

# NRCS Offers Assistance for Equine Operations

## Did You Know...

### What is Available?

- Voluntary Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance for your farm
- NRCS specialists can help find practices that are right for you and your operation
- Conservation Best Management Practices or “BMPs” and information on how they can benefit you and your horse
- Examples of eligible BMPs are: fencing, watering systems, stacking pads, sacrifice areas, pasture seeding, and animal walkways
- Financial Assistance that offers incentives to install BMPs on your land

### Who Qualifies?

#### Examples of qualified applicants:

- Breeding Facilities
- Trail, Wagon and Sleigh Ride Services
- Boarding Facilities
- Equine Training Facilities



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### How to Qualify for Financial Assistance

- Applicants must be engaged in livestock or agricultural production, and must be an owner of agricultural land or non-industrial private forest land
- Applicants must show a profit or loss from the operation

### How and When to Apply

- Applications for assistance are accepted year-round
- Contact your local NRCS office, or visit the website at [www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information
- Follow the 5 steps on the back of this sheet to walk you through the process

**...Your Horses'  
Health Begins  
With Their Environment?**

**USDA**  **NRCS**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# 5 STEPS TO APPLY FOR NRCS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



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Step 1: Establish Records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

- Locate your county's USDA Service Center which includes NRCS, FSA, and Conservation Districts.
- Fill out FSA documentation for individuals or entities.
- Assist FSA with the visual map location of your farmland and provide addresses.



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Step 2: Visit your local NRCS or County Conservation District to discuss your needs and concerns.

- Review your goals, farm acres, management practices, and animal numbers.
- Talk about the land uses, pasture, hay land, cropland, forestland, grazing areas and acres.
- Schedule a farm visit with a technical specialist for an evaluation of your farmland to assess your needs and concerns as well as discuss any resource issues.



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Step 3: Have a Conservation Plan written to your needs and goals.

- Have someone from the NRCS office evaluate your needs and goals in the field.
- Determine suitable practices that will address resource issues such as watering facilities, stack pads, fencing, etc.
- Your conservation plan will address all resource concerns plus your future plans and goals. Plans can be written by NRCS, Conservation Districts, or Technical Service Providers (TSP).



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Step 4: Determine what additional documents are needed for your establishment: Manure Management, Nutrient Management, or Odor Plans.

- Concentrated Animal Operations (CAO/2 or more animals per acre require a Nutrient Management Plan written by a TSP.)
- Smaller Operations/less than 2 animals per acre require a Manure Management Plan which can be written by the land owner with the Conservation District.
- If you are a CAO and are planning to build animal housing or manure storage structures, you must have an Odor Management Plan written by a TSP.



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Step 5: After all required documents are in place, **APPLY FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE!**

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