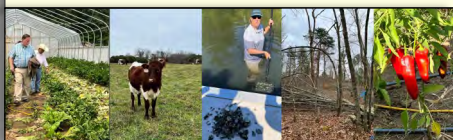


FY 2023 Conservation by the Numbers

Rhode Island NRCS provided technical assistance to draft **185 conservation plans** to improve **8,395 acres** and engineer, design, layout, and inspect conservation practices for **364 plans**, improving **17,818 acres**.

- 🌿 **844** conservation practices planned, **558** implemented (**66%**)
- 🌿 **2,366** conservation plans written on **21,235** acres
- 🌿 Certified **781** conservation practices for over **\$2.2 million** on **300** contracts
- 🌿 **17,452** acres of conservation practices applied to improve environmental quality
- 🌿 Obligated over **\$3.4 million** for **175** contracts to improve **4,911** acres through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- 🌿 Obligated over **\$303,000** for **24** contracts to improve **4,549** acres through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- 🌿 **48 percent** of EQIP funding and **35 percent** of CSP funding obligated to contracts with Beginning Farmers
- 🌿 **46 percent** of EQIP funding and **\$1.6 million** obligated to **81** contracts with Historically Underserved customers
- 🌿 Certified **78** oyster restoration practices for about **\$635,000**
- 🌿 Certified **38** forest stand improvement practices for over **\$150,000**
- 🌿 Certified **29** high tunnels for over **\$325,000**
- 🌿 Received **\$7.4 million** in Watershed Operations funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Farm Bill



NRCS greatly appreciates our partnerships with the three Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Rhode Island, the RI Association of Conservation Districts (RIACD), RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), RI State Conservation Committee (RISCC), RI Resource Conservation and Development Council (RIRC&D), and many others. Without them, we would not be able to reach our farmers and forest landowners to implement conservation systems through our voluntary programs on private lands in the state.

FY 2023 Accomplishments

Rhode Island NRCS continues to move the agency mission forward through voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs. Our employees, District partners, and others have done a tremendous job delivering and implementing conservation efforts for farmers and forest land owners in the Ocean State.

Last year, Rhode Island NRCS:

- Had an almost **80 percent** contract implementation rate.
- Processed **781 payments** to Rhode Island producers for over **\$2.2 million**.
- Applied conservation practices to improve soil quality on **211 acres** through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and **447 acres** through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program.
- Obligated over **\$10 million** for **3** Emergency Watershed Protection projects.
- Obligated almost **\$33 million** for **9** Watershed Flood Prevention (PL-566) and Habitat Improvement projects.
- Closed on one Wetland Reserve Easement for **330 acres** and one Agricultural Land Easement for **52 acres**; Managed **93** conservation easements on about **4,098 acres**.



Rhode Island State Conservationist, R. Phou "Pooh" Vongkhamdy.

In FY 2023 Rhode Island NRCS funded **9** new cooperative agreements for over **\$3 million** and **2** competitive Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for **\$168,000** for Climate Smart conservation mapping, planning, training and outreach; watershed conservation, flood prevention, planning, and implementation; and water quality improvement.

NRCS will continue to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in conservation program delivery, technical assistance, and employment as we aim for another successful year by increasing staff in our field offices and state office and prioritizing technical training for our employees.

FY 2023 Program Highlights

Last year, approximately **\$3.7 million** was obligated in Farm Bill funding and **\$1.88 million** in conservation technical assistance (CTA) to help Rhode Island land users; local, state and federal government agencies; and communities plan and implement conservation systems.

Farm Bill Program	Obligated Funds	Number of Contracts	Total Acres
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$3.4M	174	4,878
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	\$0.35M ¹	24	4,549
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	\$0.19M	11	57.8
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	\$1.83M	12 ¹	712.9 ¹
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	\$1M	1 new ALE agreement ²	12

¹ Tentative selections for Rhode Island Forest Health Works RCPP.
² ALE = Agricultural Land Easements

Our Mission

We deliver conservation solutions so farmers and forest landowners can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Our Vision

A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving communities through voluntary conservation.

Visit our website at: www.RI.nrcs.usda.gov

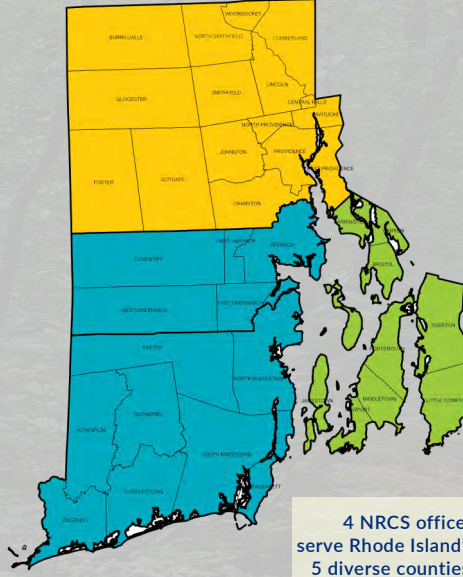


NRCS — Who We Are... What We Do



NRCS in Rhode Island helps our farmers and forest landowners make conservation work for them through science-based conservation planning and implementation. The system of practices we promote helps clients improve production, reduce input costs, and conserve natural resources for the future. We also provide funding to help with the costs of putting conservation on the ground and improving soil health, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, climate resilience, and other natural resource benefits.

As of September 30, 2023, we had **36 NRCS employees** working in Rhode Island's 3 field offices and the Warwick State Office. In FY 2023, NRCS partnerships included **20** active contribution, cooperative, and grant agreements for over **\$45 million**, supporting **11 field positions** and numerous projects.



Rhode Island Goals

FY 2023

Implement 2018 Farm Bill

Ensure equity in the delivery and implementation of all NRCS programs and services.

Support resilient, climate-smart agriculture, forestry and watersheds in Rhode Island by promoting a wide diversity of practices and programs.

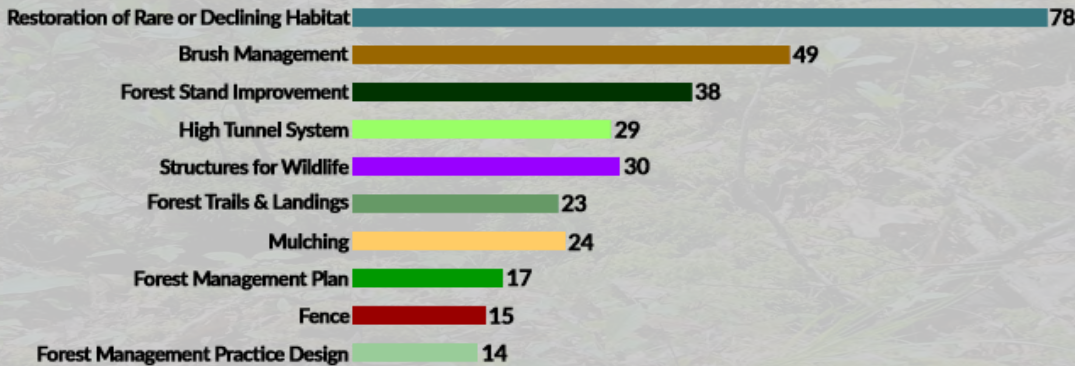
Leverage innovative partnerships to expand NRCS' ability to get conservation on the ground effectively and efficiently.

Make Rhode Island NRCS a desirable place to work. Cultivate a complete and diverse workforce that has the right tools, technologies and training to uphold the agency's scientific integrity.

Top 10 Practices in 2023



List of the top 10 most-certified non-CSP conservation practices in Rhode Island in fiscal year 2023.



Soil



About Our Programs...

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible farmers and forest landowners to help apply conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): CSP helps farmers and forest landowners maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. ACEP contains Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) and Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) components.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): RCPP is merit-based and targets specific vulnerable areas and is administered through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

Water



Air



Plants



Animals

