



# Conservation Partners Program

## NFWF CONTACT

**Bridget Collins**

Program Director,  
Working Lands  
bridget.collins@nfwf.org  
202-595-2655

**Ernest Newborn**

Coordinator,  
Regional Programs  
ernest.newborn@nfwf.org  
202-595-2444

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cargill
- General Mills
- The J.M. Smucker Co.

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C., 20005  
202-857-0166



Eastern meadowlark in a wheat field

## BACKGROUND

Every year, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners voluntarily participate in federal Farm Bill conservation programs designed to address some of the nation's most pressing conservation issues. Since 2011, the Conservation Partners Program has been dedicated to supporting voluntary conservation partnerships on private, working lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them participate in Farm Bill programs and design and implement best management practices.

The Conservation Partners Program advances key strategies on working lands, including grazing management, soil health practices on cropland, irrigation efficiency and wildlife habitat enhancement. Over its 12 years, the Conservation Partners Program has awarded 262 grants worth more than \$54 million and leveraged an additional \$98 million in matching contributions, generating a total conservation investment of more than \$152 million.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) manages the Conservation Partners Program with generous support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Cargill, General Mills, and The J.M. Smucker Co. This program not only enhances water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration, it also provides important benefits to rural communities.

*(continued)*



Cattle in a field

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Partners Program awards competitive grants that accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture principles and conservation practices on private lands. Grant recipients provide technical assistance to landowners and operators to help them:

- Develop management plans
- Design and implement best practices
- Participate in Farm Bill programs
- Share their experiences and lessons learned

Grants are geographically targeted to place expert staff where they can both fulfill unmet technical assistance needs and maximize the soil, water and wildlife benefits of Farm Bill conservation programs.

The Conservation Partners Program address working lands conservation needs in priority geographies, including the Prairie Pothole Region, Upper Mississippi River Basin and Southern Great Plains. Implementing conservation at scale in those working landscapes is possible only through partnering with the farmers, ranchers and other landowners who serve as the primary stewards of the land and its resources.