



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Annual Governor's Conference
on the Future of Water in
Kansas



Matthew Lohr
Chief, NRCS

November 7, 2019



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Where my story begins....



1880's

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Valley Pike Farm, Inc.



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



This is why I believe in conservation



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



A scenic view of a river with green water and a forested bank. The water is a vibrant green color, and the banks are lined with trees and vegetation. The text "Conservation in Concert with Water Needs in Kansas" is overlaid on the image in white font.

Conservation in Concert with Water Needs in Kansas

It All Begins At The Local Level

Local Work Groups are convened by local SWCD to provide advice to NRCS on:

- Ranking resource concerns to address specific land uses
- Recommending allocation percentages to each land use
- Providing input to conservationists for program direction
- Gathering input from an advisory standpoint
- Making screening tool recommendations
- Public outreach efforts



State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

- Required by the 1985 Food Security Act (1985 Farm Bill) Title XII.
- The Secretary of Agriculture delegated implementation of the committee to NRCS.
- Chaired by NRCS STC, but used by other USDA agencies as needed.
- Provide information, analysis and recommendations regarding USDA programs
- Are an advisory group
- NRCS is charged to give strong consideration to recommendations of group



Conservation Delivery through Technical and Financial Assistance FY19 (Kansas)

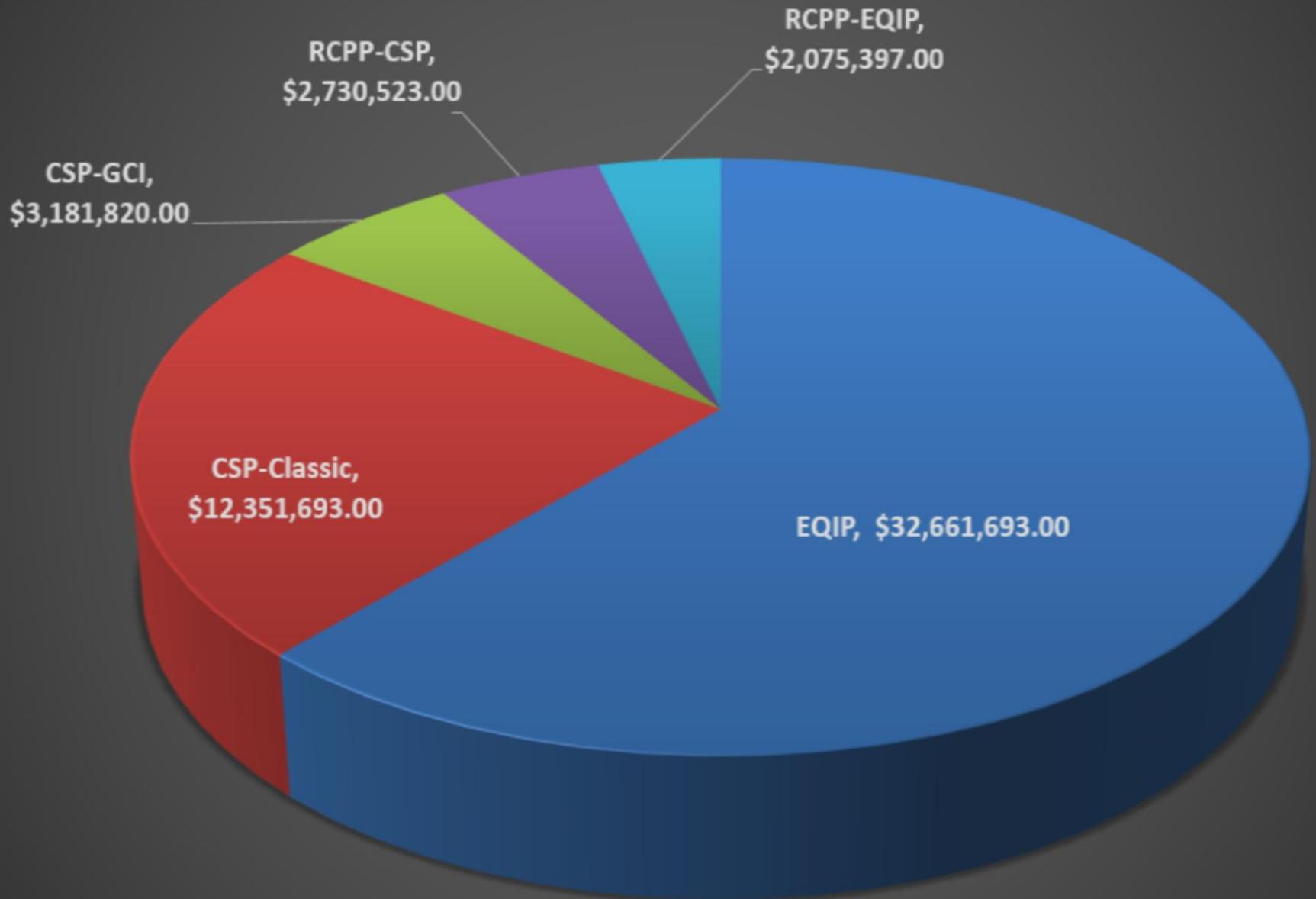
Farm Bill programs:

- CSP “Classic”
- CSP Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GCI)
- EQIP
- RCPP/EQIP
- RCPP/CSP)
- **Contracts Obligated – 2,083**
- **Dollars Obligated - \$53,001,126.00**
- **Estimated Nationally - \$4 Billion for all Farm Bill programs**



Kansas

FY19 Farm Bill Contract Obligations



Conservation Practices Benefiting Water Quality

Primary Resource Concerns:

- **Water quality degradation - nutrients in groundwater and surface water**
- **Pesticides in groundwater and surface water, Excessive sediment in surface water**

Most Common Practices:

- **Cover Crop**
- **Nutrient Management**
- **Critical Area Planting**
- **Terraces**
- **Grassed Waterway**
- **Underground Outlet**



National Water Quality Initiative 2012 – 2018 Investment (EQIP) and Outcomes in Kansas

FY	# of Contracts	Acres Treated	Obligation \$\$
2012	35	7,005	\$514,936
2013	34	4,843	\$1,305,174
2014	20	1,771	\$361,218
2015	21	2,758	\$400,397
2016	13	1,869	\$328,165
2017	20	3,092	\$614,298
2018	10	1,171	\$194,740
Total	153	22,509	\$3,718,930

Source: USDA-FPAC-READ, October 2018

Current NWQI Watersheds

Pollutants Prevented from Leaving
Crop Fields Estimated with CEAP:
FY17-FY18

Sediment	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Soldier Creek (1,800 acres treated)		
628 tons	17,280 lbs	2,470 lbs
Mud Creek (1,058 acres treated)		
379 tons	8,165 lbs	1,300 lbs

Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP) statistical framework and calibrated modeling system used to estimate the amount of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus reduced in NWQI small watersheds

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Conservation Practices Benefiting Water Quantity

Primary Resource Concerns:

- **Insufficient water: Inefficient use of irrigation water and inefficient moisture management**



Most Common Practices:

- **Irrigation System, micro irrigation**
- **Irrigation pipeline**
- **Irrigation water management**



Resource Concern Priorities: Water Quality and Water Quantity

NRCS will continue to address water quality concerns through EQIP, CSP and RCPP.

- This Conservation Title also requires collaboration with community water systems and state technical committees. A minimum level of 10 percent of conservation program funding, other than CRP, is to be used for source water protection.
- Water quality and water quantity practices that protect source water may have increased payment rates (not to exceed 90%).



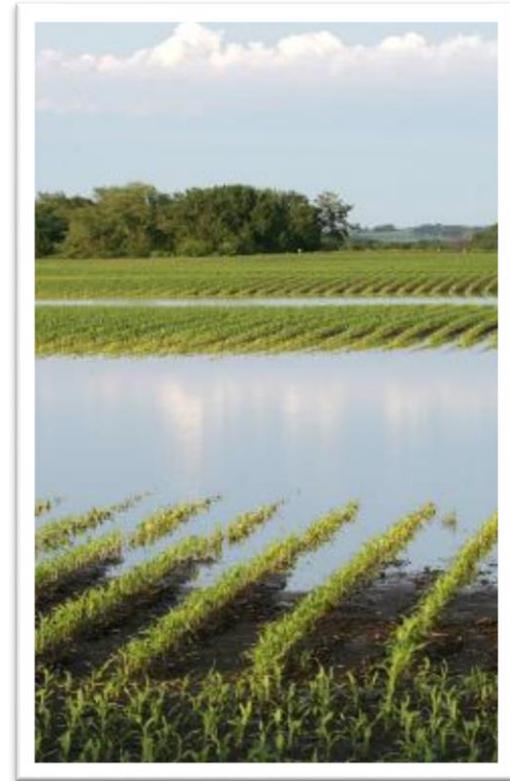
Source Water Protection

- Should be considered in all programs; at least 10% of funding (except CREP) so approximately \$320 to \$377 million annually will be available nationwide.
- Certain entities (e.g., states, irrigation districts, etc.), are now eligible for water conservation and system efficiency practices.



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) During Disaster

- Prolonged and heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding in 2019—making it difficult for producers to plant crops.
- The Kansas Flood Recovery Initiative provided technical and financial assistance to producers in disaster declared counties.
- Producers were eligible to plant cover crops on cropland where flooding or extremely wet conditions prevented crops to be planted



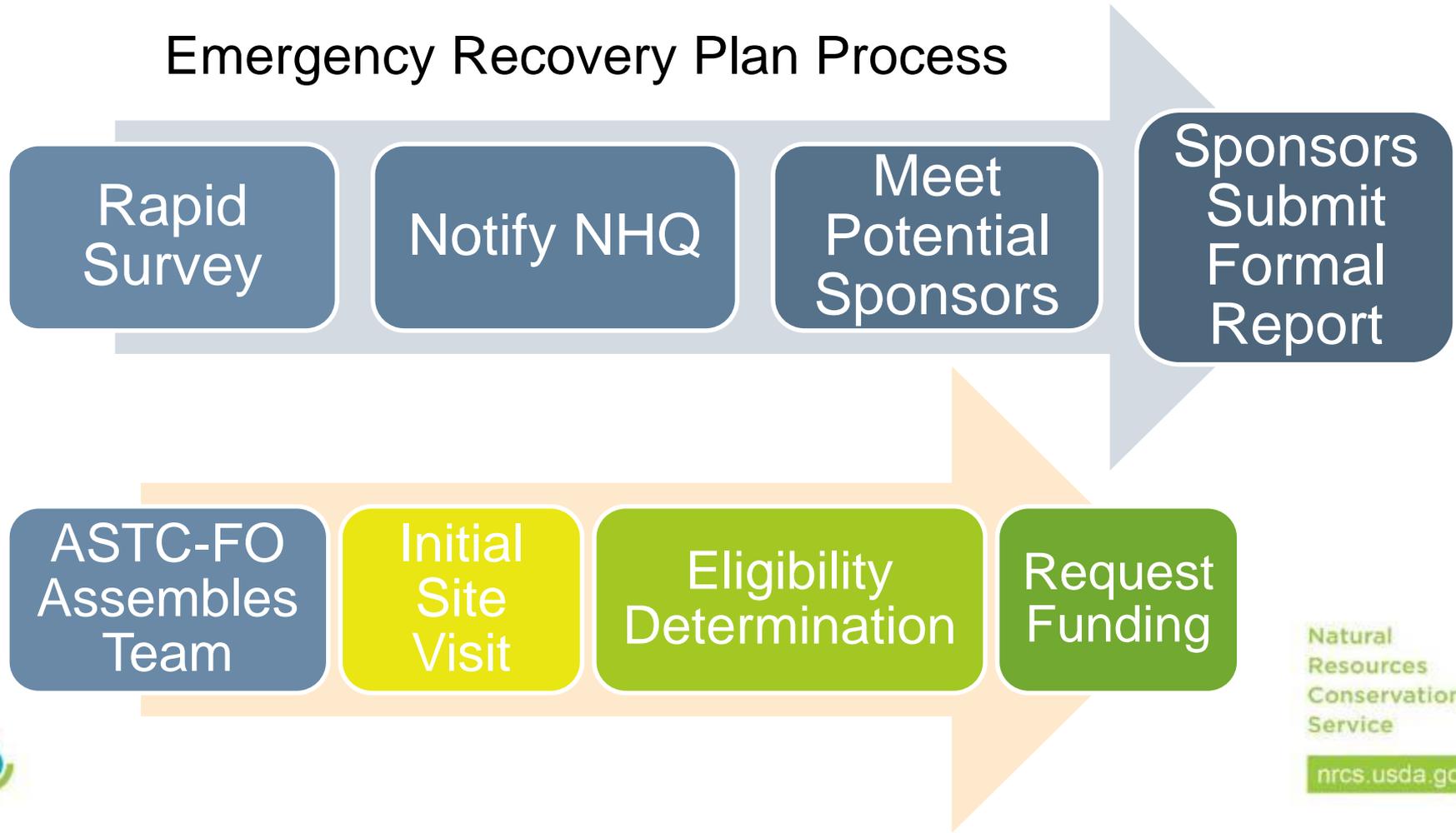
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Emergency Recovery Plan Process



NRCS/Sponsor EWP projects can include conservation practices such as:

- Remove debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges
- Reshape and protect eroded streambanks
- Correct damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
- Establish vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
- Repair levees and structures
- Repair conservation practices



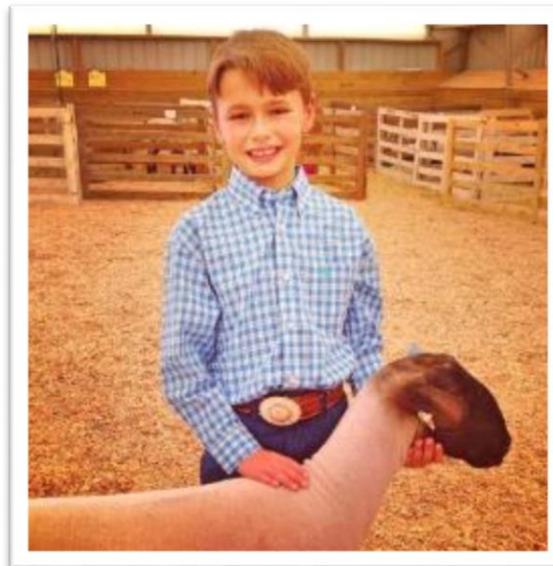


**We are all partners
in conservation**

We must remain focused on our

Guiding values

- *Loving the land*
- *Serving our farmers*
- *Working hard*
- *Doing the right thing*
- *Partnering*
- *Caring*
- *Being an example for others*
- *Leaving a legacy*



**Thanks for
the chance
to be a
part of the
team!**



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

