

Conservation Technical Assistance



The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) working to achieve the benefits of a healthier and more productive landscape. The CTA program provides landowners the technical assistance needed to implement conservation practices on their own lands. This expertise is provided by local conservation professionals, including employees from conservation districts, throughout the nation.

CTA helps landowners become better stewards of their natural resources by assisting them with resource assessment, practical design, planning and monitoring of conservation practices. CTA also assists landowners with constructing a conservation plan needed to identify and 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 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Conservation Operations (CO)	FY 2011 Final	FY 2012 President's Budget	FY 2012 House Bill	FY 2012 NACD Recommendation
Enacted Budget Authority Annual Appropriations	\$872 million	\$899 million	\$771 Million	\$998 million

National Association of Conservation Districts

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