



# THE FARM BILL IN WEST VIRGINIA



The Farm Bill provides tens of millions of dollars per year in conservation assistance through cost-share, rental payments, easement payments and technical assistance to West Virginia farmers. The programs help producers better steward the state's soil, woods, waters and wildlife, and provide conservation and economic benefits.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical support to help farmers integrate beneficial conservation practices on working lands. In 2023, top West Virginia EQIP practices included prescribed grazing and nutrient management.





West Virginia in 2023:

- ✔ **\$12.7 million** obligated to producers from Farm Bill funds.
- ✔ **428 contracts**, making improvements on **34,442 acres**.

## Conservation Stewardship Program

In 2023, the Farm Bill invested **\$4.6 million** in West Virginia through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). **198 contracts** totaled **28,644 acres** across the state. CSP helps farmers implement multiple conservation practices over a five-year contract to enhance their entire operation.

Top West Virginia practices include:

-  Prescribed grazing
-  Forage harvest management
-  Structures for wildlife
- ✔  Forest stand improvement



## Conservation Reserve Program

In 2023, **426 West Virginia farms** were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), covering **13,700 acres**. Of them, 78% held at least one Continuous CRP contract—best known for its practices that can be implemented alongside regular production, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, wetlands and pollinator habitat.

Between 2019-2023, West Virginia farmers and landowners received **\$2.4 million** in annual CRP rental payments.

## Conservation Easements

Natural Resources Conservation Service easement programs like the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program help landowners protect their property's conservation value. The agreements can be used to protect farmland, wetlands and more. In 2023, there were **379 easements** in West Virginia, totaling **23,669 acres**.

## The Izaak Walton League and West Virginia

The Izaak Walton League of America was founded in 1922 to conserve outdoor America for future generations. The League's founders, avid anglers, named the organization after Izaak Walton, 17th century author of *The Compleat Angler*, a classic book about the art and spirit of fishing. Today, the League has **6 local chapters** and more than **1,600 members in West Virginia**.

One of America's oldest conservation groups, the League set a course to defend wild America through public policy. The organization has been involved in agricultural policy since 1937, when a League resolution called for a national program to retire fragile fields in mountainous areas from agricultural use. Today, more than **41,000 members across the country** continue the legacy.



Berkeley County, WV Chapter