

Assistance in Implementing Alternative Crops

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Objectives

- Increase awareness of the variety of support programs offered by Federal agencies
- Gain a better knowledge of the extent of services provided by Cooperative Extension at the local and national levels
- Develop the confidence to undertake a new venture, knowing there are support systems in place

Farm Support Programs

Farm Bill Program

- United State Department of Agriculture
 - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Rural Development (RD)
 - National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Close to every 5 years the United States Congress passes new legislation for a new Farm Bill.

2002, 2007, 2012

USDA Programs

- 2006 – Producers were surveyed by the GAO about the top 6 conservation programs
 - Compensation for easements and rental property payments for specific land uses on the property, which included cost-share payments.
 - Each program has a specific set of rules
 - Key- The design of the conservation plan

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

- Established 2002
- Assists landowners in restoring and protecting grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands while maintaining areas for grazing.
- Emphasizes support for working grazing operations
- Offers different enrollment options
 - Permanent easement
 - Thirty-year easement
 - Both permanent and thirty-year easement
 - Rental agreement
 - Restoration agreement

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Established in 1985
- Designed to safeguard highly erodible or other highly sensitive qualified lands.
- Provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance for planting long-term, resource-conserving vegetation to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat
- Can include land taken out of agriculture production to establish a vegetative cover to conserve soil.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Established in 1996
- Offers financial and technical assistance to private landowners, tribes and qualifying groups to implement structural and management practices on eligible agriculture land.
- Minimum term of one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice and a minimum term of ten years.
- Cost-share for conservation practices up to 75%-90%

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Established in 1996
- Encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife population of national, state, tribal and local significance.
- Technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat areas on private property
- Contracts from 5 -10 years – offering cost-share assistance for practices.
- Limits on number of acres enrolled and payments

Agriculture Management Assistance (AMA)

- Established in 2002
- Address issues involving water management, water quality and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices in farming operations
- Producers have the ability to construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structure, plant trees for windbreaks or improve water quality
- Mitigates risk through production diversification or conservation practices

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Federal Cooperative Extension under USDA
- Creates state partnership which in turn creates a county partnership.
 - Federal – State – County Partnership
- National database <http://www.extension.org/>
- Resources for information
- Western Farm Management Extension Committee
 - Economists – created database of online courses, publications and other useful tools

New 2008 or 2012 Programs

- Regulations are constantly changing
- Already lobbying for 2012 Farm Bill
- Must work with agency professionals on specific programs
- Professionals must try and meet Nevada needs