

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
(Hillsborough/Pinellas) District Conservationist Report

DC Name: LESLIE DIAZ-ALVAREZ

HSWCD Board Meeting Date: 11/6/2024

NRCS Farm Bill Programs:

Program Titles: Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Updates:

- Received **82** applications for FY2025 – **EQIP Classic**
- Received **17** applications for FY2025 – **CSP Classic**

Status: inventory and evaluation, cost estimator- TBD

*****USDA DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING HURRICANE Milton**

Received **46** applications for FY2024 – **Emergency EQIP**

Application deadline: **October 18th- December 20th, 2024- 'First Come, First Serve'**

Status: inventory& evaluation, cost estimator and ranking (1ST Batching)- **November 11th, 2024.**

NRCS can provide payments, through conservation program contracts, for EQIP conservation practices that help producers address disaster related resource concerns on their land.

To expedite disaster recovery, NRCS is issuing early start waivers to allow commencement of key conservation practices prior to conservation program contract approval.

- An early start waiver is not a guarantee of conservation program payment.
- Waiver approval is contingent upon work not having been started on the conservation practice(s) before the date this waiver was approved.
- Producers are asked to file an EQIP application and a waiver before they start an EQIP conservation practice. **Producers may submit application responses by email or phone.**
- Conservation practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications for the producer or landowner to receive payment.
- EQIP conservation practices offered for financial assistance are listed below:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Pastureland

Woody residue treatment (384)

Forestland

Woody residue treatment (384)

Tree/shrub establishment (612)

Cropland-regular

\$50,000 assistance cap

Mulching/plastic (484)

High tunnel system (325)

Cropland-Citrus

590-Nutrient Management

595- Pest management conservation system

Irrigated Lands

Center pivots/Irrigation system (442) and facilitating practices

Animal Mortality

Emergency animal mortality management and facilitating practices (386)



FSA Assisted Farm Bill Programs:

Program Titles: Food Security Act - Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance HEL & Wetland Provision Updates:

Number of Determinations:

- **2** pending wetland determinations.

Conservation Programs Contracts: Management & Maintenance Activities i.e. No. of Contract Reviews, No. of Payments & Total \$, No. of Cancellations & Terminations, No. of Modifications, No of ROOT Determination Reviews, expiring contracts

- **20** Annual Reviews and FY24 CSP Payments processed - **\$268,684.18**

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Other:

- I have accepted a new position at the State Office in Gainesville. I will be the new EQIP Program Specialist, and my last day at the field office will be **December 29th, 2024**.

I enjoyed working at Plant City FO for over three years. Helping our producers and ranchers implement conservation practices is very rewarding for me, and my heart is full of emotions.

- Farm Service Agency is offering incentives to relieve our clients of the effects of Hurricanes Milton and Debby. The practices include fence installation, debris removal, etc. You should contact Marcinda Kester if you would like more information.

Work phone: 863-800-9077

Email: marcinda.kester@usda.gov