

# Conservation Technical Assistance



Revised June 2010

The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). CTA provides the technical capabilities and expertise landowners need to adopt conservation practices on their property.

CTA helps landowners become better stewards of their natural resources by assisting them with resource assessment, design, planning and monitoring of conservation practices. CTA also helps landowners participate in financial assistance programs.

### **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 maximize local, state and federal resources for efficient conservation program delivery. Workload remains high for conservation programs, while funding for CTA remains critically low.

**NACD supports increased funding for the NRCS Conservation Operations account in the Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

<b>Conservation Operations (CO) (dollars in thousands)</b>	<b>FY 2009 Final</b>	<b>FY 2010 Final</b>	<b>FY 2011 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2011 NACD Recommendation</b>
<b>Enacted Budget Authority Annual Appropriations</b>	<b>\$853,400</b>	<b>\$887,629</b>	<b>\$923,729</b>	<b>\$960,678</b>

**National Association of Conservation Districts**

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