NRCS Update
Betsy Dierberger, National Agronomist
NRCS Updates

Chief’s Priority Team Directors:
- Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry- Diane Gelbud
- Racial Justice and Equity- Vivian Dixon
- Urban Agriculture- Rafael Guerrero

Staffing
- Acting Deputy Chief for Science and Technology- Xavier Montoya
- Acting Director Ecological Sciences Division- Travis Thomason
- Acting Soil Health Division Director- Brandon Smith
NRCS Updates

Conservation Practice Standards

• National Conservation Practice Handbook
  • 27 revised standards
• Federal Register Comment
  • Revisions proposed (3 agronomy)
• Cover Crop 340
  • No changes from 2014
Conservation Activity Plan Transition

- Technical Service Provider Continuous Process Improvement
  - 2002 Farm Bill, 2003 roll out
  - 2020 10 Teams develop future process states and recommendations

- Conservation Planning and Program Delivery- Deputy Chief Jimmy Bramblett

- Conservation Activity Plans
  - Plan development
  - FY09-FY10 12 CAPs
TSP CPI: Transition Needed
- More clarity and instruction
- Consistent with 9 steps of planning
- Improved quality and relations
- Congressional focus for NRCS to increase work with TSPs

Repackaged CAPs
- Conservation Planning Activities (CPA)
- Design and Implementation Activities (DIA)
- Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMA)
NRCS Updates

Urban Agriculture
Soil Testing
Small Scale Producers

Certified Crop Adviser Conservationist of the Year award nominations open

PFAS animal mortality
Nominations are now open for the
2021 CCA Conservationist of the Year Award

The Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Conservationist of the Year Award is designed to annually recognize a certified crop adviser who delivers exceptional conservation advice and results, customer service, is highly innovative, has shown that they are a leader in conservation, and has contributed substantially to the exchange of conservation ideas and the transfer of conservation knowledge within the agriculture industry.

The award recipient may be an independent CCA or a company employee and will receive:

- Special recognition at an United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) event and with a press release to their local news media.
- A commemorative plaque.
- A one-year membership or membership renewal in the American Society of Agronomy.
- A $2,000 cash award.

The award is supported by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Retailers Association, American Society of Agronomy, CropLife America, Crop Science Society of America, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Soil Science Society of America, and The Fertilizer Institute. The American Society of Agronomy administers the award.

Nominations are open through September 28, 2021.

Learn More or Submit Your Nomination