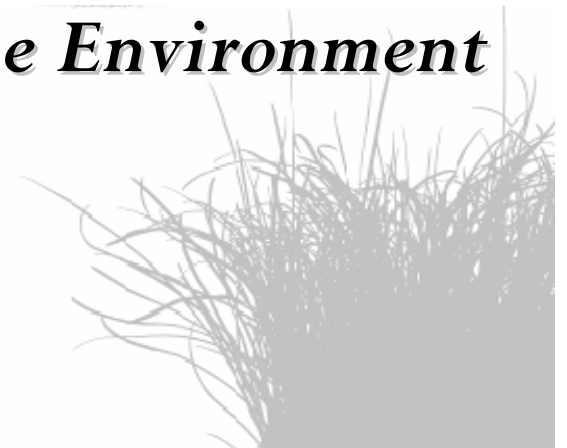


*Helping People Help the Land.*



*Improving Lives, Communities and the Environment*  
Through Natural Resources Conservation



## NRCS professionals serve every county in the US:

- serve local people who request assistance,
- promote partnership efforts
- deliver science-based information and technology, including decision support models.



## *Our Approach*



**NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance:**

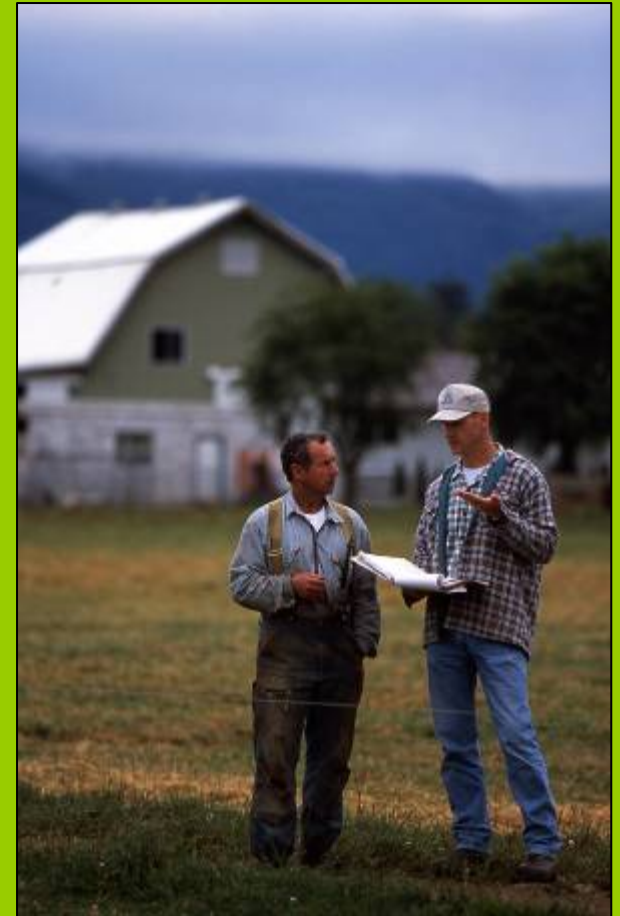
- CTA
- EQIP
- Information Resources
- RC&D
- Plant Materials



## *Bioenergy-Related Programs*

The **Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS**, provides local assistance to help people voluntarily protect:

- **soil,**
  - **water,** and
  - related **natural resources**
- on private, non-federal lands.



*Who we are*



**Conservation Planning has historically been our primary function:**



*Conservation Technical*

 **NRCS** *Assistance*





**EQIP Purpose:** Help develop conservation plans and implement practices subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions.

## *Env't'l Quality Incentives Program*



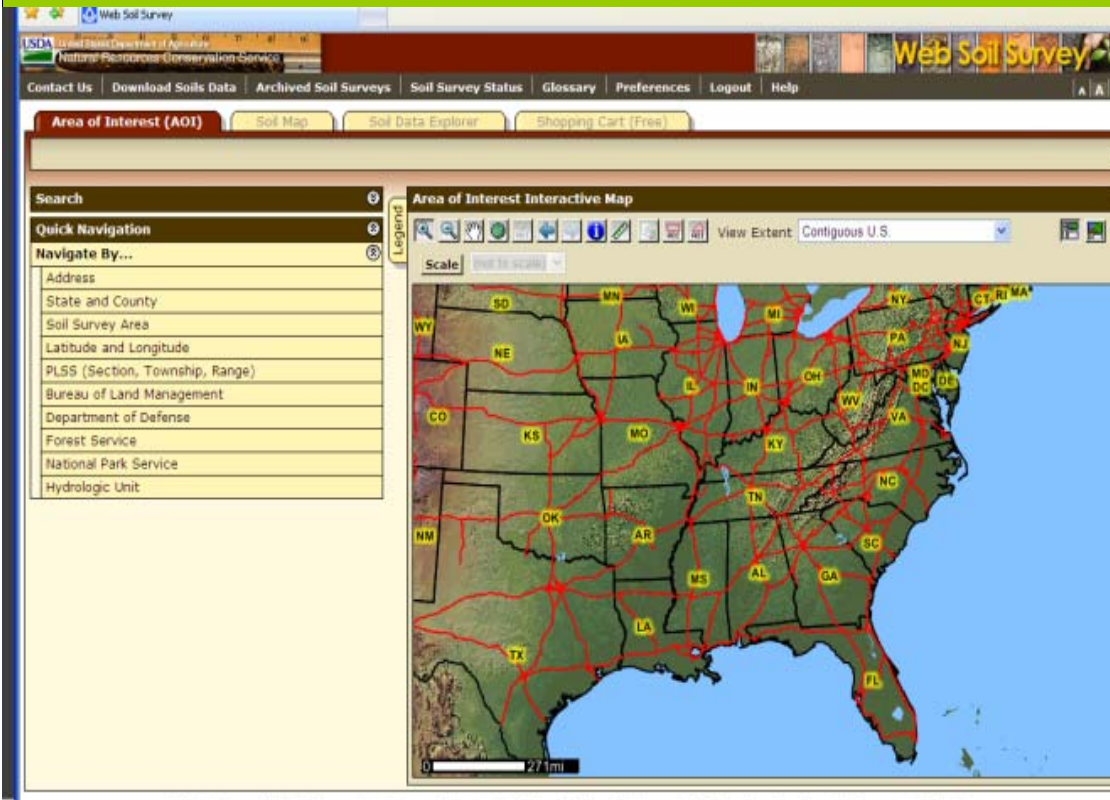
## 2009EQIP Energy Investments

Natural Resource Conservation Service	Mission Area	Number	Amount invested
<i>Agricultural Energy Management Plans</i>	NRE	239	\$437,195
<i>Anerobic Digesters</i>	NRE	6	\$1,345,606
<i>Pumping Plant for Water Control</i>		3,477	\$17,242,090
<i>Conservation Power Plant</i>	NRE	15	\$556,012

*Env't'l Quality Incentives Program*



# Web Soil Survey:



- Provides soil maps, soil data, appropriate uses and limitations of soils in your area.
- Locate soils by address, state and county, soil survey area, hydrologic unit, etc.

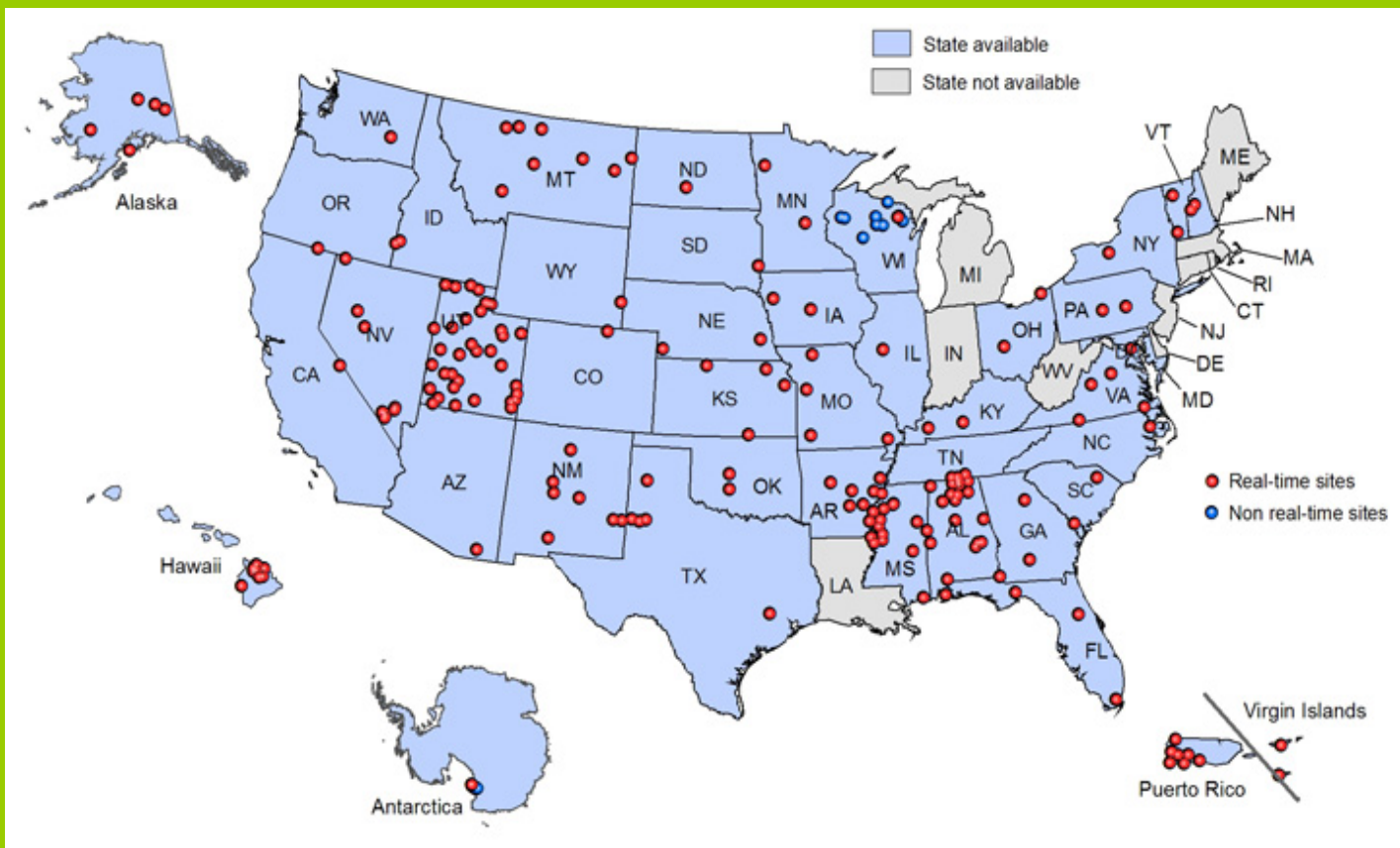
## *Information Resources*



<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>



# SCAN Sites



## *Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)*



<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

# PLANTS Database:

- Name and Characteristics
- Distribution
- Cultivation requirements
- Images
- Automated tools
- Web links
- References



The screenshot shows the PLANTS Database website. At the top right is the logo "PLANTS Database" with a green leaf icon and the URL "http://plants.usda.gov". Below the logo are four main sections: "What is The National Plant Data Center?", "What is the PLANTS Database?", "How is the PLANTS Database Used?", and "ACCESS:". Each section contains descriptive text and a list of features or services. The "SEARCH:" section includes a list of search options and a small image of a white flower. The "DOWNLOAD:" section includes a list of downloadable resources and a small image of a purple flower. The "ACCESS:" section includes a list of access options and a small image of a plant.

**What is The National Plant Data Center ?**

The National Plant Data Center (NPDC) staff specialize in plant taxonomy, forestry, plant materials, physiology, range, taxonomic database development, natural resources, and ecology. The staff work with specialists globally to integrate various aspects of plant information into the PLANTS database and other Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) applications. The data produced by the NPDC serve as a national standard used by many Federal and state agencies and private organizations. The National Plant Data Center is an office of the NRCS Ecological Sciences Division and a member of the Science and Technology Consortium.

**What is the PLANTS Database?**

The PLANTS Database provides flexible on-line access to the diverse, taxonomically standardized plant information for the U.S. and its territories necessary to improve and maintain the ecological health of the land. The NPDC is dedicated to maintaining the most current plant information possible in the database. Links and shared data modules can increase your efficiency as you use the database.

**How is the PLANTS Database Used?**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service uses PLANTS to provide the public, NRCS field offices, clients, and cooperators support for many useful natural resource conservation activities, programs, and initiatives, such as implementing conservation practices.

**SEARCH:**

- Over 43,000 U.S. plant and lichen species
- Plants by common and scientific names
- Conservation plants
- Plant Materials publications
- Advanced query access to all PLANTS data

**DOWNLOAD:**

- Plant Guides and Fact Sheets for growing and managing over 500 conservation plants
- Photo gallery images and line drawings
- A complete PLANTS checklist
- State PLANTS checklists

**ACCESS:**

- Culturally Significant Plants
- Integrated Federal and State Legal Status (Noxious, Threatened and Endangered, or Wetland Indicator Status)

## *PLANTS Database*



<http://plants.usda.gov/>



## Resource Conservation and Development Program:

- Voluntary
- Natural resource conservation and community development
- Local councils
- Public and private sector sponsors

*Resource Cons. and Devel. (RC&D)*



## ***Sample Projects:***

### ***North Carolina:***

Dairy methane gas digester feasibility study



Demonstrate value-added uses for crude glycerol to promote biodiesel production

***Resource Cons. And Devel. (RC&D)***







## **27 Plant Materials Centers address resource concerns, including bioenergy:**

- Switchgrass and other perennial feedstock development
- DOE Biomass feedstock development program
- Biofuel qualities of various plants

# *Plant Materials Program*





## NRCS programs can support bioenergy development in several ways:



- Conservation planning (*CTA*)
- Direct financial assistance (*EQIP*)
- Information resources (*Databases and technical resources*)
- Networking (*RC&D*)
- Research/field testing (*PM*)

## *Summary*

