397,000 and the Senate committee-passed Agriculture appropriations bill includes \$949,577,000 (including \$50 million for Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Councils which historically is funded as a separate budget line-item).

**NACD supports a funding level of \$924,446,000\* for the NRCS Conservation Operations account in the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

\*this recommended funding level does not include RC&D Councils

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**National Association of Conservation Districts**

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