

# Illinois At-A-Glance

## FY2019



### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Accomplishments in Illinois

The information below captures the program and compliance activities in Illinois during fiscal year (FY) 2019. Federal funds are allocated and organized in separate funding pools in order to direct funds to specific resource issues or watershed locations. FA = Financial Assistance funds and BF = Beginning Farmer.

#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Funding Pools	Contracts	Acres Enrolled	FA Obligated
General EQIP	74	10,319	\$3,746,497
Confined Livestock-Manure Management	15	5,475	\$3,830,236
Grazing Land Operations	23	1,864	\$1,996,657
Forest Management Implementation	25	1,255	\$408,734
On-Farm Energy	7	5,670	\$15,197
Organic Certified	2	670	\$71,784
Organic Transition	7	805	\$112,336
Specialty Crop	20	103	\$179,196
Wildlife Habitat Conservation	11	120	\$64,602
<b>Illinois Initiatives</b>			
Monarch Butterfly Project	26	203	\$189,705
Conservation Drainage	1	148	\$41,959
Urban Ag - Cook County	5	1	\$34,437
<b>Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)</b>			
Clinton Lake Watershed	7	1,105	\$178,760
Crow - Clear Creek Watershed	7	1,069	\$178,017
Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed	8	582	\$163,270
Vermilion Headwaters Watershed	13	1,869	\$230,780
<b>National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)</b>			
Crooked Creek Watershed	12	610	\$396,554
<b>Conservation Activity Plans</b>			
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	30	2,054	\$209,756
Drainage Water Management Plan	2	224	\$4,572
Forest Management Plan	94	5,332	\$140,156
Grazing Management Plan	30	2,828	\$63,157
Irrigation Water Management Plan	1	1,335	\$2,454
Nutrient Management Plan	1	684	\$2,994
<b>Total</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>44,325</b>	<b>\$12,261,810</b>

#### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Funding Pools	Contracts	Acres Enrolled	FA Obligated
Statewide Ag Lands	127	110,798	\$9,431,372
Statewide Ag Lands - BF	24	7,751	\$1,142,150
Statewide NIPF	45	2,936	\$1,047,925
Statewide NIPF -BF	10	310	\$185,014
Grassland Conservation Initiative	30	843	\$75,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>122,638</b>	<b>\$11,882,381</b>

#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP-CSP)

Funding Pools	Contracts	Acres Enrolled	FA Obligated
IL's Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed Partnership	1	1,186	\$53,067
Precision Conservation Management	38	42,928	\$2,335,192
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44,114</b>	<b>\$2,388,259</b>

#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP-EQIP)

Funding Pools	Contracts	Acres Enrolled	FA Obligated
BMP Implementation for Nutrient and Sediment Loss	9	655	\$121,945
IL's Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed Partnership	3	599	\$77,939
Improving Oak - Hickory Forest Health in Illinois	58	3,306	\$777,941
MRB-Big Bend Enhancing Water-Soil-Habitat Quality	20	3,241	\$662,578
Shorebird Conservation Acreage via Drainage Water	7	1,772	\$189,016
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>9,573</b>	<b>\$1,829,419</b>

All contract information has been obtained from ProTracts data pulled October 1, 2019 and certified by the Illinois NRCS State Office.

## Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Program	Easements	Acres Protected	FA Obligated
ACEP - WRE	7	1,403	\$5,300,000
ACEP - WRE	Dollars for restoration and acquisition of existing agreements and easements		\$410,000
Backlog	Potential Easements	Acres to Protect	FA to Fund All Acres
ACEP - WRE	58	8,900	\$35,000,000
ACEP - ALE	1	60	\$92,000
Monitoring Completed = 479 Easements (75% completed on site.)			

ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)	Emergent Wetland Acres	Bottomland Forested Wetlands
New wetlands protected	1,256	1,678
New wetlands restored	120	181
Existing wetlands enhanced	180	0

ACEP-Agriculture Land Easements (ALE)	Number of Easements	Acres
Ag land conversion protection	1	119

## Compliance Efficiencies

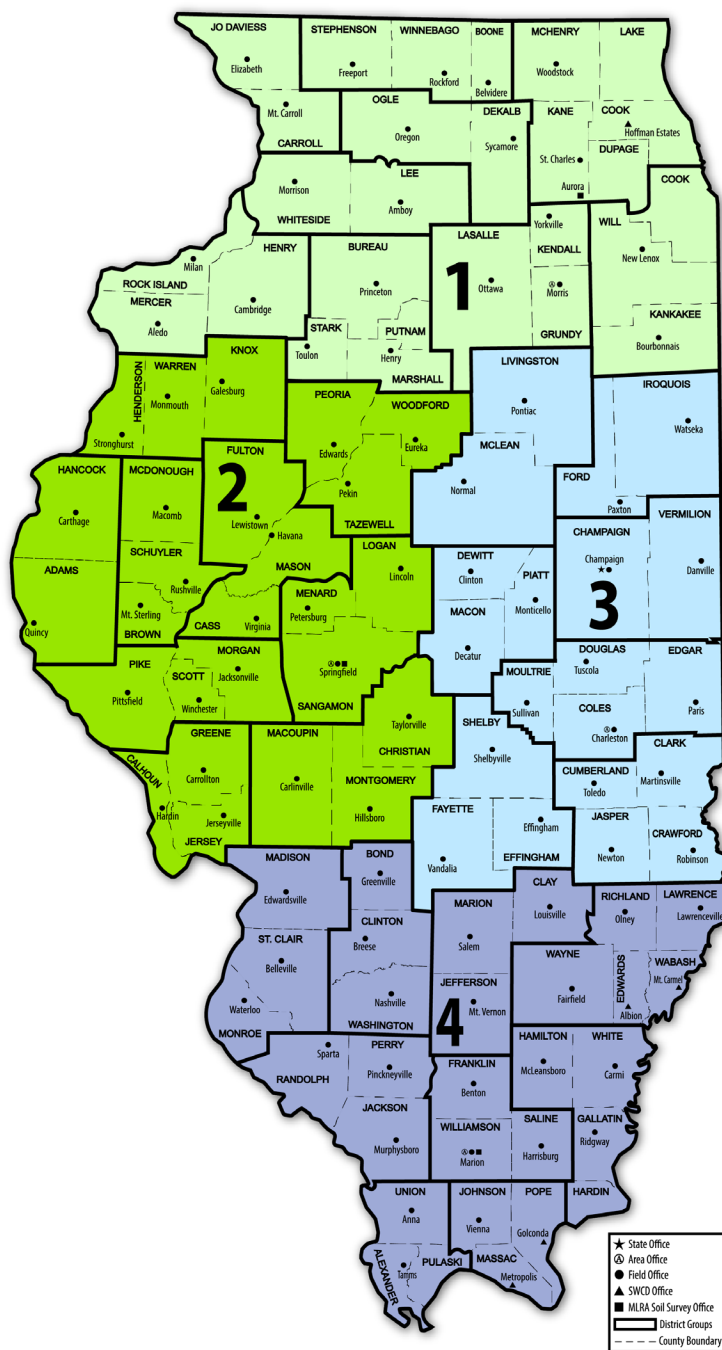
NRCS is required to make **Highly Erodible Land Conservation** determinations to verify highly erodible land is being farmed in accordance with a conservation plan or system approved by NRCS. NRCS is also required to conduct **Wetland Conservation** determinations to establish if certain technical exemptions apply, such as land is prior converted cropland or to see if a wetland conversion has occurred.

These tasks require technically trained staff to review digital aerial photos and conduct onsite field visits to gather data/information and interpret technical findings. To improve the speed and efficiency of the processes, NRCS streamlined statewide processes using a team of specialists who complete wetland and HEL determinations. The team also manages all incoming compliance requests, compliance mailings, and compiles digital aerial imagery and historic compliance files for Illinois USDA program participating farmers and landowners. NRCS has made significant improvement in the time needed to complete the technical determinations and delivers consistent products and services.

NRCS reduced the average number of days for backlog wetland requests by 16% since June 2018. State office compliance staff completed 26% of statewide wetland determinations for FY19 and 37% of statewide HEL determinations.

Determinations	Received FY19	Completed FY19	Avg. Response
Wetlands	1,943	1,872	64 days
HEL	1,817	1,793	81 days

## Illinois NRCS Organizational Structure



## For more information, contact:

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