



NRCS Programs

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Natural Resources Conservation Service



NRCS Improving Lives, Communities and the Environment

Who We Are

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, provides voluntary assistance on private, non-federal lands to help people protect:

- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Other natural resources



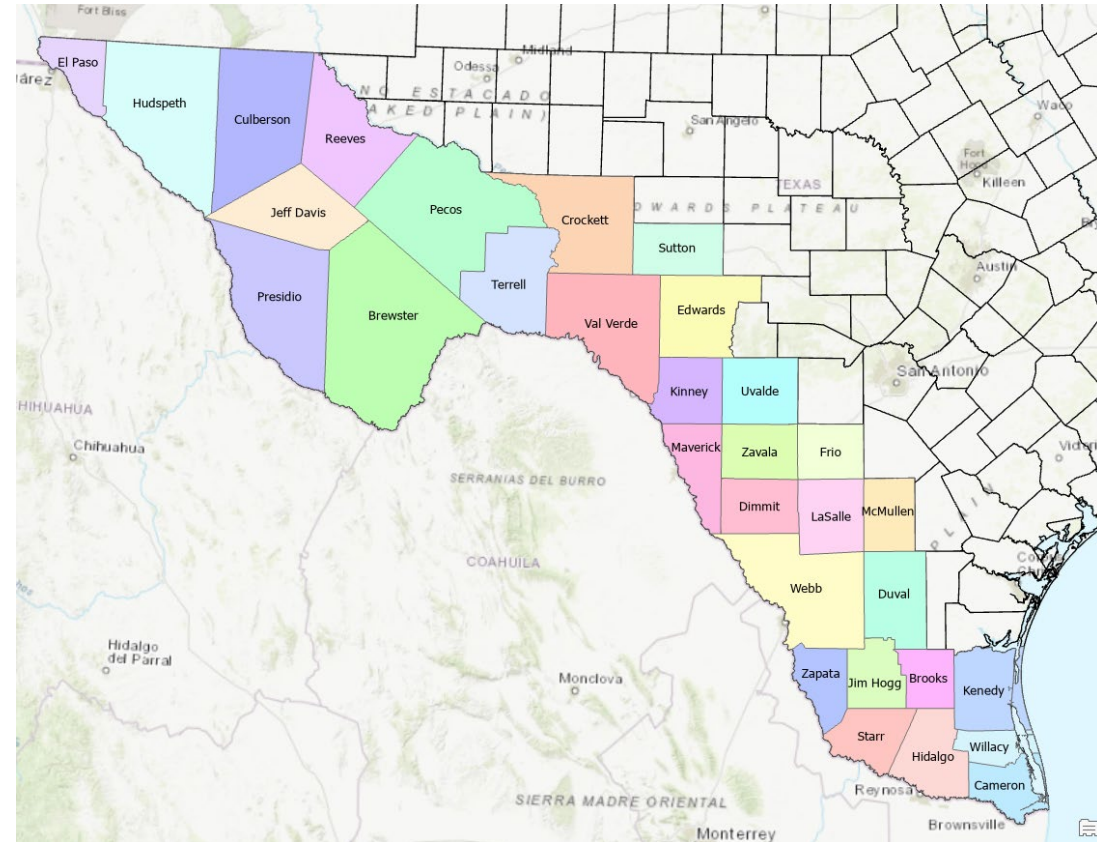
Our Programs

- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance



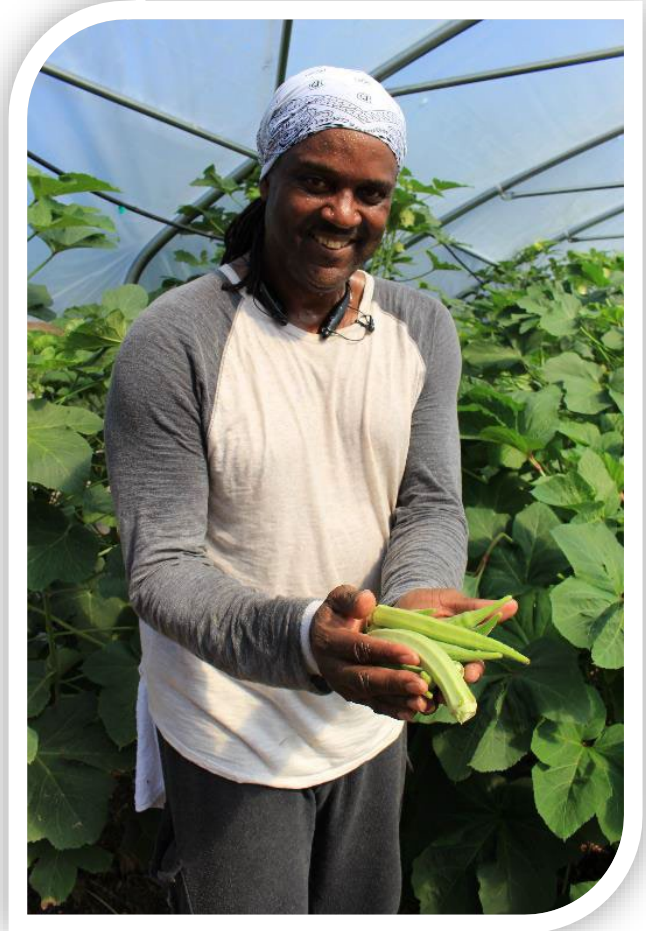
Financial Assistance Programs

- **31 Counties**
- **42 million acres**
- **\$72.4 million in payments 2018-today**
 - \$65 million EQIP
 - \$6.3 million CSP
 - \$1.1 million RCPP-EQIP
 - \$700,000 CSP-GCI



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits.



EQIP WaterSMART

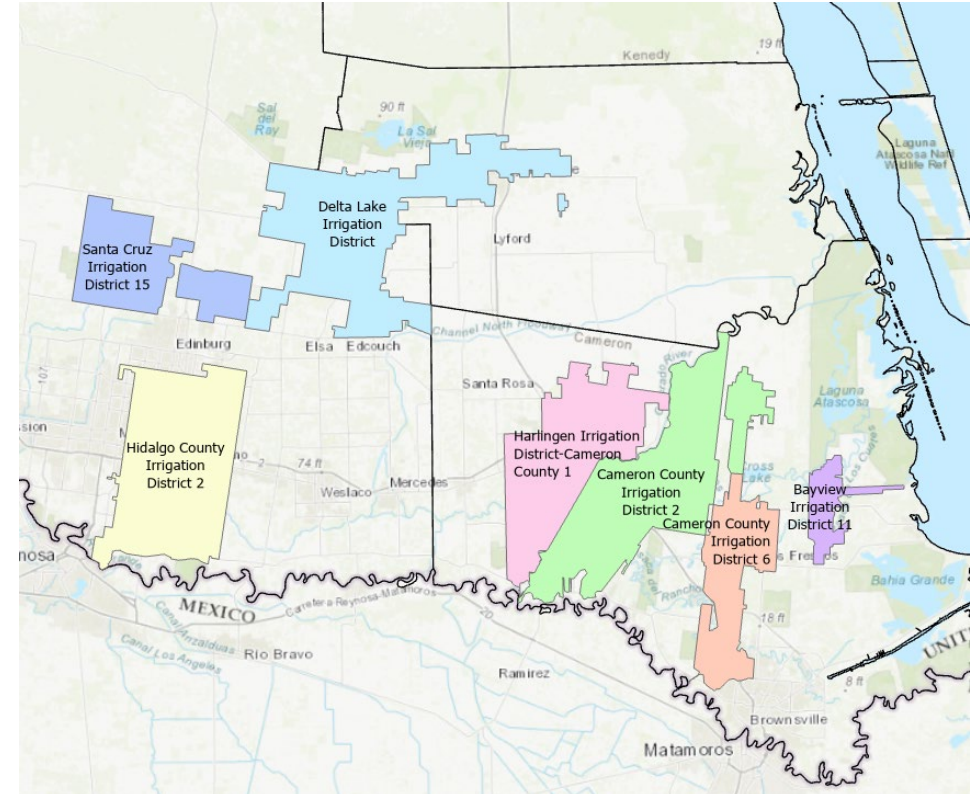
- Collaboration with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving cumulative impact in water conservation and drought resistance.
- NRCS uses EQIP WaterSMART funds to complement Reclamation WaterSMART funded projects by helping eligible farmers and ranchers make improvements that align with the paired Reclamation WaterSMART project.



EQIP WaterSMART

Cameron & Hidalgo Priority Area (2021-2023)

- Includes Cameron County Irrigation District 2 and Hidalgo County Irrigation Districts 2, 3, and 6.
- BOR assisting with converting open canals to underground PVC pipe.
- NRCS providing \$1.5 million over 3 years in financial assistance to improve water quantity and quality through irrigation efficiency.



EQIP WaterSMART

Cameron & Hidalgo Priority Area (2021-2023)

- \$520,000 Obligated for Irrigation Pipeline
 - \$307,000 in payments for installed pipeline
- \$203,000 Obligated to Improve Pivot Irrigation
 - \$154,000 in payments for installed systems
- \$82,000 Obligated to Improve Surface and Subsurface Irrigation
 - \$34,000 in payments for installed systems



EQIP Source Water Protection Initiative

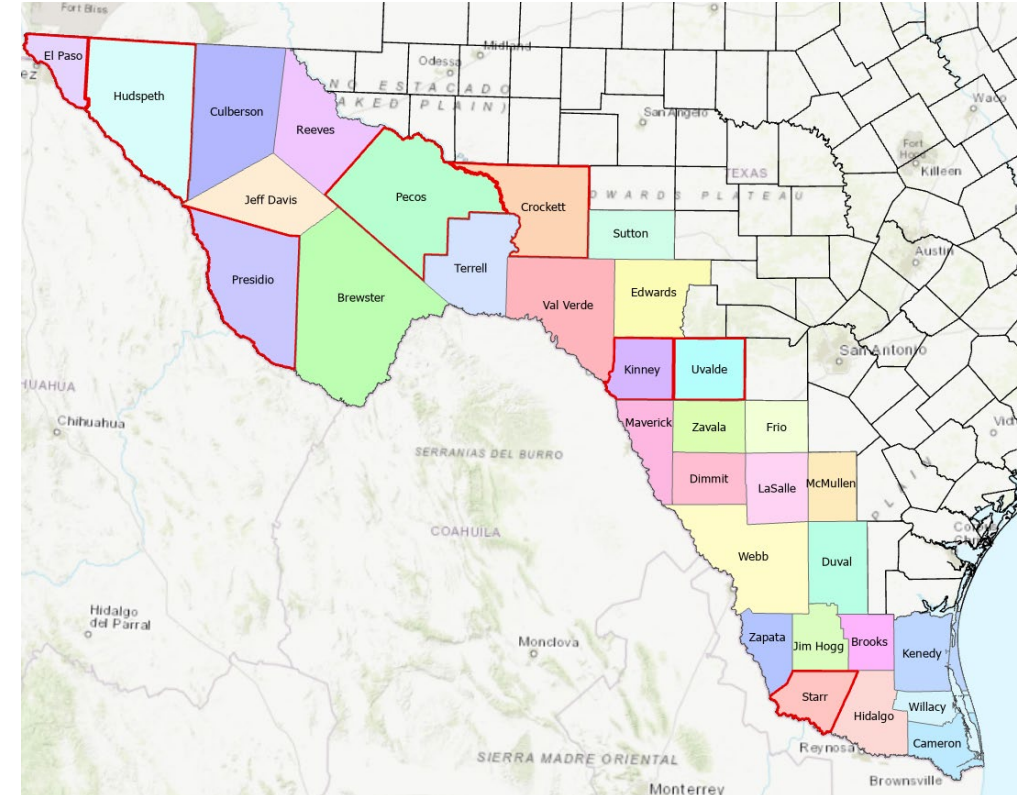
- NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to implement practices that relate to water quality and quantity and protect drinking water sources.
- Defined High Priority Areas receive an increased financial incentive for source water protection.



EQIP Source Water Protection Initiative

\$62 million in payments for installed practices benefiting
Source Water Protection

Brush Management
Well Decommissioning
Fence
Micro-Irrigation
Center Pivot Irrigation
Livestock Pipeline
Watering Facility
Prescribed Grazing
Structure for Water Control



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

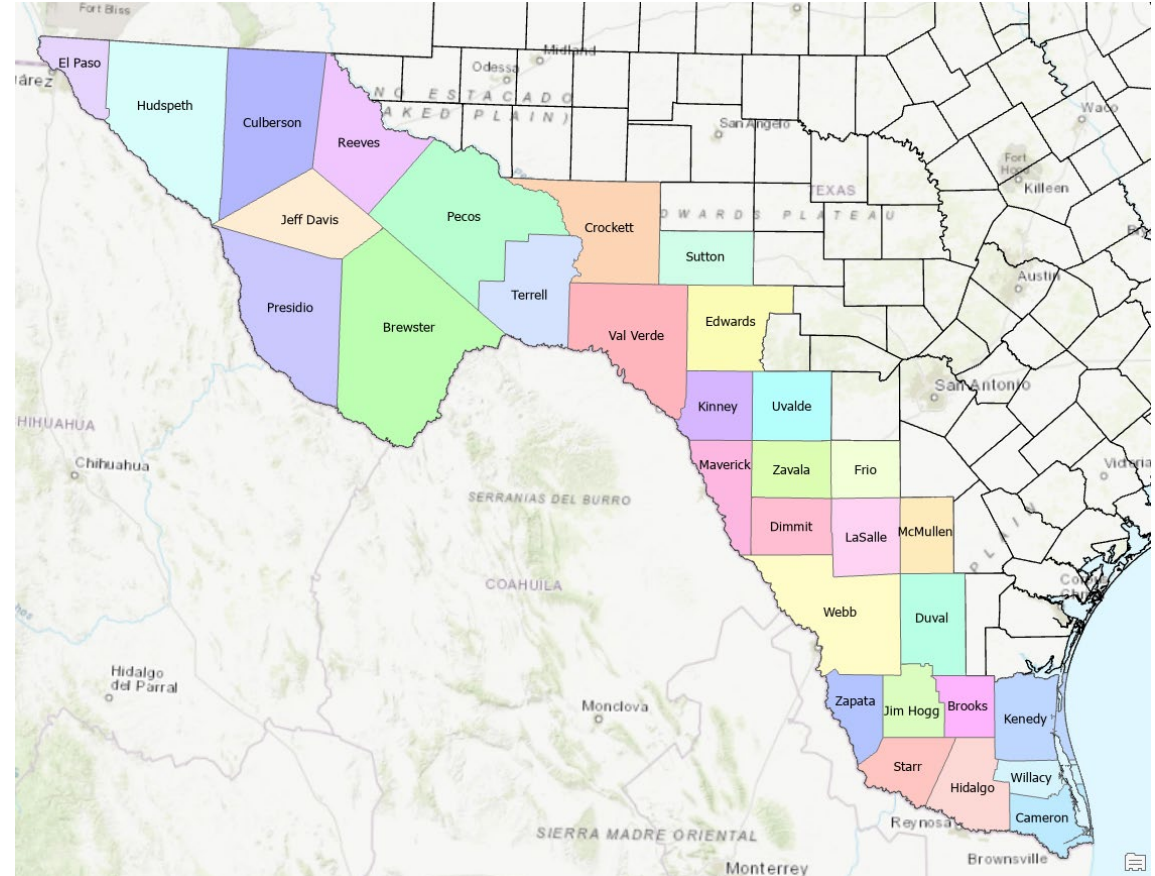
Encourages producers to address resource concerns comprehensively by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and applying additional conservation enhancements.



Active CSP Contracts

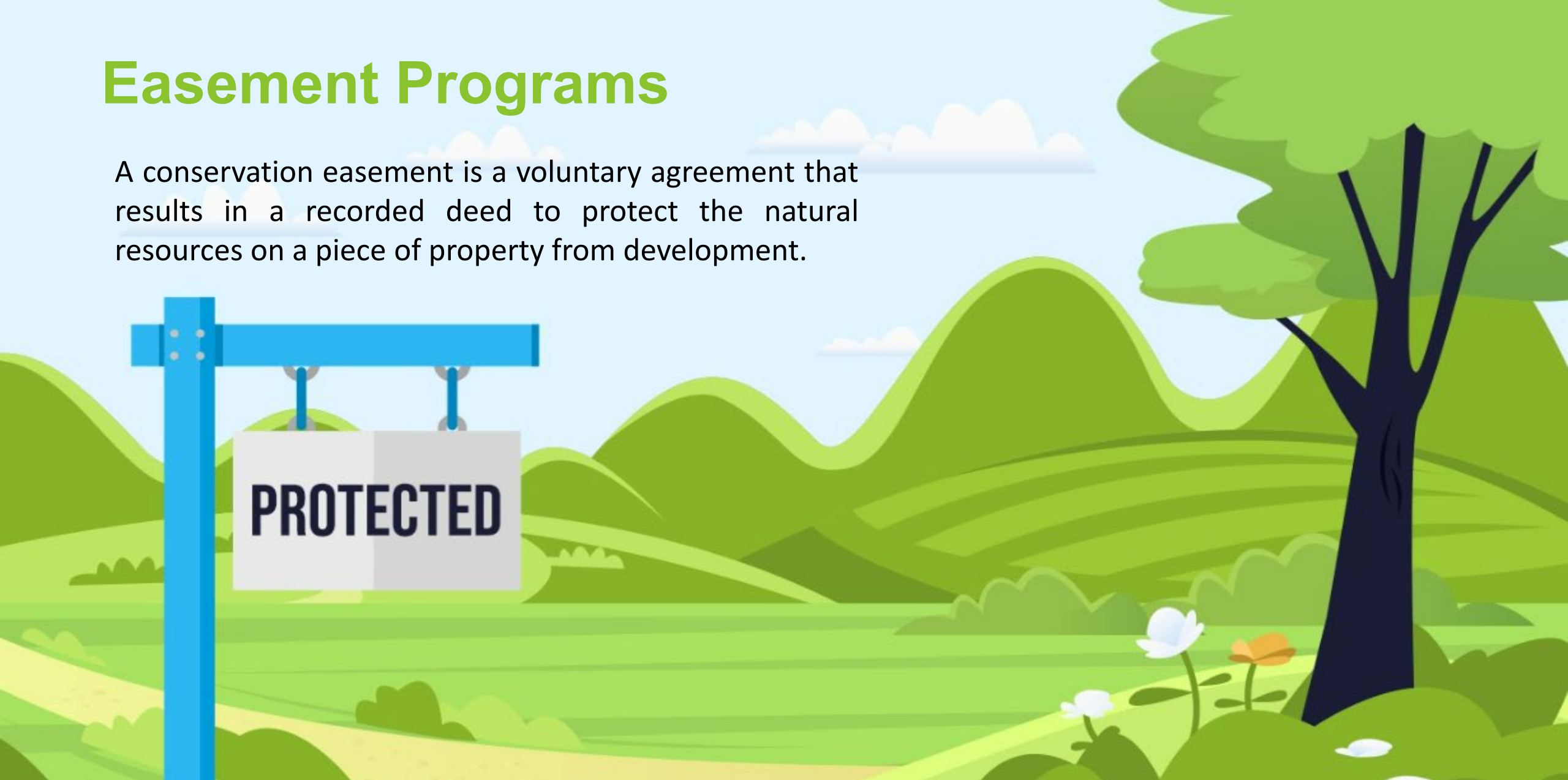
176 Active Contracts

- \$10.1 million
- 808,910 acres of conservation



Easement Programs

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement that results in a recorded deed to protect the natural resources on a piece of property from development.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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ACEP - Program Purposes

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

Protect agricultural, grazing, and related conservation values on eligible land by limiting non-compatible uses.



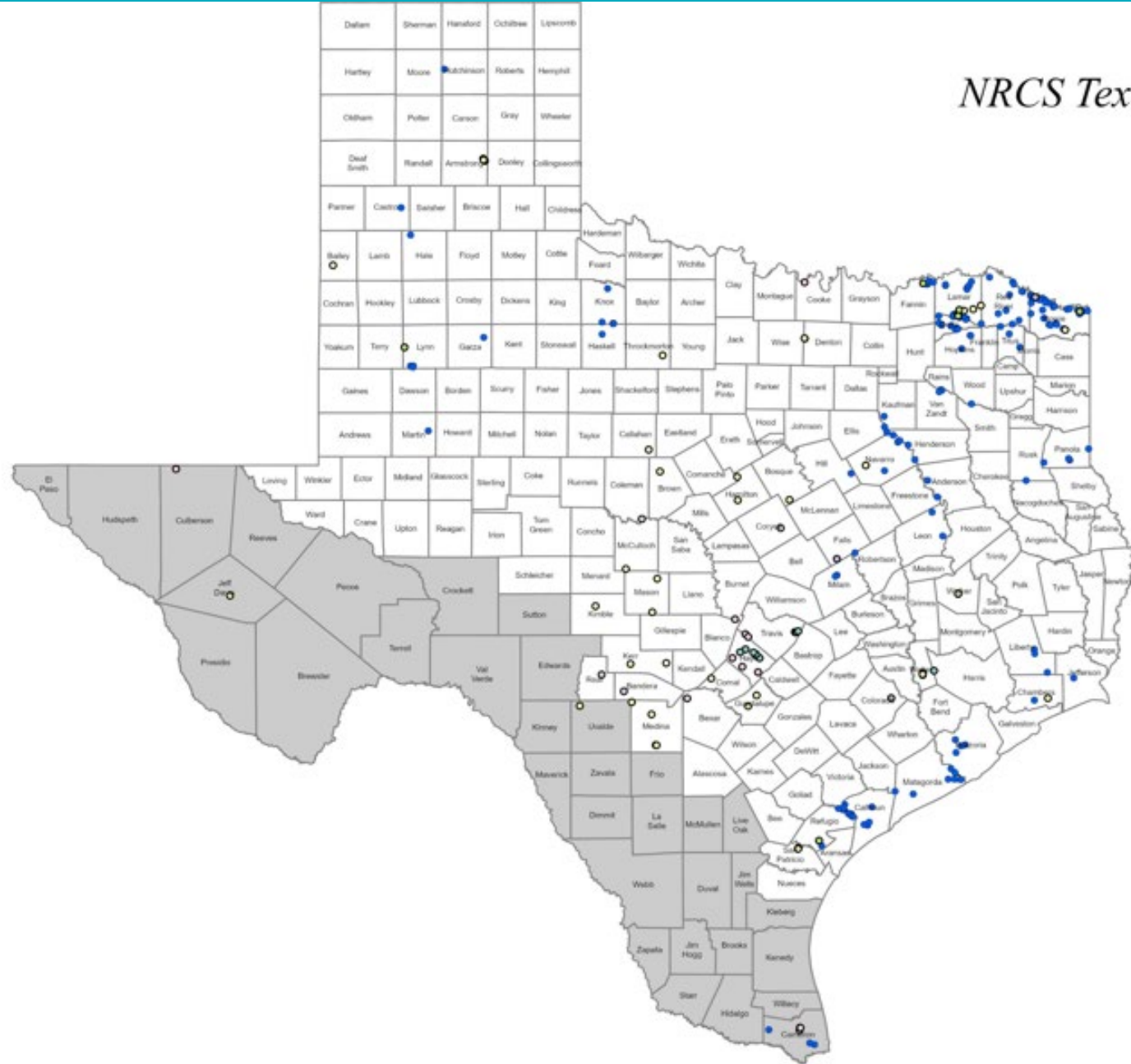
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Restore, protect, and enhance degraded wetlands.



NRCS Texas Easements

Southern Border	Count
ACEP-ALE	3
GRP	3
WRP	3
TOTAL:	9





United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS Disaster Programs



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EQIP - Disaster



- Flexibility with respect to existing contracts
- Higher Payment Rates
- Incorporate Disaster Discussions into Local Work Group Meetings



Common Resource Concerns and Conservation Practices

- Water Quality
 - Water Quantity
 - Soil Erosion
 - Degraded Plant Condition
 - Livestock Production Limitation
-
- Emergency Animal Mortality Management- 368
 - Prescribed Grazing- 528
 - Fence- 382
 - Water Well- 642
 - Watering Facility- 614
 - Pumping Plant- 533



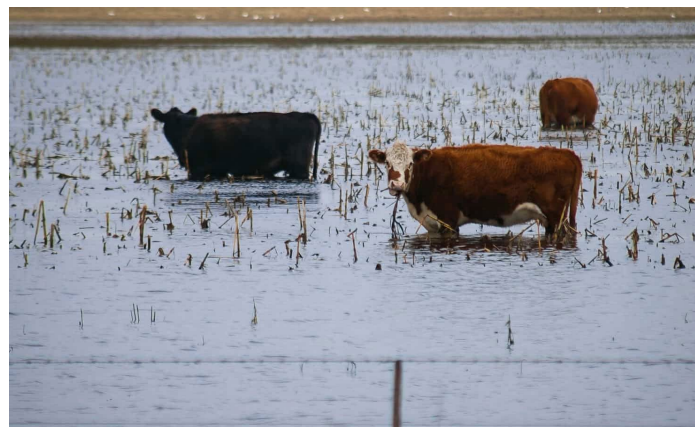
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Example EQIP Disaster Initiatives from Prior Years:

- Wildfire Recovery
- Hurricane Recovery
- Drought Recovery
- Flood Recovery



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

Natural Disaster

- A single event (e.g., flood or tornado)
- Disaster declaration by President, Governor, or State Conservationist (STC)

Sudden Watershed Impairment

- The disaster caused the impairment

Imminent hazard to life or property

- In the next event, life or property (e.g., road, bridge, or house) will be impacted

Emergency

- The recovery measure must be installed now

Project sponsor

- Local/state government or tribal organization



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EWPP Introduction



EWP Eligibility

EWP Project Emergency - Eligibility:

- Natural Disaster (flood, windstorms, fire, drought)
- Sudden Watershed Impairment (clogged streams, unstable streambanks, eroded upland slopes due to drought or fire)
- Imminent Hazard to Life/Property



Severe Weather 2018

Harlingen Irrigation District:

\$ 2.4 M Site 44

Remove existing vinyl sheet pile and replace with steel sheet pile wall for toe protection of channel.

2,130 Linear Feet



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Hurricane Hanna 2020

- **La Feria Irrigation District No. 3:**
\$ 2.9 M
21,000 Linear Feet of channel
- **Cameron County Drainage District No 5:**
\$ 902,856
4,500 Linear Feet of channel



For More Information



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