



Landowner Survey Questionnaire

Private Lands Conservation Incentives

We're interested in your ideas & opinions about voluntary incentives that are (or could be) provided to private landowners to encourage stewardship, land protection, and other conservation actions on the land. This may include cost share assistance for good conservation stewardship, payments that reserve land for environmental values, tax incentives to encourage keeping lands out of development or to encourage stewardship management, payments for development rights that protect land for agriculture or forestry from more intensive uses, technical assistance, market certification, or other incentives that help owners cover the cost of conservation on their lands.

Please feel free to use additional pages if needed.

1. Have you used any conservation incentives programs for your land? If so, what type of program was it:

- Conservation stewardship _____
- Land set-aside for conservation _____
- Tax incentives for holding land in non-developed uses _____
- Sale of development rights – natural resource land protection _____
- Other conservation easement for environmental protection _____
- Other: _____

Could you describe or evaluate your experience with the program?

2. What barriers or concerns do you believe might prevent landowners (yourself and others) from using the conservation incentives programs that may be available to them? For example, could you rate the importance of the following on a scale of 1-5: Important - 5 --- 1 - Unimportant

- The program does not offer enough money to be if interest _____
- There is too much bureaucracy associated with applying _____
- Landowners do not want government working on their land _____
- The landowner may not qualify for the programs that would be of the most interest _____
- The landowner may not be aware of the relevant program _____
- Other (explain): _____

3. What improvements can you suggest that would make incentive programs more appealing to and useful for the private landowners who use them?



4. What benefits and advantages of these programs do you feel are the significant factors in motivating yourself and other landowners to participate? For example, on a scale of 1-5, how important or unimportant do you believe the following to be: Important 5 --- 1 Unimportant
- Landowner’s desire to protect the future productivity of the land _____
 - Landowner’s desire to be a responsible citizen _____
 - The program may help to pay for land improvements that the landowner would like to make in any case _____
 - The program provides money to supplement the income derived from a farm, ranch, or forest business on the land _____
 - Landowner is concerned about future regulatory action _____
 - Landowner learned about program from a respected source _____
 - Other (please explain): _____
5. What suggestions do you have for changes that you feel could help make conservation incentives programs more effective in providing worthwhile public benefits at the lowest possible public cost.
6. Are there conservation incentives programs that do not exist that you think should? Are there specific ways you feel current conservation incentives could be improved? Are there current conservation programs that you feel do not work and should be eliminated? Could you explain?
7. I’d also like to say

Thanks for your help. If you’d like to be kept informed about the progress of this project, you can provide your contact information here:

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

If you do not wish to identify yourself – there is no need to do so. In either case, we will not publicly identify you or your opinions and will use your information exclusively to inform this project.

Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Or, if you prefer, you can send in your comments by e-mail to: dstuart@farmland.org.

For questions or further information about the project, about the questionnaire, or on other issues connected with this survey, please feel free to contact:

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