



## Local Work Group Questions

1. As an LWG, what do you feel are the biggest problems (resource concerns) related to agriculture and natural resources?
  - a. Do you see NRCS or SWCD programs as a way to fix them? If yes, which programs seem like a good fit? What practices should we consider implementing to solve some of these problems (resource concerns)?
  - b. Are they being properly addressed?
  - c. If “No,” please provide suggestions on how to address them more effectively.
    - i. Technically?
    - ii. Programmatically?
2. Are there any areas that NRCS can prioritize or target that would work in conjunction with partner priorities (i.e. watershed specific, small operations, resource concerns)?
3. With the expansion of towns and cities and increased opportunities for urban agriculture, what resource concerns have been identified that could be addressed?
  - i. Technically?
  - ii. Programmatically?
4. Farm Bill conservation programs, with their respective initiatives and processes, allow NRCS to get more conservation on the ground. Are there any specific topics or Farm Bill programs (e.g., EQIP, CSP, ALE, WRE, IRA, CIC, CIG) of which you would like to receive additional information and training?

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5. The top resource concerns for the state for FY24 are water quality, soil loss and soil quality. Are there any known resource concerns that could become a priority in your district within the next 5 years?
    - a. How can they be addressed?
      - i. Technically?
      - ii. Programmatically?
  6. Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) plays a key role in the overarching concern for loss of farmland and rapid development.
    - a. Has the LWG considered exploring easements and other long term management tools/programs such as CRP/CREP/ACEP/RCP/CS?
    - b. What could NRCS do to increase enrollment in ACEP-WRE wetland easements and accelerate wetland restoration and protection in Virginia?
    - c. Can you recommend a potential partner organization(s) that may assist with these goals?
  7. The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program enables us to work with public and private partners to evaluate and accelerate adoption of new approaches to natural resource protection.
    - a. What topics of priority should be offered in a state CIG announcement in FY25?
  8. Are there any other concerns that the Local Work Group would like to bring to the attention of the state technical committee?
  9. Please provide other information and recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for USDA conservation activities and programs.

*Thank you for participating in the questionnaire.*