

Natural Resources Conservation Service Invests More Than \$23.9 Million for Technical Service Providers in Fiscal 2003

\$40 Million Targeted for Fiscal 2004

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) obligated more than \$23.9 million in Fiscal 2003 to ensure landowners received the technical assistance necessary to help them reach their conservation goals. NRCS obligated these funds through various agreements and contracts. Dollars dedicated to a contract or agreement will be paid once the technical services are completed.

Technical service providers expand the agency's conservation capacity, allowing it to provide more effective and efficient services to landowners who are working to improve conservation. The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the availability of technical assistance to producers by encouraging the use of these providers, which include private businesses, non-profit organizations, and public agencies.

Fiscal 2003 Funding for Technical Service Providers

Technical Service Provider Category	Fiscal 2003 Funds Obligated (\$)
Conservation Districts	9,485,280.27
Private Sector	7,831,235.90
State Agencies	5,058,401.48
Non-Governmental Organizations	637,171.00
Universities	433,047.00
Resource Conservation and Development	325,300.00
Indian Tribes	127,990.00
Local Governments	1,884.00
TOTAL	23,900,309.65

Fiscal 2004 Funding for Technical Service Providers

Funds for Fiscal 2004 are almost double last year's obligated funds. NRCS' expects to invest \$40 million into its technical service provider process this fiscal year.