

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(NRCS)**

“Helping People Help The Land”

Jacob Kuhn  
Lexington, Kentucky

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- **Provides direct technical (on-site) and financial assistance to private landowners for the application of conservation practices that improve or maintain farm, ranch, timber, and wildlife lands and natural resources**

# Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

## Conservation Programs

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to agriculture and forestry producers to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals
- Enhanced opportunity to obtain a forest management plan on private and tribal land

# **Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008**

## **Conservation Programs**

### **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

- Assists landowners to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private or Tribal land
  - Technical assistance provided by a biologist and forester
  - Cost-share assistance available to private landowners to improve wildlife habitat

# Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- *administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.*
- *Authorized by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters.*
- *Provides technical and financial assistance to protect life and property threatened by flooding and excessive erosion.*
- *Damages must be related to a recent storm event.*

## ***Emergency Watershed Protection Program***

- Sponsors can be any unit of State or Local government.
- Sponsors provide legal authority to complete work, obtain permits, contribute funds or in kind services, and maintain all completed emergency measures.
- Cost share rates are typically set at 75% but can be as high as 90 % in certain situations.
- Protection measures – remove stream channel blockages (woody and sediment debris) and install stream bank stabilization to protect public infrastructure.

## **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP-FPE)**

- The purpose of the EWPP-FPE is to purchase floodplain easements on eligible lands and to restore the floodplain functions and values to natural conditions to the greatest extent practical.
- Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, floodwater retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion.



## For more information

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 210  
Lexington, KY 40503  
859-224-7350  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

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