

# Military Veteran Farmers

Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Overview

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services receive preference and higher payment rates for certain NRCS conservation programs offered in the 2018 Farm Bill. These voluntary conservation programs benefit both agricultural producers and the environment and include financial and technical assistance.

## How It Works

Preference will be given to eligible Veteran Farmers or Ranchers applying for several types of conservation financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. These include improved water and air quality, conserved surface and ground water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat. As a veteran you are eligible to receive a higher payment rate and “advance payment,” or getting some funds up front, for projects funded through EQIP.

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance — the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

## Who is Eligible?

An eligible Veteran Farmer or Rancher:

- Became a veteran during the last ten years; or
- Has not operated a farm or ranch; or hasn't operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years;

For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a Veteran Farmer or Rancher entity, all members must meet the above definition. A Veteran Farmer or Rancher may also qualify as a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher by meeting additional criteria.

## How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

## More Information

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/veterans](https://nrcs.usda.gov/veterans) or [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov).



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