

PROTECT CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE FOOD — AND A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT WAY TO GROW IT.

Congress must preserve Inflation Reduction Act conservation funding for programs that reduce emissions and help farmers withstand extreme weather events.



Climate-related severe weather is threatening crops and livestock around the country. That means lower yields and profits for farmers along with higher prices and empty shelves for shoppers.

Most Americans don't realize that farmers can be part of the solution. The agriculture industry alone emits a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gasses. By implementing more sustainable practices, we could dramatically reduce 90 percent of the industry's emissions.

The Inflation Reduction Act has given us a huge opportunity to do that. To date, the IRA has dedicated \$20 billion to climate-smart USDA conservation programs that already work. These programs help farmers improve water and soil quality, withstand severe weather events, and grow more food — all while reducing harmful emissions that put future yields at risk.

IRA funding is specifically allocated for projects that help fight climate change. The USDA's conservation programs are in high demand because farmers know these programs will help keep their farms running long-term. For every farmer who receives funding through USDA's conservation programs, two other farmers are turned away due to insufficient funds. IRA funding will help fill this critical gap.

"It's about whether or not I can run my business. We've got to have funding for programs that help farmers adapt to climate change."

Liz Brownlee, owner of Nightfall Farm in Jennings County, Indiana

By protecting climate-smart agriculture funding, Congress can help growers fortify their operations, contribute to a more sustainable future, and keep feeding the country.

Which programs does the IRA funding support? How do they help farmers and fight the climate crisis?

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Provides technical and financial assistance to producers primarily to improve water and air quality, increase soil health, and conserve water.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Provides funding for growers to build on their existing conservation efforts.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Helps farmers and ranchers protect, restore, and conserve land for the future.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Funds conservation projects performed through partnerships between producers, landowners, communities, and project partners, designed to improve land and water sustainability.

“[These programs have helped me] reduce operating costs, fossil fuel needs, and chemical and fertilizer needs. The improved soil health...has greatly improved the resilience of my farm.”

Seth Watkins, owner of Pinhook Farm in Page County, Iowa

Who benefits?

- ALL food producers are eligible for the climate-smart funding provided by the IRA, no matter what they grow or where they’re located.
- ALL states will receive IRA funding for USDA conservation programs. Currently, [every single state](#) lacks sufficient resources to support all of the farmers who want to participate in USDA conservation programs, with some states only able to assist 15 to 20 percent of applicants seeking funding through EQIP or CSP. The IRA funding will enable them to provide grants to more producers.



What happens if funding disappears?

- Fewer farmers will receive critical funding through USDA conservation programs.
- USDA conservation funding will not require reduction in GHG emissions and/or increases in climate resilience as a condition for participation.
- Fewer climate-friendly practices will receive support, leaving our agriculture system vulnerable to extreme weather events.
- Growers will see less profit as a result of lost crops and livestock.
- Rural communities will lose crucial funding that could boost their economies.