



## Who are the Conservation Agencies & How do I contact them?

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## USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Who is the NRCS?	The Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS, is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service. NRCS is responsible for the technical aspects of USDA programs, and works closely with the Farm Service Agency in the administration of these programs. It has national responsibility for helping America's farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners develop and carry out voluntary efforts to conserve and protect our natural resources.
What can NRCS do for me?	This agency offers or oversees several programs to assist with conservation practices, improvement of wildlife cover, and reduction in erosion. These programs provide cost-share payments, rental payments, easement programs, and technical assistance. The local NRCS staff can assist in developing conservation plans to detail the practices necessary to protect your land from erosion, improve water quality, and create better fish and wildlife habitat. They also make recommendations for crop management, and help with the design of terraces, waterways, and ponds while suggesting plant species that best meet your resource needs.

### How to Contact: Your county NRCS office

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of USDA offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• Information will be listed under USDA Service Center or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.</li> <li>• Click on "Complete Office Listing" in the upper right-hand corner for more detailed information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under "United States Government" followed by "Agriculture- Department of" in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service</li> <li>• May also be listed as Soil Conservation Service</li> <li>• USDA Service Center</li> <li>• Includes FSA, NRCS, and Conservation District</li> </ul>



## USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Who is RC&D?	The Resource Conservation and Development, or RC&D, is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). RC&D is a unique program that is led by local volunteer councils. The RC&D helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources. Program objectives address improving the quality of life, continuing prudent use of natural resources and strengthening local citizen's ability to use available sources of assistance through USDA. An RC&D area usually covers several counties.
What can the RC&D do to help me?	The RC&D works on projects to assist the local communities. Its focus includes 1) natural resource improvements including projects on forestry, water, and fish and wildlife; 2) community improvements including projects on economic development, recreation/ tourism, education, as well as waste utilization; and 3) business improvements including projects on marketing and merchandising.
	To learn more about RC&D activities in your area, contact your local NRCS office.

### How to Contact: Your county RC&D office

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of USDA offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a>.</li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• Information will be listed under USDA Service Center or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.</li> <li>• Click on "Complete Office Listing" in the upper right-hand corner for more detailed information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under "United States Government" followed by "Agriculture- Department of" in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service</li> <li>• May also be listed as Soil Conservation Service</li> <li>• USDA Service Center</li> <li>• Includes FSA, NRCS, and Conservation District</li> </ul>

## USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Who is the FSA?	The Farm Service Agency, or FSA, is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FSA works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the administration of USDA programs that provide loans, price support, cost sharing and other ways to assist landowners financially with approved conservation practices through a network of state and county offices. On the local level, FSA is assisted by a committee of landowners to ensure programs meet both federal policy and local needs.
What can FSA do to help me?	The USDA FSA has several programs to help landowners protect wildlife and reduce erosion. These programs assist in providing food, cover, tree planting, and water for wildlife. These programs include technical assistance, cost-share payments, and incentive opportunities.

## How to Contact: Your county FSA office

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of USDA offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• Information will be listed under USDA Service Center or USDA Farm Service Agency.</li> <li>• Click on “Complete Office Listing” in the upper right-hand corner for more detailed information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under “United States Government” followed by “Agriculture- Department of” in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• USDA Farm Service Agency</li> <li>• USDA Service Center</li> <li>• Includes FSA, NRCS, and Conservation Districts</li> </ul>

## USDA Forest Service

Who is the U.S. Forest Service?	The U.S. Forest Service is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service works to support quality land management under the sustainable, multiple-use management concept and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies.
What can the U.S. Forest Service do to help me?	The U.S. Forest Service has several programs to help landowners develop sustainable forestry practices. These programs include technical assistance, easement opportunities, and cost-share payments.

## How to Contact: Your State Forest Service

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of state foresters:</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.stateforesters.org/SFlist.html">http://www.stateforesters.org/SFlist.html</a></li> <li>• Find the state where you own land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under “United States Government” followed by “Agriculture- Department of” in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• USDA Forest Service</li> <li>• If not available, contact your conservation district.</li> </ul>



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Who is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a unit of the U.S. Department of Interior. Its mission is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
What can the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do to help me?	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers a program called "Partners for Fish and Wildlife." This program provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to restore wetlands and protect endangered species.

## How to Contact: Your regional U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service where you own land. Online directory:</li> <li>• <a href="http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=contactMap">http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=contactMap</a></li> <li>• Click on the region where you own land.</li> <li>• Find the state contact where you own land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under "United States Government" followed by "Interior- Department of" in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• Fish and Wildlife Service</li> <li>• If not available, contact your conservation district.</li> </ul>

## USDA Rural Development (RD)

Who is Rural Development?	The Rural Development (RD) is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. RD helps to improve the economy and quality of life in rural areas by providing financial assistance, economic development, housing programs, community empowerment programs, and essential public facilities and services.
What can Rural Development do to help me?	Rural Development helps rural individuals, communities, and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their needs. Rural Development works to make sure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy.

## How to Contact: Your county Rural Development office

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of USDA offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• Information will be listed under USDA Rural Development</li> <li>• Click on “Complete Office Listing” in the upper right-hand corner for more detailed information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Development is usually listed as a regional office; therefore it would be easier to use the online directory to find the contact information, since its office may not be located in the city where you own land.</li> </ul>



## USDA Extension Service

What are University Extension offices?	State University Extension offices are a unit of the Department of Agriculture under the title of "Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service" (CSREES). Extension offices extend the research knowledge base of land-grant universities to local people who need the information. They provide leadership and non-formal education to help others solve problems and develop skills related to youth, family, community, farm, forest, energy, and marine resources.
What can Extension offices do to help me?	Extension offices can provide landowners with information and education to develop management skills for their land.

## How to Contact: Your county Extension Office

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of Extension offices</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html">http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html</a>.</li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look in your phone book where you own land. Try looking under the County's name: ex: Jones, County of. It could be listed as Extension.</li> <li>• It may also be listed under United States Government- Department of Agriculture- Cooperative Extension Service.</li> </ul>



## Conservation Districts

What are Conservation Districts?	Conservation Districts are located across the United States, with one in almost every county. The goal is to help local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and related natural resources. Their mission is to coordinate assistance from all available sources - public, private, local, state, and federal - in an effort to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns.
What can a Conservation District do for me?	Conservation Districts work to implement financial incentive programs, develop conservation plans for our soil and water resources as well as water quality protection programs, establish limits on soil loss, carry out conservation education programs in schools, and conduct demonstration and field days.
	Conservation Districts often are located in the same office as the NRCS. Each state has their own name for their conservation district such as; resource conservation districts, soil conservation districts, soil and water conservation districts, and more.

## How to Contact: Your local Conservation Districts

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of USDA offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• Information will be listed under USDA Service Center or Conservation District.</li> <li>• Click on “Complete Office Listing” in the upper right-hand corner for more detailed information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look under “United States Government” followed by “Agriculture- Department of” in the phone book where you own land. Look for:</li> <li>• Conservation District</li> <li>• May be listed many different ways: soil and water conservation district, soil conservation district, natural resource conservation district, etc.</li> <li>• USDA Service Center</li> <li>• Includes FSA, NRCS, and Conservation District</li> </ul>



## State Agriculture Department

What is the State Agriculture Department?	State Agriculture Departments are found in all 50 states and are concerned with promoting their state's agricultural products, encouraging production, and ensuring consumer, livestock and plant safety. A few states combine agriculture with land management, forestry, commerce, or environmental agencies.
What can the State Agriculture Department do for me?	Your State Agriculture Department provides you with important information on all aspects of agriculture in your state. This information can be found online and includes information such as: food safety and disease alerts, product recalls, licensing and permit information, market news, grant programs, fairs/ expositions, statistics, regulations, alternative energy technologies, and environmental programs. They may also include resource directories, satellite maps, GIS data, ag-in-the-classroom programs, and professional workshops.

## How to Contact: Your State Agriculture Department

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of State Agriculture offices:</li> <li>• <a href="http://www2.nasda.org/NR/exeres/FAF683C2-6CFA-432C-B416-465EF9BE1267.htm">http://www2.nasda.org/NR/exeres/FAF683C2-6CFA-432C-B416-465EF9BE1267.htm</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• There should be contact information as well as a link to it's website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Available</li> </ul>



## Technical Service Provider (TSP)

What is a Technical Service Provider?	Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or public agencies outside of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that help landowners apply conservation practices on the land. They are certified by NRCS to provide services to the landowner.
What can a Technical Service Provider do for me?	Technical Service Providers provide access to one-on-one technical assistance to landowners who participate in USDA conservation programs. Technical Service Providers can help develop a conservation plan and perform compliance studies. They can also plan, develop, and lay out conservation practices; and check out completed conservation practices.

## How to Contact: Technical Service Provider

Online	Phone Book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online directory of certified Technical Service Providers</li> <li>• <a href="http://techreg.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx">http://techreg.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx</a></li> <li>• Click on the state where you own land.</li> <li>• Click on the county where your land is located.</li> <li>• You can search by category (general areas of conservation) or by service (specific conservation practices).</li> <li>• Contact information is listed for each provider along with a resume to view. Contact an individual that is near your land and is certified in the field you desire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Available</li> </ul>

*All information taken from the respective organization's websites.*



1238 Heires Ave. • Carroll, Iowa 51401 • Conservation Connect Hotline: 866-792-6248  
(toll free) • email: [info@absenteelandowners.org](mailto:info@absenteelandowners.org) • [www.absenteelandowners.org](http://www.absenteelandowners.org)