

Towards Integrating Agricultural Land Adaptation and Conservation Planning

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The purpose of this assistance is to help land managers address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources and make sound resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands. This assistance program may serve as a springboard for land owners interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs to implement one or more of the NRCS' 160 plus conservation practices to address resource concerns identified through the conservation planning process. Inclusion of a climate component at this early resource conservation planning process is beneficial by further enhancing land resilience to weather variability and climate change. The USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub with representatives from USDA Forest Service and NRCS developed a simple online tool that may help resource managers and conservationists link potential climate vulnerability, like excess or inadequate rainfall, to relevant NRCS conservation practices that help mitigate the risk and enhance land resiliency. The tool is at beta development phase and feedback from potential users is highly desired to enhance user friendliness as well as practical utility.