



Government Programs for Small Farms

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County Land Conservation Departments-LCD, LCC

- **Technical & Financial Assistance**
- **Design assistance for ponds, dams, erosion control structures, barnyards, streambank stabilization, waterways, conservation plans, water crossings & watering areas**
- **Assistance with state & federal cost share programs**

Natural Resources Conservation Service -NRCS

- **Technical assistance with federal conservation programs such as CRP, WRP**
- **Assists landowners with application of financial assistance through FSA**
- **Conducts compliance checks for federal conservation programs**
- **Engineering specialists in soils, wetlands, cultural resources, & conservation BMP's**

Conservation Reserve Program

● CRP

- **Announced sign-ups**
- **Competitive**
- **Establishment of prairies, savanna, forests, wildlife habitat**
- **Annual payment + costshare on establ.**

● Continuous CRP

- **Continuous sign-up**
- **Non-competitive**
- **Windbrks, waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands**
- **Annual payment + up to 90% cost share**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program-CREP

- **85,000 ac. Of riparian buffers & filter strips**
- **15,000 ac. Of wildlife habitat as grasslands**
- **Rental payments of 135 to 160 % cash rental**
- **Signing Incentive of \$150 per acre for riparian buffers, filter strips & waterways**
- **Up to 90% cost share assistance**
- **Eligibility: land must be cropped 2 out of the past 5 years or pasture in riparian area**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program-EQIP

- **May not be funded in the new farm bill**
- **Provides up to 75% cost sharing on conservation BMP's**
- **Priority areas and annual sign-up**
- **Annual is a competitive application**



WI Forest Landowner Grant Program - WFLGP

- **65% cost sharing on on forestry practices**
- **Tree planting, mngt. Plans, TSI, wildlife habitat, stream protection**
- **must own 10 acres of contiguous forest**
- **Max of \$10,000 per year**
- **DNR forester is the contact**



Managed Forest Law -MFL

- **Purpose: To promote good forest mngt through property tax incentives**
- **Eligibility: Min. of 10 ac. -80% merchantable**
- **Contract: 25 or 50 yrs - 5% tax on harvest**
- **Public Access: up to 80 ac. Can be closed**
- **Contact: DNR forester in your county**
- **Mngt: Must conform to forest mngt. Plan**

Farmland Preservation Program - FPP-Administered by Co. LCD

- **Preserves farmland through zoning while conserving soil & providing tax relief**
- **Must own 35 acres +**
- **Farmers qualify if their land is zoned or if an agreement is signed w/DATCP**



Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claim Program- LCD, DNR

- **Provides abatement & payments for wildlife damage**
- **Deer, bear, geese**
- **Covers orchards, ag. Crops, commercial seedings, nurseries**
- **Fencing, shooting permits, cannons**

Deer picture here

Grants Available for Small Acreage Options Implementation

- **DATCP-ADD: Primarily funds feasibility studies and marketing projects**
- **SARE Producer Grant : proposals that test, evaluate & adapt sustainable ag practices**
- **USDA Value-added Ag Product Market Development Grants: Development of Ag Producer-owned processing business**
- **Organic Farming Research Foundation: transition or integration into organic ag.**

Farm subsidies

- **Administered through Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
- **Ag Markets Transition Act (AMTA) payments**
 - **Product of the '96 Farm Bill**
 - **Seven years of payments not tied to crop production**
 - **Farm must be eligible**
 - **Payment goes to person with risk in the crop**

Farm subsidies (continued)

• **Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP)**

- **Paid on “program” crops (corn, soybeans, etc.)**
- **Occasionally paid on other crops (ex. honey)**
- **Kick in when “Posted County Price” (PCP) falls below the county’s “loan rate”**

• **FSA also makes disaster payments when weather conditions are unfavorable**

- **It’s worth asking about when you have a lousy crop**

Loans & Loan guarantees

• **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

- **Direct and guaranteed loans**
- **Emphasis on beginning farmers**
- **Low interest, low down-payment, flexible terms**

• **WI Department of Commerce (DOC)**

- **Loan guarantees to reduce interest rate**
- **Loans are originated with local lender**
- **Some small grants also available from DOC**

Info on Government Regulations

- **WI Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**
 - **Food processing**
 - **Food labeling**
 - **Licensing**
 - **Weights and measures**
- **Check with local zoning office when opening a farm-based retail business**

Educational programs

- **UW-Extension**
 - **County offices**
 - **Small Business Development Centers**
- **Technical college farm management classes**

Helpful information

- **Link to all state agencies**
www.wisconsin.gov
- **Department of Commerce phone #**
1-800-HELPBUS
- **DATCP Farmer Hotline**
1-800-942-2474
- **DATCP web page**
datcp.state.wi.us
- **NRCS web page**
www.nrcs.usda.gov
- **North Central SARE web page**
www.sare.org/ncrsare

Questions?

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