

Hello Goshen County Producers.

The USDA provides funds for local conservation work on an annual basis through the Farm Bill. These funds are awarded on a competitive basis and are to be used to promote sustainable farming and ranching practices that consist of structural (irrigation and stock water systems, fencing) and vegetative (rotational grazing systems for pastures and range, pasture reseeding, cover crop adoption, change in tillage management, irrigation water management). Funds are allocated at the discretion of Congress, but you have a say in how the funds are spent locally. Your local conservation district collects and provides your feedback to the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) so that project ranking can best capture the priority needs of our county.

As part of this ongoing effort, please number the following Resources of Concern in the order of 1-6 with 1-being of most importance (to your operation/area) through 6-being of lesser importance. There is no "right" or "wrong" order. Bulleted items are examples of components of each Resource of Concern.

_____ **Soil**

- Wind erosion
- Compaction
- Organic matter depletion

_____ **Water**

- Surface water depletion
- Ground water depletion
- Inefficient irrigation water use

_____ **Air**

- Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
- Objectionable odors

_____ **Plants**

- Plant productivity and health
- Plant pest pressure

_____ **Animals**

- Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
- Feed and forage imbalance
- Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution

_____ **Energy**

- Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
- Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations