



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**

Federal Fiscal Year 2017

October 17, 2016

Introduction

This workbook contains basic information on programs in USDA that could be used to fund and support invasive species related projects. This list should be a helpful place to start a search for sources of technical and financial resources for invasive species activities but may not include all potential invasive species funding opportunities. USDA contacts for program support listed in the document are current at the time of publication. The 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 and enhancing natural, recreational and agricultural resources.

USDA PROGRAMS

Program name: **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational Program – Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems**

Agency: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Funding Method: National competition

Match: Cost sharing or matching may or may not be required. See the AFRI FY 2014 Request for Applications for details
<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>

Authority: Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246) amends section 2(b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI); a competitive grant program to provide funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension to address food and agricultural sciences.

Eligible Entities: Eligible applicants for Research Projects include: 1) State Agricultural Experiment Stations; 2) colleges and universities (including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher); 3) university research foundations; 4) other research institutions and organizations; 5) Federal agencies, 6) national laboratories; 7) private organizations or corporations; 8) individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents; and 9) any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified in 1) through 8). Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.

Taxa: **Insects, nematodes, pathogens, and weeds.** arthropods, plant pathogens.

Contact Info: Dr. Mathieu Ngouajio, National Program Leader, (202) 401-4895
mngouajio@nifa.usda.gov and Dr. Robert Nowierski, National Program Leader, (202) 401-4900 (rnowerski@nifa.usda.gov)

Purpose: This program area priority supports research advancing our understanding of cropland, managed forest, and rangeland production systems. Research supported by this priority will address critical or process-limiting dynamics that occur among and within the various management components of the production system. This research is expected to lead to the development of innovative solutions to problems limiting or threatening the productivity, efficiency, and sustainability of the selected production system.

Proposals must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Investigate how multiple management components of agricultural production systems can be integrated to enhance plant resilience to various stressors and improve product quality and/or productivity.
- Investigate how production systems can alter the plant microbiome and determine how the alterations affect plant resilience to various stressors and/or affect product quality and/or productivity.
- Investigate how changes in production system management or biodiversity affect soil health.
- Synthesis and meta-analysis of the existing data to derive general principles about the function and properties of agricultural production systems.

Program Area Priority Additional Information:

- Appropriate systems for study include food and fiber crops, managed forests and rangelands. Both conventional and organic production systems are appropriate for study.
- The production system studied should be comprised of several key management components, such as: pest management (including insects, nematodes, pathogens and weeds), soil fertility, soil health, agronomic practices, cover cropping, biodiversity, and economics. Please note that only studies involving two or more management components will be supported.
- Applicants who wish to submit a proposal focused solely on the management of pests or beneficial species should consider submitting to the Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems program area priority (A1112).
- This program area priority does not support projects on or involving livestock. Please refer to the Animal Health and Production and Animal Products program area in this RFA to review funding opportunities for research on livestock.
- Budget requests for conference grants in this program area priority must not exceed \$25,000 total for the grant period.

Program name: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational Program – Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems.

Agency: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Funding Method: National competition

Match: Cost sharing or matching may or may not be required. See the AFRI FY 2014 Request for Applications for details. (<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri.html>).

Authority: Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Public L. 110-246) amends section 2(b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI); a competitive grant program to provide funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension to address food and agricultural sciences.

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offering associate degrees or higher); 3) university research foundations; 4) other research institutions and organizations; 5) Federal agencies, 6) national laboratories; 7) private organizations or corporations; 8) individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents; and 9) any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified in 1) through 8). Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.

Taxa:

Insects, nematodes, pathogens, and weeds.

Contact info:

Mary Purcell-Miramontes, National Program Leader, (202) 401-5168, (mpurcell@nifa.usda.gov) and Dr. Jeffrey Steiner, National Program Leader, (202) 734-1067 (jeffrey.steiner@nifa.usda.gov).

Purpose:

The goal of this program area priority is to elucidate the fundamental ecological, molecular, biological and/or chemical processes affecting the abundance and spread of plant-associated pests (insects, nematodes, pathogens and weeds) and healthy populations of beneficial species (pollinators and biological control agents) in agricultural production systems (including croplands, managed forests and rangelands); and to increase our understanding of multi-trophic interactions between plants, pests, and/or beneficial species. Pollinators may include honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and other managed bees, wild bees (both native and introduced species), butterflies and other pollinating insects, birds and bats. Studies involving invasive and newly emerging pests as well as established pest species are encouraged. This research is expected to lead to the development of novel, innovative and environmentally-sound ways to manage agriculturally-important pests and beneficial species.

Proposals must address one or more of the following priorities:

- Interactions of pests or beneficial species with plant compounds, genes or stressors (biological or environmental). Environmental stressors include but are not limited to fluctuating weather patterns due to climate change, pesticides or other toxins. Biological stressors include other plant-associated pests or biological control agents.
- Effects of communication, attractants and/or defense signaling systems on pests or beneficial species.
- Understanding movement or dispersal dynamics of pests or beneficial organisms, including pests that vector plant diseases; this includes epidemiological factors that influence disease spread, the influence of agronomic practices on weed populations, and research on fundamental aspects of weed biology that impact reproductive biology, seedbank dynamics, and other aspects of population dynamics.
- Mechanisms of resistance to pesticides (fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, etc.) and/or strategies to mitigate resistance.
- Elucidation of individual or interacting factors that affect pollinator populations (i.e., habitat loss, quality of forage, nutritional requirements, pests, diseases, pesticides and associated chemicals, genetics or breeding) that will lead to the development of novel tools

and technologies to mitigate their losses. This includes research on the interplay of weedy flora and pollinator health.

Program Area Priority Additional Information: Applications for research on pests of livestock or pests of humans (e.g., vectors of human diseases or nuisance pests such as flies, bed bugs, cockroaches, and termites) are not supported by this program area priority. Please refer to the Animal Health and Production and Animal Products program area in this RFA to review funding opportunities for research on pests of livestock.

- Applications for research that is primarily focused on the development of pest or beneficial species management strategies or tactics, not fundamental mechanisms, may be more appropriate for the Applied Research and Development Program Area of the Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program, another program offered by NIFA; this program also provides limited support for projects focused on nuisance pests in urban or rural systems.
- Pollinator projects should be consistent with at least one of the goals and actions in the Pollinator Research Action Plan, which is available at www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Research%20Action%20Plan%202015.pdf.
- Applicants who wish to submit near-term and implementation-based projects on pollinators should consider applying to the New Frontiers in Pollinator Health: From Research to Application program area included in the AFRI RFA for the FY 2016 AFRI Food Security Challenge Area.

Program Name: Crop Protection and Pest Management Program – Applied Research and Development Program (CPPM-ARDP)

Agency: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Funding Method: National competition

Match: Cost sharing or matching may or may not be required. See the CPPM-ARDP FY 2014 Request for Applications for details.

Authority: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (H.R. 3547) provided NIFA with funding for competitive grants programs authorized under section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626), including the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program. These funds are available to support integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities. Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this program, the Secretary may award grants to colleges and universities (as defined by section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103)), as amended, on a competitive basis for projects that address priorities in United States agriculture and involve integrated research, education, and extension activities, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Section 7206 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 amended section 406(b) of AREERA to add the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions as eligible to apply for grants under this authority.

Eligible Entities: Colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103) are eligible to submit applications for the CPPM program. Section 1404 of NARETPA was amended by section 7101 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) to define Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs) (see Part III, B and Part VIII, E for more information), and to include research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities.

For the purposes of this program, the terms “college” and “university” mean an educational institution in any state which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (2) is legally authorized within such state to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an educational program for which a bachelor’s degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association. Applications also may be submitted by 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (see Part VIII, E), HSACUs, and research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities.

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

Contact Info: Herb Bolton, National Program Leader, (202) 401- 4201 (hbolton@nifa.usda.gov).

Purpose: The Applied Research and Development Program Area funds projects for the development of new IPM tactics, technologies, practices, and strategies through research (single-function) projects. ARDP also funds IPM adoption through research-led projects and IPM implementation through extension-led projects.

Program Name: ACEP – Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

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 30-year contracts with Tribes.

Match: USDA pays 75 to 100 percent of restoration costs; landowner pays 0 to 25 Percent, depending on enrollment type.

Authority: Authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014

Eligible Entities: Landowners of private lands and Tribes

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

Contact Info: Jessica Groves, NRCS Program Manager (202) 720-3524, (Jessica.Groves@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.

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 establishment of resource-conserving cover on 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 rental payment based on soil rental rate;
Authority: Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, and regulations published in 7CFR, part 1410
Eligible Entities: Individuals and/or groups who have owned **or operated** eligible cropland or certain marginal pastureland 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 Beverly Preston CRP Program Manager, (FSA) (202) 720-9563
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 Incentive Program (WHIP)**
Agency: USDA NRCS
The authority for the WHIP program was rescinded by the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). Opportunities to obtain financial and technical assistance for wildlife habitat related projects were incorporated into EQIP.

Program Name: **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Eligible producers can apply for financial and technical assistance that may include assistance to implement conservation practices to manage invasive and noxious species. Producers compete for program benefits based upon national, State and local natural resource priorities and ranking criteria; State conservationists, with input from State technical committees and other partner stakeholders, develop natural resource based ranking criteria that

proposed projects are scored with. Applications are approved based upon the environmental ranking score and available funding.

- Match:** EQIP provides financial assistance payments to assist eligible producers implement approved conservation practices. Historically underserved producers (Limited resource, beginning, and socially disadvantaged individuals, Veterans, or Tribal entities) may be eligible for higher payments and for advance payments up to 50% of the estimated cost of practice installation.
- Authority:** Reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79)
- Eligible Entities:** Persons or entities who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible lands or landowners with an interest in eligible agricultural land may be eligible to apply for EQIP benefits. Other eligibility requirements, such as Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), Payment Limitations, may also apply.
- Taxa:** Invasive plants/weeds, plant pathogens/diseases, insects, animals, animal pathogens, diseases, aquatic species
- Contact Info:** Jeff White, EQIP Team Leader (202) 690-2621 Jeffrey.White@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 conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

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- Program Name:** **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**
- Agency:** USDA NRCS
- Funding Method:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will use existing covered program authorities to enter into agreements to further the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale. Funding assistance is delivered in accordance with the rules of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP); and, in designated Critical Conservation Areas, the Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention Program.
- Match:** RCPP does not require a specific match. However, an eligible partner is expected to provide a significant portion of the overall costs of the scope of the project that is the subject of the agreement, and the Secretary can give priority to applications that significantly leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources.
- Authority:** RCPP is allowed by Subtitle I of the Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (the 1985 Act), as amended by Section 2401 of the Agriculture Act of 2014. RCPP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program.
- Eligible Entities:** Eligible partners include advocate groups for conservation and those interested in assisting agricultural producers who face serious threats to soil,

water, and related natural resources, or who need assistance with complying with Federal and State environment laws.

- Taxa:** The program is not taxa-specific, nor geared toward particular taxa.
- Contact Info:** Maggie Rhodes, RCPP Team Coordinator, (202) 720-1986, (maggie.rhodes@wdc.usda.gov) Additional information at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>
- Purpose:** Voluntary program to foster conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities to further the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale.
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- 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:** Sharif Branham, NRCS program manager (202) 720-9474
Branham.Sharif@wdc.usda.gov
- 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.
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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: Mike Bennett, Natural Resources Specialist (202) 720-1885, (Mike.Bennett@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: Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Agency: USDA NRCS
Funding Method: Assistance is provided to land users for conservation planning purposes and for applying conservation measures voluntarily; they must also comply with local or state laws and regulations.
Match: Not applicable
Authority: Authorized by 16 U.S.C. 590a-f, 590q, 2005b, 3861, and 3862.
Eligible Entities: 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: Dan Lawson National Program Manager (202) 720-5322
Dan.Lawson@wdc.usda.gov
 Eligible participants should contact their local USDA NRCS office to request assistance.

Purpose: The CTA Program provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The CTA Program provides the technical capability, including direct conservation planning, conservation practice design, and assistance for practice implementation, that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land. This assistance is provided to individuals, groups, and communities who make natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands. The intent of the program is that conservation technical assistance is to be provided in a program-neutral fashion. Thus technical expertise is focused first and foremost on addressing natural resources concerns. Once a conservation plan is in place, financial assistance programs provide a supporting role in implementing those plans in order to solve resource concerns on the ground.

The CTA Program provides the proven and consistent conservation technology and delivery infrastructure needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape, and has the following purposes:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion,
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems,
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought,
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat,
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands, and
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability.

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: NRCS provides plant materials assistance for invasive plant species issues through field offices and conservation districts. The public is not eligible to directly participate in the program. The Plant Materials Program website

(<http://www.plant-materials.usda.gov>) includes limited technical information related to invasive species control and removal, but has extensive information on the use of plants to revegetate natural areas, such as after invasive species removal. NRCS does not provide plants or seed to the public.

Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds
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 solving natural resource problems. It evaluates plant materials and plant technology to improve the success of natural resource conservation efforts and revegetation efforts with native plants.

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
Danielle Flynn, National Biologist, (202) 690-0856
Danielle.Flynn@wdc.usda.gov
Purpose: Conservation and enhancement of wildlife and natural resources on private lands.

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 financial assistance rate is up to 75 percent of the cost of the estimated incurred cost and up to 100 percent of the estimated income foregone of an eligible practice.
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 16 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 16 states are: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, 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) 260-9232
dave.mason@wdc.usda.gov Additional information is available at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama/index.html/>

Purpose: AMA provides financial assistance 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 will be for not more than 10 years.

Program Name: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Agency: USDA NRCS

Funding Method: Congress authorized the enrollment of 10,000,000 acres for each fiscal year beginning on the date of enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and ending on September 30, 2022.

Match: CSP provides two types of payments through five-year contracts: annual payments for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing practices; and supplemental payments for adopting a resource-conserving crop rotation. Producers may be able to renew a contract if they have successfully fulfilled the initial contract and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. Payments are made soon as practical after October 1 of each fiscal year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year.

Authority: Title XII, subtitle D, chapter 2, subchapter B of the Food Security Act of 1985, 16 USC 3838d-3838g, as added by Section 2301 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-246. Section 2101 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 re-authorized the Stewardship Program and made minor adjustments to its administration.

Eligible Entities: CSP is available to all agricultural producers, regardless of operation size or type of crops produced, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Caribbean and Pacific Island areas. Applicants may include individuals, legal entities, joint operations or Indian tribes.

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

Contact Info: Leah Ricke, CSP Program Coordinator, (202) 720-6700
leah.ricke@wdc.usda.gov. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/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: **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 301-851-2087 (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. For additional information on the CAPS program, go to <http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu>

Program name: **Technology Development for the Biological Control of Invasive Native and Non-Native Plants (BCIP)**
Agency: USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program
Funding Method: National competition
Match: Cost sharing or matching is required.
Authority: Section 8 [16 U.S.C. 2104] Forest Health Protection of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended by Sec.'s 1215 and 1218 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, P.L. 104-624, 104 Stat. 3525 and 3531 Nov. 28, 1990.
Eligible Entities: Projects will be funded as Cooperative Agreements with State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal Agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals.
Taxa: Invasive plants/weeds and biological control agents.
Contact Info: Richard Reardon, Biological Control National Program Manager (304) 285-1566, rreardon@fs.fed.us
Purpose: USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry is currently requesting proposals for innovative projects that will advance the development of technology related to plant biological control. Successful proposals will

directly address the following priorities: 1) Developing improved rearing, distribution and post-release monitoring techniques for a biological control agent. 2) Development and/or implementation of technologies for rapid quantitative assessment of biological control impacts, or 3) Integrated weed management with a biological control component that is part of a methods development approach to determine efficacy and is not considered an operational treatment.

Instructions for preparing and submitting proposals are posted on the Forest Service website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/grants.shtml>

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: Mary Palm, Director, Pest Management Programs; 301-851-2069; Mary.Palm@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 certain invasive forest pests. For additional information on plant pest detection programs, go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/index.shtml.

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 Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Services, 301-851-3576
Purpose: APHIS conducts a variety of monitoring, survey, preparedness, response, 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.

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:	Deputy Administrator, William H. Clay, (202) 799-7095, Bill.Clay@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, National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) Web site --<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>. The grants section includes grant and funding information, requests for proposals, and other funding sources for invasive species control, management research and education. See <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/toolkit/grants.shtml>
- 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

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 above.

USDA Senior Invasive Species Coordinator: Hilda Diaz-Soltero (202) 412-0478; Hilda.Diaz-Soltero@aphis.usda.gov

APHIS Invasive Species Coordinator: Wendy Hall (301) 851-3189; Wendy.F.Hall@aphis.usda.gov

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

NRCS Invasive Species Coordinator: Doug Holy (703) 235-8069; doug.holy@wdc.usda.gov
USFS State & Private Invasive Species Coordinator: Steve Covell (703) 605-5342;
scovell@fs.fed.us

The USDA wants 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 your future work in this important area.

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