



N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

State-Administered Forestry Financial Assistance Programs



PROGRAM	ACTIVITIES	ELIGIBILITY*	TYPICAL SIGN-UP PERIOD	PAYMENTS**	NOTABLE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Forest Development Program (NCFS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and timber stand improvement	Landowner must own a minimum of five acres of land suitable for forestry purposes. No government-owned land	Base/Mountain Enrollment: March 1 - Last Friday of May Plant Only Enrollment: Sept. 1 - Last Friday of October	40% for most; 60% for planting longleaf, shortleaf, hardwoods, or wetland species; max 100 acres/year or \$10,000/landowner/year	The stand must be maintained for at least 10 years
<u>Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program (NCFS)</u>	Pre-commercial thinning	Landowner must own a minimum of five acres of NIPF land or tribal land. No government-owned land	State fiscal year until funds exhausted	Flat rate (50% of prevailing rate)	The stand must be maintained for at least 10 years
<u>Prescribed Burning Cost Share Program (NCFS)</u>	Understory prescribed burning for silviculture, hazard reduction, or wildlife habitat	Minimum of five acres NIPF. No government owned land	State fiscal year until funds exhausted	Flat rate (1-1 match under 100 acres; 1-2 match for additional acres); maximum payment of \$25,000/landowner/year	Burn must comply with the N.C. Prescribed Burning Act
<u>Foresters for Healthy Waters Program (NCFS)</u>	Preparation of pre-harvest plans, Stewardship and Tree Farm Plans (effective 4/1/2023)	10 or more acres of NIPF expected to be harvested within three years; located within Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Vance and Warren counties	State fiscal year, until funds exhausted	Flat rate based on acres \$750-\$3,500	Harvested area will continue to be managed as forestland
<u>American Forests (NCFS)</u>	Planting only	Minimum of five NIPF acres. No government-owned land	Sept. 1 - last Friday in October; annual funding dependent on availability of private source	40% for most species; 60% for longleaf, shortleaf, hardwood or wetland species	The stand must be maintained for at least 10 years
<u>N.C. Agricultural Cost-Share Program (NC Soil & Water)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and more	Agricultural lands directly involved with agriculture production for more than 3 years	Year-round	75% of prevailing average rate for each practice up to \$75,000	The stand must be maintained for at least 10 years

*NIPF = Non-Industrial Private Forest

**Payments based on actual acres completed and costs, or prevailing rates, whichever is lower.

Contact your local NCFS county or district office at ncforestservice.gov/contacts

Find your NC Soil & Water district at ncagr.gov/SWC/findyourdistrict.html

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Federally-Administered Forestry Financial Assistance Programs

PROGRAM	ACTIVITIES	ELIGIBILITY*	TYPICAL SIGN-UP PERIOD	PAYMENTS**	NOTABLE REQUIREMENTS
<u>Conservation Reserve Program General (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Highly erodible Ag land with requisite cropping history. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Announced General Signups that generally last 2 weeks. Usually 1 (rarely 2) per year.	50%, up to \$50,000 per year annual rental payments for life of contract. Average approx. \$40-167/acre/year	Maintain for the contract length of 10-15 years
<u>Conservation Reserve Program Continuous (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Ag land with requisite cropping history. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Year-round	50%, up to \$50,000 annual rental payments for life of contract. Average approx. \$40-167/acre/year	Maintain for the contract length of 10-15 years
<u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (FSA/NCAG)</u>	Site prep and tree planting	Land in one of 76 N.C. counties with cropping history able to be riparian buffer. Must be owner, operator or tenant of land for at least 12 months.	Year-round	90-100%, up to \$50,000 annual rental payments for first 15 years. Plus bonus payment	Maintain for 30 years or perpetual easement
<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Any land on which agricultural commodities, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.	Year-round: batched and ranked once per year	50% to over 100% of actual cost, may not exceed \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts in a time period	10-15 year contract length for most forestry practices
<u>Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and more	Agricultural lands, cropland, grassland, pastureland, rangeland, and NIPF. At least two priority resource concerns. Must add one additional priority concern by end of contract.	Year-round: batched and ranked once per year	50% to over 100% of actual cost, minimum annual payment \$1,500, maximum annual payment \$200,000	Whole property must be placed in CSP. Contract length of five years
<u>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (FSA)</u>	Site prep, tree planting, and more	NIPF located in county affected by a given natural disaster (not in CRP).	30-60 day period after EFRP is activated in that county	75% of net out-of-pocket costs, minimum \$1,000 payment, maximum \$500,000 payment per disaster event	Contract for lifespan of practice, typically 10 years.

Find your NRCS or FSA county office here: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

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