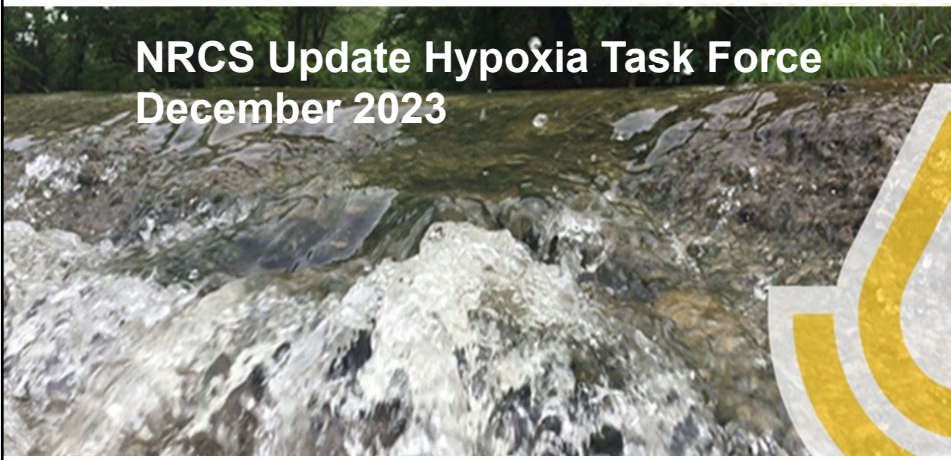


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Area Wide Planning Branch,
CPTAD




NRCS Update Hypoxia Task Force December 2023

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Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



- Signed into law by President Biden in August 2022
 - IRA funds first available in fiscal year 2023
 - IRA funds must be spent by September 30, 2031
- The IRA provides NRCS with \$19.5 billion in **additional** funds for its **existing** conservation programs:
 - \$8.45 billion Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - \$4.95 billion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)
 - \$3.25 billion Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - \$1.4 billion Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - \$1 billion Conservation Technical Assistance
- IRA appropriations will scale up each fiscal year through FY 2026
- **The IRA does not create any new programs** – it gives NRCS additional funds to **expand its existing climate efforts** and satisfy unmet demand

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Focuses on Mitigation & Facilitating Practices

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Access Control (472)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crops (340)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Pest Management Conservation System (595)

Waste Separation Facility (632)

Waste Transfer (634)
Roofs and Covers (367)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Watering Facility (614)
Stream Crossing (578)
Fence (382)
Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

- The IRA directs NRCS to use the additional funds specifically for **climate change mitigation**.
- Mitigation activities **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve carbon storage**.
 - FY24 list of **NRCS climate-smart mitigation activities**: nrcs.usda.gov/mitigation-activities.pdf
- IRA funding can also be used for practices needed to **facilitate a mitigation practice**.
- Here are some examples of **conservation systems** that **include** mitigation practices and the practices that may be needed to facilitate them.



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Conservation Systems' Multiple Benefits

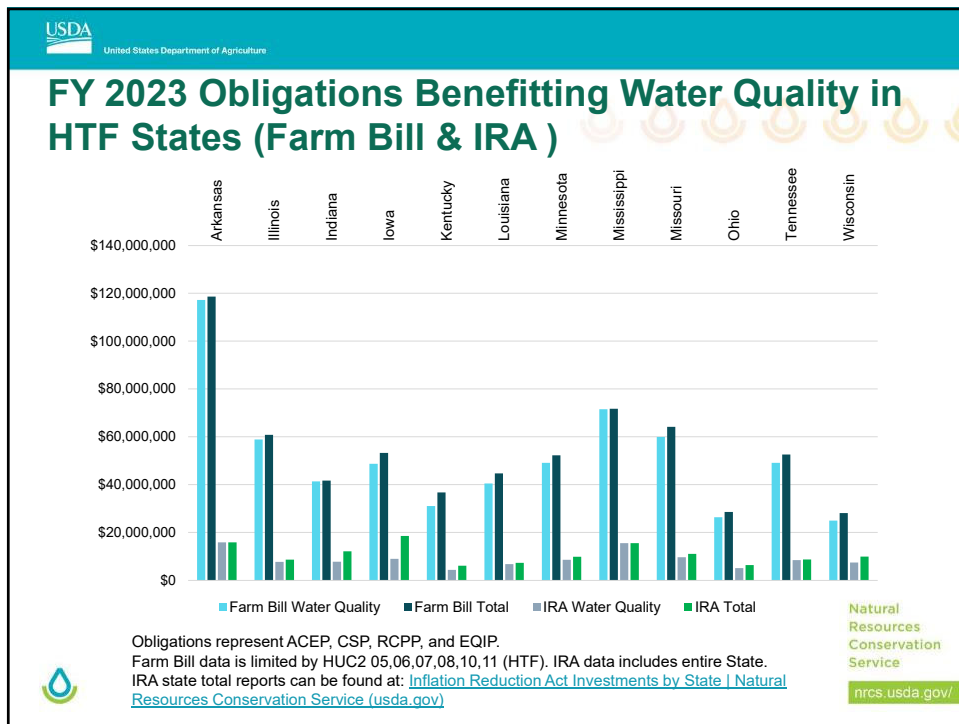


- Conservation systems may also provide other benefits besides climate change mitigation, such as:
 - Reducing risks and vulnerabilities and building resilience to climate change impacts (**climate change adaptation**)
 - Addressing other resource concerns like soil health, **water quality**, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and air quality
- Although many conservation practices can provide other benefits, **practices without mitigation benefits are not eligible for IRA funding unless they are needed to facilitate a mitigation practice**.

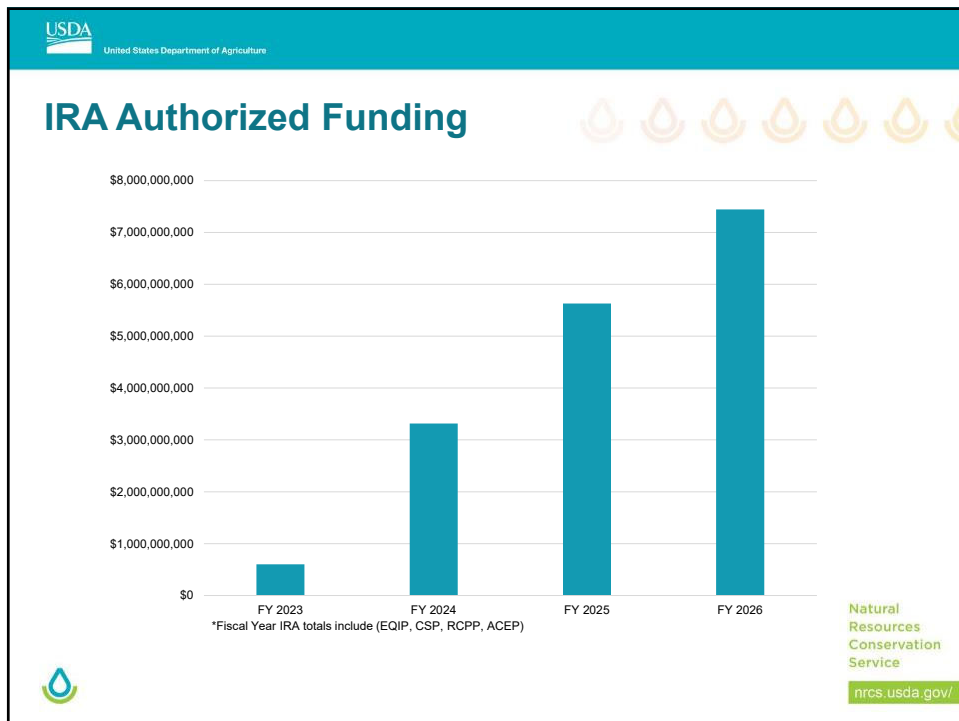
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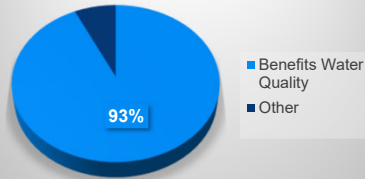


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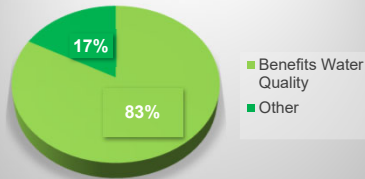
FY 2023 State Average for Obligations that Benefit Water Quality

- On average, 93% of **Farm Bill** obligations, and 83% of **IRA** obligations benefit water quality in HTF states
- Average **Farm Bill** obligations to benefit Water Quality in HTF states was \$51.5 Million, and average **IRA** obligations to benefit Water Quality in HTF states was \$8.8 Million (per state)

Farm Bill Obligations



IRA Obligations



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MRBI and NWQI Updates

- NRCS Chief Cosby approved decision to extend the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) and the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI) beyond FY 2023
- Activities in each of these targeted water quality initiatives continue to expand
- Partners have the opportunity to work with State Conservationists to target these initiatives and other funding to address water quality concerns

FY 2023 Watersheds Enrolled			FY 2024 Watersheds Enrolled		
	NWQI	MRBI		NWQI	MRBI
Implementation	123	285	Implementation	138	314
Planning (TA)	30	30	Planning (TA)	44	70



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