

What is a Conservation Plan?

A Conservation Plan recommends best management practices (BMPs) to assist the landowner to manage the objectives and goals you have for your natural resources. Best management practices protect our natural resources (wildlife and fish, animals, water, plants and soils), making your farm more cost effective, efficient and attractive.

Each Conservation Plan is tailored to an individual piece of property. Each piece of land has unique characteristics such as number of acres, soil type, and type of animals or crops raised. A Conservation Plan is developed to meet your needs whether your farm is 1 acre or 100 acres. The landowner's goals and objectives for the farm are taken into consideration when the plan is developed. Different alternatives are discussed with you to help you take advantage of opportunities to make better use of soil, water and plant resources, or to support the fish and wildlife through habitat improvement.

Working with a functional Conservation Plan is actually a constantly evolving management tool developed with and for the land user. A Conservation Plan includes an inventory, site map, aerial photo, recommendations, and options. A Conservation Plan is based on USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services standards and specifications, technical guide to save you time and money in the protection and efficient use of your natural resources.

What is included in a Conservation Plan?

The Conservation Plan will be developed based on the inventory. The Conservation Plan will recommend changes to reduce the impact your farm has on water quality or other natural resources. It will discuss ways you also can increase productivity. Some recommendations in your plan could include pasture renovation, installation of gutters and downspouts on barns, stream fencing, the planting of native tree species along streams, creating sacrifice areas for livestock in the winter, cross fencing pastures and manure management.

After the Conservation Plan is developed, EMS, LLC will review the plan and recommendations with you. You then decide when to implement the best management practices. The landowner may choose to schedule the implementation of all recommendations in one year, or spread the work out over several years. A record of decisions and an application schedule is developed based on the landowner's decisions. The plan is then finalized and the landowner is given a copy. As the goals or needs of the landowner change, revisions to the plan can be made to meet those needs by contacting EMS, LLC. When you begin to implement your Conservation Plan, EMS, LLC can provide you with further technical assistance as the need arises.