



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping You Help the Land

Rosalynd Orr, Resource Conservationist [USDA-NRCS](#) [Somerset, NJ](#)

Overview

- Who is NRCS
- Ways we can help urban farmers
 - Technical Assistance and Planning
 - Financial Assistance Programs





What is the Natural Resources Conservation Service?

Office Locations

NJ State Office

- Somerset

Service Centers

- Hackettstown
- Frenchtown
- Freehold
- Columbus
- Woodstown
- Vineland

Technical Support Offices

- Somerset
- Hammonton

Plant Materials Center

- Cape May Court House





Technical Assistance

The information you need to know

Technical Resources and Staff

- Soil Scientists
- Conservation Planners
- Agronomist
- Pollinator Specialist
- Grazing Specialist
- Biologist
- Agricultural Engineers

Onsite soil investigation

Site specific soil properties



Onsite Soil Assessment for Urban Farms and Community Gardens

- ✓ Soil description / characterization
- ✓ Water movement in soil
- ✓ Trace metal analyses
- ✓ Other physical & chemical analyses
 - Particle size analysis
 - pH, conductivity, nutrients, CEC
- ✓ Soil health indicators

XRF Soil Testing for Heavy Metals

- Soils in urban areas often contain high concentrations of lead and other trace metals, which can be hazardous to plants, animals, and humans
- The portable X-ray Fluorescence (PXRF) analysis can determine the concentration of lead and other trace metals onsite
- Helps determine the need for raised beds or soil remediation





Conservation Programs

Helping cover the cost of conservation

Conservation Practices

The following are a few practices could be installed to protect Soil, Water, Air, Plant, and Animal Resources:

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Residue Management
- Cover Crop
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Roof Runoff Structure
- High Tunnel System
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Conservation Cover
- Brush Management
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Fence
- Grassed Waterway
- Filter Strips
- Critical Area Planting
- Field Border
- Drip Irrigation System

Seasonal High Tunnels (Hoophouse)



Pollinator Habitat

- Field Border; Conservation Cover
 - Pollinator habitat improvement



Conservation Management Practices

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Residue Management
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient and Pest Management



What Programs Does NRCS Offer

- > Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - > Cropland
 - > Irrigated Cropland
 - > Livestock
 - > High Tunnels
 - > Soil Health
 - > Organic
 - > Aquaculture
 - > Equine
 - > Energy



What Programs Does NRCS Offer

- > Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - > Funding is competitive
 - > Ranking process based on national, state, and local questions and practices based on resource concerns
 - > Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resources on their land.
 - > Payments are made to participants after conservation practices are identified, planned, and implemented.



Things to Remember

- Sign-up anytime for either Technical Assistance or Program Funding
- No minimum farm size or minimum farm income
- Participation is VOLUNTARY and NON-REGULATORY
- Your plan remains private and will not be shared with anyone without your consent



www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov



Rosalynd Orr

NRCS Resource Conservationist

220 Davidson Ave, Somerset, NJ 08873

732-537-6054

Rosalynd.orr@usda.gov



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