

## Texas Climate-Smart Initiative

**300**  
Applications

**93**  
Initial Planning Calls

**36**  
In-Person Site Visits

**9**  
Different Conservation Practices

## Conservation Reserve Program

**323**  
Status Reviews

**275**  
Producers received Technical Assistance

**31,113**  
Total Acres

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Technical Assistance to Landowners

The TSSWCB applied for a technical assistance grant on behalf of the states' 216 soil and water conservation districts who will utilize \$985,000 in funding from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to aid in expanding conservation technical assistance for Farm Bill activities in Texas. The District, TSSWCB, and NRCS have a common objective to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources through voluntary private lands conservation. The results of this effort will increase conservation planning and practice implementation on private lands utilizing Farm Bill resources which include:

- (a) Develop new and update existing conservation plans utilizing the NRCS 9 Step Planning Process by planning NRCS conservation practices to help the participant meet their goals and objectives.
- (b) Conduct site visits as needed throughout the practice establishment period to ensure conservation practice establishment and performance success.
- (c) Certify installed conservation practices according to NRCS standards and specifications and program criteria.
- (d) Conduct associated programmatic status reviews.

## NRCS Texas Partners For Conservation Grant

The On-The-Ground Conservation Program applied for funding to provide technical assistance, administrative support, coordination, outreach, etc. for watershed program activities that are not already specified as responsibilities of the sponsoring local organization under another agreement or regulation. The funding will provide the local SWCD sponsor in hiring a district employee to provide technical assistance on the 252 flood control structures relating to the operation, maintenance, repair, inspection, and administration of TSSWCB Flood Control grants on flood control dams within Montague, Cooke, and Grayson Counties.

***The TSSWCB is currently collecting the contact information for individuals that are interested in participating, and will reach out to them at the appropriate time. Please make sure you sign-up to receive the latest information!***



### **For More Information:**

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# Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

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## Overview

The On-The-Ground Conservation Program was created by senate Bill 1118 during the 87th Texas Legislative Session and was signed into law by the Governor to be effective September 1, 2021. The new law enhances the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's (TSSWCB) jurisdiction to include a wide range of natural resource priorities, authorizes the agency to provide voluntary technical and financial assistance toward the implementation of conservation practices to address those priorities, and directs the agency to form partnerships and seek out funding opportunities from other federal, state, or local governmental agencies and private entities. The primary focus of this new program is implementation, especially in partnership with other efforts that offer similar services.

## Eligible Natural Resource Priorities

- ▶ Improve **soil health** characteristics
- ▶ Conserve and manage **water resources**
- ▶ Prevent and manage **flooding**
- ▶ Control **invasive and nuisance species**
- ▶ Improve resilience to **weather extremes, climate variability, and natural disasters**
- ▶ Protect and enhance native habitats, including the **protection of endangered species**
- ▶ Mitigate and reduce **soil erosion**
- ▶ Restore **land damaged by development**
- ▶ **Sequester carbon** to provide environmental benefits

## Voluntary Texas Climate-Smart Initiative

The Texas Climate-Smart Initiative (TCSI) is a partnership between Texas A&M AgriLife Research and many commodity organizations across Texas that seeks to incentivize the implementation of conservation practices that sequester carbon in the ground and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2022, Texas A&M AgriLife Research applied for and received a \$65 million grant under the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities announcement from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The TSSWCB is partnering with Texas AgriLife Research to conduct the technical and financial assistance delivery for individuals that participate in the initiative. Approximately \$39 million will be directed to program participants as practice incentives.

Eligible TCSI will receive technical assistance and financial incentive for the installation of climate-smart practices on their land. Many of the supported climate-smart practices, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, also promote soil health, a core priority of the TSSWCBs On-The-Ground Conservation Program.

Once an application is approved by Texas A&M AgriLife, the TSSWCB will work with the producer to develop a conservation plan, disperse payment, perform status reviews and certifications of installed practices and assist the producer throughout the implementation process. TCSI will offer support to participants through 2028.

Individuals interested in participating in TCSI should visit [climate-smart.tamu.edu](http://climate-smart.tamu.edu) to apply for the program.



## ON THE GROUND

TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD