USDA conservation programs support farmers, jobs and the economy in Arkansas

Farmers, ranchers and rural communities are benefiting from conservation investments since the 2018 Farm Bill. Voluntary conservation programs produce cleaner water, healthier soil and more wildlife habitat, while supporting American jobs and the economy. TNC partnered with BW Research to model economic impacts of four major conservation programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from 2019 to 2029.

This research shows that Farm Bill conservation programs generate major returns on investment. Congress needs to defend all Farm Bill conservation funding so these programs can continue to deliver for farmers, ranchers and the American people.

Conservatively in Arkansas from 2019 to 2029, the four Farm Bill conservation programs will:

Jobs
2,100 annually

Support more than 2,100 jobs annually

Wages
$78.4M annually

Generate over $78.4 million in household income annually

GSP
$146M annually

Support more than $1.46 billion in total economic value over the 10 years

Total Tax Revenue
$112M

Yield more than $112 million in total local, state and federal tax revenue over the 10 years

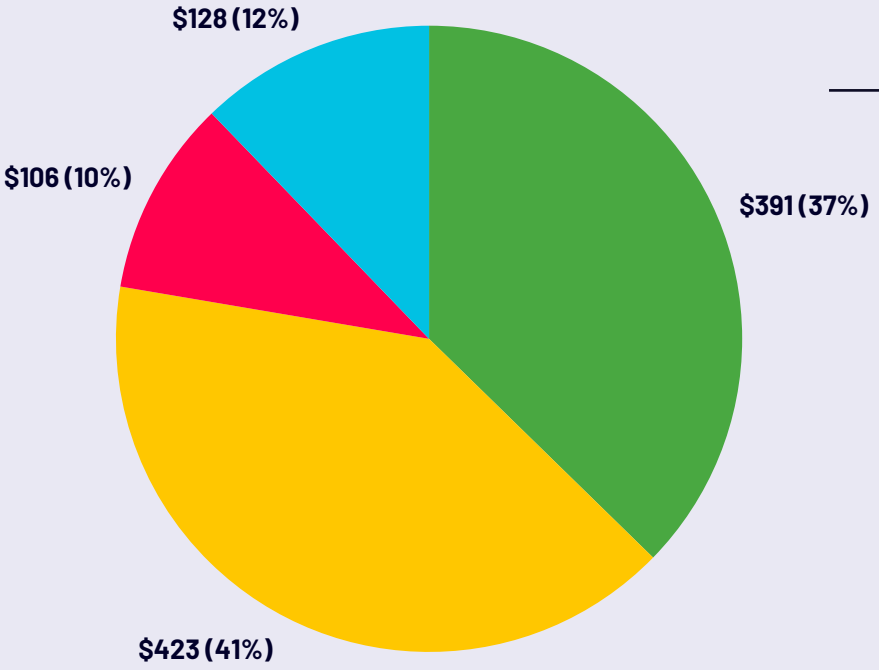
ROI
$1.39

Provide a net economic return of more than $1.39 for every federal dollar invested

The Nature Conservancy

Federal investments by Farm Bill conservation program

From 2019 to 2024, USDA NRCS has committed over $942 million to financial assistance (FA) contracts with Arkansas farmers, ranchers and forest landowners and more than $106 million in public-private partnerships for conservation. These funds typically get spent down over 3 to 5 year agreements, through 2029. This research conservatively estimates economic impacts of this $1 billion committed, not counting the significant economic benefits of NRCS technical assistance funding, producers' share of costs, or partner match and contributions.



$1 Billion

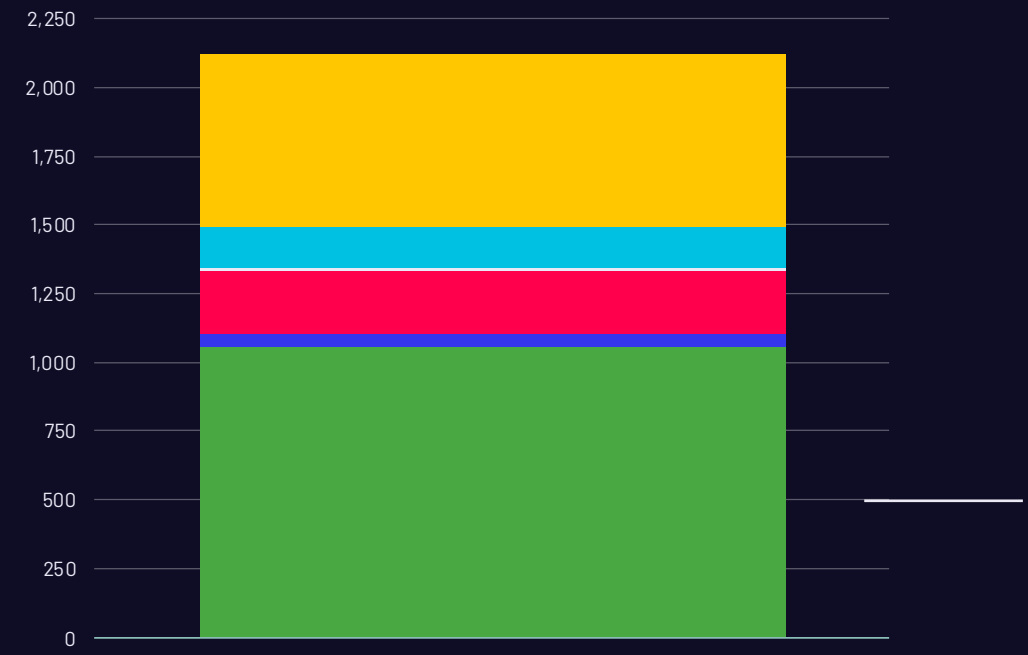
Ten year federal investment in producer contracts and conservation projects

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Source: USDA

*Figures in millions, funds authorized by P.L. 115-334 and P.L. 117-169

More than 2,100 jobs in Arkansas supported by Farm Bill conservation each year



- Agriculture & Forestry
- Construction
- Professional Services
- Manufacturing
- Other Supply Chain
- Induced

Nearly half of the jobs supported by the four conservation programs are in the agriculture and forestry sector