



United States
Department of
Agriculture

**U.S. Department of
Agriculture (USDA)
Grant and Partnership
Programs that can
Address Invasive Species
Research, Technical
Assistance, Prevention
and Control**

January 2010

Introduction

This workbook contains basic information on programs in USDA that could be used to fund invasive species related projects. This list should be a helpful place to start a search for resources for invasive species activities but by no means represents the complete universe of potential invasive species funding opportunities. USDA contacts listed below and several contacts listed in the other grant information section can assist you in determining which opportunities may fit best with your needs. Please use this workbook to help in your important and vital work in safeguarding natural, recreational and agricultural resources.

USDA PROGRAMS

Program name:	National Research Initiative – Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems
Agency:	USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
Funding Method:	National competition
Match:	Cost sharing or matching is not required
Authority:	Section 401 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act 1998 (AREERA)(7U.S.C. 7621)
Eligible Entities:	State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal Agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals.
Taxa:	Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, invasive animals, aquatic species
Contact Info:	Michael Bowers, National Program Leader (202) 401-4510 (mbowers@nifa.usda.gov)
Purpose:	The long-term (10 year) goal of the program is to support inter-disciplinary experimental, observational, theoretical and modeling studies of invasive species that lead to ecological and economic models in cost/benefit analyses of different management, control and elimination strategies. The research focus is to establish mechanisms determining the abundance and distribution of weedy and invasive species and the individual or collective impact of these species on agroecosystem's functionality. Proposed research might investigate how different cultivation and nutrient management regimes/practices, past and current land use, or disturbance, including fire, pests, and grazing, affects the abundance of weedy and invasive species and how these species, in turn, impact the conditions and processes through which agroecosystems provide food, fuel, fiber, and fresh water or by regulating air quality, climate, erosion control, and human diseases. Research that provides an economic accounting of such impacts is encouraged but not required in FY 2008. Priorities for Integrated Projects include development, delivery, and implementation of ecologically-based, invasive species management programs (e.g. use of cover crops, grazing, tillage, and biocontrol agents) that

includes economic decision support tools to evaluate tradeoffs of different management strategies. The program will consider activities (research and integrated) that focus on the biology of exotic, invasive plant and animal species of economic impact to agriculture. The research proposed should be performed within an agricultural setting emphasizing crop production, managed forests, rangeland, or other wild lands of conservation significance. The research could employ a population or community or ecosystem perspective, or some combination. Collaborative teams of land managers, weed biologists, population biologists, ecologists, physiologists, biogeochemists, and wildlife managers or those with expertise in simulation modeling and GIS are encouraged to apply. Beginning in FY 2008 the Program will accept research and integrated proposals that coordinate networking activities around either the research or integrated program priority. These projects should move the field forward or create new research directions or opportunities through increased coordination, networking and synthesis.

Program name:	Organismal and Population Biology of Arthropods and Nematodes
Agency:	USDA NIFA
Funding Method:	National competition
Match:	Cost sharing or matching is not required.
Authority:	Section 401 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7U.S.C. 7621)
Eligible Entities:	State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal Agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals.
Taxa;	Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
Contact info:	Mary Purcell-Miramontes, National Program Leader (202) 401-5168 (mpurcell@nifa.usda.gov)
Purpose:	The long-term (10 year) goals of this program are to achieve decreased inputs for crop protection against pests by increasingly relying on environmentally sound management strategies (e.g., biological control using natural enemies, new host plant resistant varieties, mating disruption technique for area-wide control of major pests); improve understanding of ecological factors associated with the establishment, rate of increase and spread of exotic and invasive species; and provide scientific foundations for organic production of crops, anticipating the increased demand for these products. Priorities for Research include: 1) Understand how naturally occurring compounds (e.g., plant-derived compounds, semiochemicals, or microbial toxins) affect the behavior, distribution and abundance of arthropods or nematodes with hosts and evaluate the implications for pest and natural enemy behavior and population dynamics; 2) Elucidate characteristics of evolutionary change and population-level spread of arthropods or nematodes; and 3) Determine how behavioral aspects of organisms are associated with patterns of host use or population dynamics of arthropods or nematodes.

Program Name: **Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Competitive Grants Program**

Agency: USDA NIFA

Funding Method: Regional competition

Match: No matching requirements

Authority: The Authority for funding of research projects in this grant program is contained in Section 2(c)(1)(B) of the Act of August 4, 1965, Public Law No. 89-106, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450i(c)(1)(B)). Authority for the funding of extension projects is contained in Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq. NOTE: For combined effort applications, separate awards will be executed for P.L. 89-106 and Smith Lever funds.

Eligible Entities: Eligibility for research projects includes: state agricultural experiment stations, Land Grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by Land Grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 1, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.), and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine. Eligibility for extension projects is limited to land-grant colleges and universities.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species.

Contact Info: Mike Fitzner, National Program Leader (202-401-4939) (mfitzner@nifa.usda.gov)

Purpose: The Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Competitive Grants Program supports the continuum of research and extension efforts needed to increase the implementation of IPM methods from the development of individual pest control tactics and the integration of tactics into an IPM system, to extension, education, and training. The Program is administered by the four regions (North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western) of the Land Grant University system in partnership with CSREES. The goal of Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program is to provide support for projects that develop and help users implement IPM systems that 1) are profitable and environmentally sound over the long term; 2) reduce reliance on pesticides; and 3) protect and conserve ecosystem quality and diversity. It is recognized that the specific needs of each region vary, and thus specific program priorities will vary among the regions.

Program Name: **Wetlands Reserve Program**

Agency: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Funding Method: Within-State competition based upon State-specific priorities; State Conservationists, with input from State technical committees, develop

ranking criteria based upon broad national guidelines. Options are permanent easement, 30-year easement, and restoration cost-share agreements.

- Match:** USDA pays 75 to 100 percent of restoration costs; landowner pays 0 to 25 percent depending on enrollment type.
- Authority:** Reauthorized in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008
- Eligible Entities:** Landowners of private lands and Tribes
- Taxa:** Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
- Contact Info:** Ken Murray, Acting NRCS Program Manager (202) 720-9482, (Ken.murray@wdc.usda.gov)
- Purpose:** A voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. The goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

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- Program Name:** **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
- Agency:** USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers CRP, while technical support functions are provided by USDA NRCS; USDA NIFA; State forestry agencies; local soil and water conservation districts; and private sector providers of technical assistance.
- Funding Method:** Provides annual payments for retirement of environmentally sensitive croplands and cost share for establishing and maintaining cover; restores herbaceous vegetation for 10 years; restores forested vegetation for 15 years.
- Match:** 50 percent of establishment costs plus annual payment based on soil rental rate; funding limit of \$50,000 per accepted application per fiscal year
- Authority:** Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, and regulations published in 7CFR, part 1410
- Eligible Entities:** Individuals and/or groups who have owned highly erodible or cropped wetlands and for at least one year
- Taxa:** Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
- Contact Info:** Robert Stephenson, Conservation and Environmental Programs Division, FSA (202) 720-6221 (robert.stephenson@usda.gov) and Patricia Engler, National Program Manager, NRCS (202) 720-1836 (Patricia.Enger@wdc.usda.gov)
- Purpose:** The Conservation Reserve Program reduces soil erosion, protects the Nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or

riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetation cover practices.

Program Name: **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Within-State competition based upon State-specific priorities; State Conservationists, with input from State technical committees, develop ranking criteria based upon broad national guidelines. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.
Match: Provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
Authority: Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 reauthorized WHIP
Eligible Entities: Private landowners, owners of Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or Tribal lands, owners of State and local government land on a limited basis, owners of Tribal land.
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
Contact Info: Albert Cerna (202) 720-9358 (albert.cerna@wdc.usda.gov)
Purpose: A voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.

Program Name: **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Within-State competition based upon State-specific and local priorities; State conservationists, with input from State technical committees, develop ranking criteria based upon broad national guidelines.
Match: EQIP may cost-share up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices. Limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for cost-share up to 90 percent.
Authority: Reauthorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246)
Eligible Entities: Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible lands
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
Contact Info: Mark Parson, EQIP Program Specialist (202) 720-1840. (Mark.Parson@wdc.usda.gov)
Purpose: To provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Program Name: **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

Agency: USDA FSA with technical support from NRCS

Funding Method: A specific CREP project begins when a State, Indian tribe, local government, or local non-governmental entity identifies an agriculture-related environmental issue of State or national significance. These parties and FSA develop a project proposal to address particular environmental issues and goals. Enrollment in a State is limited to specific geographic areas and practices. CREP contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land.

Match: A Federal annual rental rate, including an FSA state committee-determined maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program generally offers a sign-up incentive for participants to install specific practices.

Authority: U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 58, Subchapter IV, Part I, subpart b

Eligible Entities: The program is a partnership among producers; Tribal, State, and Federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups. CREP addresses high-priority conservation issues of both local and national significance, such as loss of critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species, soil erosion, and reduced habitat for fish populations such as salmon. The land must have been owned or operated by the applicant for the previous 12 months and must have been planted in crops 2 of the last 5 years and be physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds

Contact Info: County Department of Agriculture Service Center.

Purpose: CREP is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. Unique State and Federal partnerships allow one to receive incentive payments for installing specific conservation practices. Through CREP, farmers can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible land.

Program Name: Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Agency: USDA NRCS

Funding Method: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the nation's most pressing natural resource concerns.

Match: Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50

percent of the project cost. An exception allows for beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers, Tribes and community-based organizations representing these groups to obtain a higher percentage of project matching

funds from in-kind contributions. The Federal contribution may not exceed \$1 million for a single project.

Authority: CIG was authorized as part of the EQIP [16 U.S.C. 3839aa-8] under Section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985, as added by Section 2509 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246). The Secretary of Agriculture delegated the authority for the administration of EQIP and CIG to the Chief of the NRCS, who is Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). EQIP is funded and administered by NRCS under the authorities of the CCC.

Eligible Entities: EQIP funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. Project must include participation of producers eligible under EQIP. Project may be watershed based, regional, multi-state or nation-wide in scope.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species

Contact Info: Gregorio Cruz, Natural Resources Specialist (202) 720-2335
(Gregorio.Cruz@wdc.usda.gov)

Purpose: Voluntary program to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the nation's most pressing natural resource concerns.

Program Name: **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**

Agency: USDA NRCS, FSA, and FS are coordinating this program.

Funding Method: Applications will be rated based on ranking and selection criteria developed in the states following broad national guidelines. USDA proposes that land eligibility criteria should focus on preserving the nation's most critical grassland resources, the native and natural grasslands and shrub lands.

Match: Participants may choose a 10, 15, or 20-year rental contract with USDA providing annual payments of not more than 75% of the grazing value of the land covered by the contract for the length of the rental contract with a \$50,000 payment limitation. Or participants may choose a permanent GRP easement held by either the United States or an eligible entity.

Authority: Section 2403 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize this program.

Purpose: GRP helps landowners restore and protect

Eligible Entities: Expanding land eligibility criteria to include land that has been historically dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubland when it contains historical or archaeological resources, or when it would address issues raised by State, regional, and national conservation priorities. Priority for land previously enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Requirement for implementation of GRP management plan. Added authority for eligible entities to write, own and enforce GRP easements.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species

Contact Info: NRCS: Elizabeth Crane, GRP Program Manager (202) 720- 0242 (Elizabeth.crane@wdc.usda.gov) and FSA: Jim Williams (202) 720-9562 (jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov)

Purpose: Assist landowners to restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrub land and certain other lands. It provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands, grazing uses and related conservation values using rental contracts and permanent easements.

Program Name: **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

Agency: USDA NRCS

Funding Method: Assistance is provided to land users voluntarily applying conservation measure s who must comply with local or state laws and regulations.

Match: Not applicable

Authority: NRCS and CTA were established by the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6962) which combined the authorities of the former Soil Conservation Service (Soil Conservation Act of 1935) with seven cost-share programs for natural resource conservation.

Eligible Entities: This program provides technical assistance to participants in USDA cost-share and conservation incentive programs. Assistance is funded on a reimbursable basis from the Commodity Credit Corporation. Private land users, communities, units of State and local government, and other Federal agencies are eligible recipients.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species

Contact Info: Deb Sherman, National Program Manager (202) 690-5988 (deb.sherman@wy.usda.gov). Eligible participants should contact their local USDA NRCS office to request assistance.

Purpose: The CTA program provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of State and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues. It helps people to voluntarily conserve, improve and sustain natural resources. Technical assistance is provided to plan and implement natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air

quality, improve pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues. The CTA program supports the National Resources Inventory (NRI), a statistically based survey to assess conditions and trends of soil, water, and related resources on non-Federal lands in the United States.

Program Name: **Plant Materials Program**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: NRCS field offices receive technical information and transfer it to end users, such as farmers and ranchers.
Match: Not applicable
Authority: The program operates under the basic authority of P.L. 74-46, Apr, 27, 1935, Ch., 85, Sec. 1, 49 Stat. 163, 16 U.S.C. 590 [a-f]. Other authorities include: 7 CFR Part 613, P.L. 95-192, P.L. 74-210 (7 U.S.C. 1010-1011), and 7 U.S.C. 6962.
Eligible Entities: Limited to conservation cooperators' properties in conjunction with conservation districts, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Crop Improvement Associations and other Federal and State agencies. Plants or seed are not provided to the general public. The public is not eligible to participate in the program.
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
Contact Info: John Englert, National Plant Materials Specialist, 202-720-0536, john.englert@wdc.usda.gov
Purpose: Technical assistance through plant science technology to NRCS field offices for transfer to end users, such as landowners and land managers. The program provides vegetative solutions for natural resource problems. It develops plant materials and information technology on how to establish and manage plants. The program emphasizes field-testing to determine a plant's value and restoration techniques.

Program Name: **Conservation on Private Lands Program**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Competitive grants administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Match: At least 50 percent match required
Authority: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, 16 U.S.C. 590a-590f; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
Eligible Entities: Private landowners, primarily farmers and ranchers
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
Contact Info: Jody Olson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (202) 857-0166 x555 (Jody.Olson@nfwf.org)

Purpose: Conservation and enhancement of wildlife and natural resources on private lands.

Program Name: **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Competitive grants program that provides up to \$200,000 for projects addressing conservation priorities.
Match: Applicants must match CCPI funding 1:1. Up to 100% of the match can be in-kind.
Authority: CCPI is a component of the Conservation Technical Assistance (CIA) program established under authorities provided by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935, 16 U.S.C. 590a et seq.
Eligible Entities: CPI applicants must be a State or local agency, Federally-recognized Indian tribe, or non-governmental organization that has a history of working with agricultural producers. Individuals, private businesses, and Federal agencies, while not eligible to apply for CCPI funds, are invited to participate as partners in CCPI projects.
Taxa: The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa.
Contact Info: Tom Sommer, CCPI Program Manager, (202) 205-4211 (thomas.sommer@wdc.usda.gov). Additional information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cpi/>
Purpose: Voluntary program to foster conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds and air sheds of special significance.

Program Name: **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program**
Agency: NRCS has leadership for the conservation provisions of AMA. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is responsible for an organic certification cost-share program. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) is responsible for mitigation of financial risk through a crop insurance program.
Funding Method: Total AMA payments (from NRCS, AMS, and RMA) shall not exceed \$50,000 per participant for any fiscal year.
Match: The Federal cost-share rate is 75 percent of the cost of an eligible practice, based on the percent of actual cost, or percent of actual cost with not-to-exceed limits, or flat rates.
Authority: AMA is authorized under the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, Title I, Section 133 Public Law 106-224. Section 524(b), as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, (2002 Farm Bill), and further amended by The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).
Eligible Entities: AMA is available in 15 states, where participation in the Federal Crop Insurance Program is historically low, to applicants that own or control the land and agree to implement specific eligible conservation practices. The 15 states are: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Taxa: The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa.

Contact Info: Dave Mason, AMA Program Manager, (202) 720-1873, (dave.mason@wdc.usda.gov). Additional information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama/>

Purpose: AMA provides cost-share and incentive payments to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues, such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation practices into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. Contracts are for three to ten years. Incentive payments are permitted under AMA.

Program Name: **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** [No longer available after September 30, 2008.]

Agency: USDA NRCS

Funding Method: Based on the producer self assessment and application, description of current conservation activities, and the interview, NRCS determines CSP eligibility and in which program tier and enrollment category the applicant may participate. For Tier I, the producer must have addressed soil quality and water quality to the described minimum level of treatment for eligible land uses on part of the agricultural operation prior to acceptance. For Tier II, the producer must have addressed soil quality and water quality to the described minimum level of treatment on all eligible land uses on the entire agricultural operation prior to acceptance and agree to address one additional watershed specific resource concern by the end of the contract period. For Tier III, the producer must have addressed all applicable resource concerns to a resource management system level that meets the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards on all eligible land uses on the entire agricultural operation before acceptance into the program and have riparian zones adequately treated. For Tier I, contracts are for 5 years; maximum payment is \$20,000 annually. For Tier II, contracts are for 5 to 10 years; maximum payment is \$35,000 annually. For Tier III, contracts are for 5 to 10 years; maximum payment is \$45,000 annually.

Match: No match required. Total payments are determined by the tier of participation, conservation treatments completed, and the acres enrolled.

Authority: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the program initially. The Program was further amended by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

Eligible Entities: CSP is available in all 50 States, the Caribbean area and the Pacific Basin areas. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

The CSP sign-up is offered in selected watersheds across the Nation each year. Selected watersheds are listed on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/> and in NRCS offices nationwide. Eligible producers in the

selected watersheds complete the self-assessment and schedule an interview to submit an application at their local NRCS office. A conservation security contract may not be entered into or renewed under this subchapter after

September 30, 2008. There is an exception: the conservation security program, shall continue to apply to “(A) conservation security contracts entered into on or before September 30, 2008; and “(B) any conservation security contract entered into after that date, but for which the application for the contract was received during the 2008 sign-up period.

The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa. Dwayne Howard, CSP Program Manager, (202) 720-3524, (Dwayne.howard@wdc.usda.gov). Additional information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

Taxa:

Contact Info:

Purpose:

The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa.

Dwayne Howard, CSP Program Manager, (202) 720-3524, (Dwayne.howard@wdc.usda.gov). Additional information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program is available in 50 States, the Caribbean Area and the Pacific Basin area. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

Program Name:

Conservation Stewardship Program (authorized in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246)

Agency:

USDA NRCS

Funding Method:

Congress authorized the enrollment of 12,769,000 acres for each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2008, and ending September 30, 2017.

Continuous sign-up for CSP started on August 10, 2009.

Match:

No match is required. CSP provides participants with two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned by participants who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation. Through 5-year contracts, payments will be made after October of each year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year. For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year and \$200,000 during any 5-year period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

Authority:

The Program was created by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), section 2301. NRCS published an Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register on July 29, 2009. This Program replaces the Conservation Security Program.

Eligible Entities:

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as non-industrial private forest lands in 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location and it is available on a continuous sign-up basis to private agricultural land and agricultural Indian lands, including cropland, pastureland, and rangeland.

Producers must meet applicant eligibility requirements that include: being the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment; documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract; and being in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of 7 CFR Part 12, and adjusted gross income provisions.

The program is available to Non-industrial private forestland is eligible by special provision, but it can make up no more than 10% of the acres enrolled nationally in any fiscal year. The entire operation must be enrolled and must include all eligible land that will be under the applicant's control for the term of the proposed contract that is operated substantially separate from other operations.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, and Conservation Security Program are ineligible for CSP. Additionally, a participant may not receive payment for land used for crop production after June 18, 2008, that had not been planted, considered to be planted, or devoted to crop production for at least four of the six years preceding that date, unless the land was: previously enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program; maintained using long-term rotations, such as hayland in rotation; or incidental to the operation but needed for the efficient management of the operation.

How CSP Works : NRCS at the State level, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local working groups, will focus CSP on natural resources of specific concern for a State or specific geographic areas within a State. Applicants will be ranked relative to other applicants who face similar resource challenges. Agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land will be ranked separately.

Producers interested complete a self-screening checklist to help them decide whether CSP is the right program for them. Once applicant and land eligibility are determined, the NRCS field office assists the producer in completing the conservation measurement tool (CMT). The CMT estimates the level of environmental benefit to be achieved. The CMT conservation performance scoring enables NRCS to determine if the stewardship threshold requirement is met, to rank applications, and to establish payments.

For a pre-approved applicant, NRCS will request the applicant’s conservation activity records and conduct on-site field verification to ensure that information provided by the applicant was accurate prior to contract approval. Once information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract. Upon approval, the contract will obligate the participant to achieve a higher level of conservation performance by installing additional activities scheduled in their conservation stewardship plan and to maintain the level of existing conservation performance identified at the time of application.

Taxa: The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa.
Contact Info: Dwayne Howard, CSP Program Manager, (202) 720-3524, (Dwayne.howard@wdc.usda.gov). Additional information is available at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>

Purpose: To encourage producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Program Name: **Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops**
Agency: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)
Funding Method:
Match:
Authority:
Eligible Entities:
Taxa:
Contact Info: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/tasc.asp>
Purpose: Projects should address a sanitary, phytosanitary, or related technical barrier that prohibits or threatens the export of U.S. specialty crops.

Program Name: **Pest Detection (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey-CAPS)**
Agency: USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Funding Method: Cooperative Agreements
Match: Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged.
Authority: Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.)

Eligible Entities: State Departments of Agriculture and their cooperating partners (occasionally universities)
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects
Contact Info: John Bowers (301) 734-3658 (John.Bowers@aphis.usda.gov)
Purpose: The Pest Detection Program works to ensure the early detection of harmful or economically significant plant pests and weeds through a nationally-directed survey program through the CAPS network. The program works with State and university cooperators through national, regional, and State-level committees to prioritize survey projects and provides funds for State cooperators to conduct the agreed-upon surveys. The program also trains and equips State cooperators to conduct national surveys.

Program Name: **Various Plant Health Programs**
Agency: USDA APHIS
Funding Method: Cooperative Agreements
Match: Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged.
Authority: Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.)
Eligible Entities: State Departments of Agriculture
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects
Contact Info: Assistant Deputy Administrator, Emergency and Domestic Programs (301) 734-3769 (David.T.Kaplan@aphis.usda.gov)
Purpose: APHIS conducts a variety of survey, eradication, and management/control programs for invasive plant pests, diseases, and weeds. Depending on the program, State cooperators may conduct portions of the programs through cooperative agreements with APHIS. For example, APHIS provides funding for affected States to conduct eradication activities for Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer.

Program Name: **Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance**
Agency: USDA APHIS
Funding Method: Cooperative agreements
Match: Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged.
Authority: Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.)
Eligible Entities: State Departments of Agriculture
Taxa: Pests and diseases of livestock
Contact Info: Debra Cox (301) 734-4397 (debra.cox@aphis.usda.gov)
Purpose: The program conducts monitoring and surveillance activities for a variety of animal diseases, both invasive and domestic. While most of these activities are carried out by APHIS personnel, the program provides funding to State cooperators for specific initiatives, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy testing and pilot projects for animal identification.

Program Name: **Emergency Management Systems**
Agency: USDA APHIS
Funding Method: Cooperative agreements

Match: Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged.
Authority: Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.)
Eligible Entities: State Departments of Agriculture and Tribal nations
Taxa: Pests and diseases of livestock
Contact Info: Summer Bailey (301) 734-3593 (Summer.D.Bailey@aphis.usda.gov)
Purpose: The program cooperates with State partners and Tribal governments to implement and enhance emergency response capabilities for serious foreign animal disease outbreaks.

Program Name: **Various Animal Health Programs**
Agency: USDA APHIS
Funding Method: Cooperative agreements
Match: Matching funds are not required, but are encouraged.
Authority: Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.)
Eligible Entities: State Departments of Agriculture and Tribal nations
Taxa: Pests and diseases of livestock
Contact Info: Associate Deputy Administrator for National Animal Health Policy and Programs (301) 734-8093
Purpose: APHIS conducts a variety of survey, eradication, and management/control programs for invasive animal diseases. Depending on the program, State cooperators may conduct portions of the programs through cooperative agreements with APHIS. For example, APHIS provides funding for affected States and Tribes to conduct surveillance for chronic wasting disease and for States to conduct surveillance for scrapie.

Program Name: **Wildlife Services Operations**
Agency: USDA - APHIS
Funding Method: Cooperative agreements
Match: Cooperators provide matching funds, normally 50 percent of a project's cost.
Authority: Animal Damage Control (ADC) Act of March 2, 1931, (7 USC 426-426b, and 426c as amended)
Eligible Entities: State and local agencies, businesses, and private citizens
Taxa: Invasive animals
Contact Info: John Sinclair (301) 734-5650 (John.A.Sinclair@aphis.usda.gov)
Purpose: The Wildlife Services Operations program protects U.S. agriculture, natural resources, property, and human safety and health from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases. The program works with affected States to manage certain invasive species, such as nutria in the Chesapeake Bay area, and to prevent the brown tree snake from becoming established in Hawaii.

Other Sources of Information on Grants:

Below are some additional resources to help in identifying invasive species resource opportunities. This list represents only a sample of what is potentially out there. Please contact local, State, and Federal agencies directly for additional possibilities. Several foundations and other non-profit institutions may also have programs that may assist you in finding resources for your activities. The best place to look for Federal grants is the new Federal Grants Portal Website: www.grants.gov

- Federal Grants website <http://www.grants.gov>. There are 26 Federal grant-making agencies and over 900 individual grant programs that award over \$350 billion in grants each year. The grant community, including state, local and Tribal governments, academia and research institutions, and not-for-profits, need only visit one website, Grants.gov, to access the annual grant funds available across the Federal government.
- USDA's National Agricultural Library Invasive Species Council web site www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov. It has a list of grant opportunities for salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.) control, management, research and education; as well as many other opportunities, see <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/toolkit/grants.shtml>
- Pioneer Grants Program from the Chesapeake Bay Trust awards competitive grants. Contact information: (410) 974-2941 www.chesapeakebaytrust.org. The purpose of this program is to fund projects leading to achievement of Chesapeake 2000 Agreement restoration & protection goals; and to complete projects or develop implementation strategies for projects resulting in measurable non-point source nutrient reductions.
- Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It provides grants to organizations working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based stewardship. Contact information: http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm
- Delaware Estuary Grants Program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It provides grants to organizations working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Delaware Estuary, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. Contact information: http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm.
- The Native Plant Conservation Initiative is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It supports on-the-ground conservation projects that protect, enhance, and/or restore native plant communities on public and private lands. Projects typically fall into one of three categories and may contain elements of each: protection and restoration, information and education, and inventory and assessment. Contact information: http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm

- The Pulling Together Initiative is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It provides a means for Federal agencies to be full partners with State and local agencies, private landowners, and interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. Contact information: http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm
- The Center for Invasive Plant Management (Montana State University) has a variety of grant programs-recently about 50 Grants listed (some are limited to Western United States) at <http://www.weedcent//ar.org/grants/overview.html>.

Conclusion

Listed below are some additional contact names for USDA. These people are the invasive species coordinators from the agencies that sponsor or administer the USDA grant programs presented above.

USDA Senior Invasive Species Coordinator: Hilda Diaz-Soltero (202) 354-1880;
hdiazoltero@fs.fed.us

APHIS Invasive Species Coordinator: Ken Seeley (301) 734-4334;
kenneth.r.seeley@aphis.usda.gov

NIFA Invasive Species Coordinator: Robert Nowierski (202) 401-4900;
Rnowierski@nifa.usda.gov

ERS Invasive Species Coordinator: Utpal Vasavada (202) 694-5540; vasavada@ers.usda.gov

FAS Invasive Species Coordinator: Ken Hinga 202-720-9836; kenneth.hinga@fas.usda.gov

USFS Invasive Species Coordinator: Michael Ielmini (202) 205-1049; mielmini@fs.fed.us

NRCS Invasive Species Coordinator: Doug Holy (202) 720-9096; doug.holy@wdc.usda.gov

The USDA hopes this information is helpful for those working with invasive species. Partnerships and cost-sharing programs help all of us advance our goals of protecting our agricultural resources and ensure safe, healthy land and water for all of us to enjoy. Join with USDA in fighting invasive species: prepare, protect, and prevent. Thank you for all your hard work and all your future work in this important area.