



# National Association of Conservation Districts

August 15, 2019

Chief Matthew Lohr  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Lohr,

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Conservation districts work with millions of cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands in the United States.

During consideration of the 2018 Farm Bill, NACD was pleased to see Congress address the feral swine problems affecting large swaths of the United States. Conservation districts within these areas have already been working with landowners to address the natural resource problems caused by this species, and the \$75 million provided to the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a much-needed investment toward these efforts.

As NRCS reviews applications to carry out the partnership agreement that is part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP), NACD strongly encourages the agency to consider the strong local relationships and historical successes of the conservation delivery system between NRCS, state conservation agencies and local conservation districts.

This partnership across each state in the pilot project already works to deliver farm bill conservation programs and technical assistance through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program. Choosing applications that provide direct assistance through local conservation districts, their state association or through the state conservation agency, creates the best opportunity to leverage this existing delivery partnership and ensure landowners are aware of the opportunities provided through FSCP.

NACD thanks you for your consideration and for your continued support of conservation districts throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Tim Palmer  
President  
National Association of Conservation Districts