

NRCS Program Updates

O2O Partnership Meeting

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PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

11/3/2021



Important Dates

Activity	Important Dates
Conservation Stewardship Program Deadline	December 10 th
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Deadline	December 31 st
State Technical Committee meeting	January 26 th
Urban Farm Demonstration Site Competitive Agreement Announcement	February 2022 – announced April 2022 – application deadline
State Conservation Innovation Grants Competition	April 2022 – announced June 2022 – application deadline
Urban Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Sign-up	TBD in 2022
EQIP – Conservation Incentives Contract (CIC) Sign-up	TBD in 2022

State Technical Committee & Local Working Groups Meetings

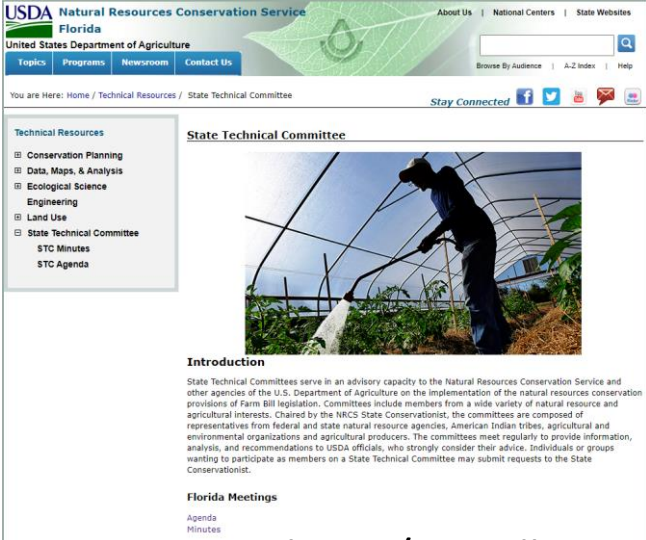
• Predictable Schedule:

- State Technical Committee: every January and June
- Local Working Groups (LWG): between October-November

• January 26 - State Technical Committee Topics

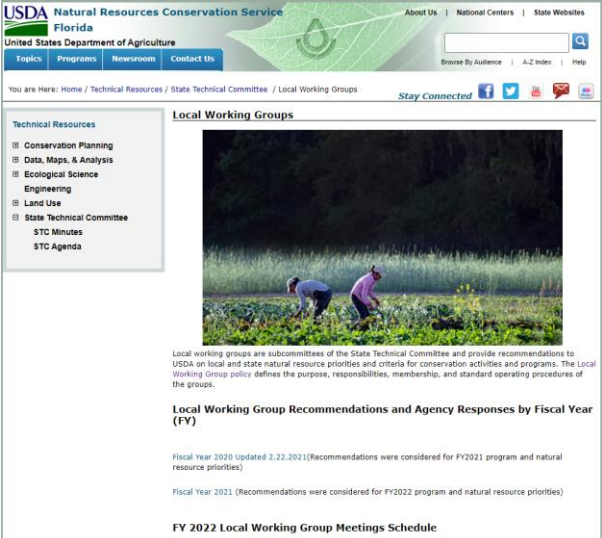
- Review LWG recommendations
- Report on Fiscal Year 2022 program and natural resource priorities
- Discuss upcoming funding opportunities
- NRCS Florida Wildlife Strategy – 5 Year Plan
- Opportunity for Partner Presentations – email Nina Bhattacharyya, nina.bhattacharyya@usda.gov

Info on NRCS Website:



The screenshot shows the NRCS Florida website. The header includes the USDA logo, "Natural Resources Conservation Service", "Florida", and "United States Department of Agriculture". Navigation links include "Topics", "Programs", "Newsroom", and "Contact Us". A search bar and "Browse By Audience" are also present. The main content area is titled "State Technical Committee" and features a photo of a person working in a field. Below the photo is an "Introduction" section explaining the role of State Technical Committees and a "Florida Meetings" section with links for "Agenda" and "Minutes".

STAC: tinyurl.com/nz7ndbwz



The screenshot shows the NRCS Florida website's "Local Working Groups" page. It features a photo of two people working in a field. Below the photo is a section titled "Local Working Groups" with a descriptive paragraph. Further down is a section titled "Local Working Group Recommendations and Agency Responses by Fiscal Year (FY)" with links for "Fiscal Year 2020 updated 2.22.2021" and "Fiscal Year 2021". At the bottom, there is a link for "FY 2022 Local Working Group Meetings Schedule".

LWG: tinyurl.com/yhypfj26

Urban Agriculture Initiative Goals

- Establish Urban Agriculture Subcommittee to advise NRCS
- Conduct urban agriculture sign-up through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Competitive agreement opportunities for urban/small-scale farms to apply and serve as demonstration sites for urban agriculture practices
- Conduct outreach to further urban agriculture conservation
- Identify resources and partners to leverage NRCS efforts

Urban Agriculture Practices

NRCS now offers Conservation Practices that are scaled to urban and small-scale farms. Below are a few examples of practices now available, more information will be provided soon:

- Composting Facility
- High Tunnel (regular and small)
- Conservation Cover (pollinator mix)
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Micro-irrigation
- Nutrient and Pest Management

Wildlife Strategy – Five Year Plan

- Developed in consultation with State Technical Committee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Implemented across NRCS programs through targeted funding and ranking
- Species targeted (phased in over 5 years)
 - Northern Bobwhite Quail (Years 1-5)
 - Florida Panther (Years 1-5)
 - Reticulated flatwoods salamander/Frosted flatwoods salamander (Years 2-5)
 - Florida grasshopper sparrow (Years 3-5)
 - Mussels, various crayfish, Bluenose shiner, Southern tessellated darter (Years 3-5)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement: expected end of this year or early next year
- Start planning now!
- If you are interested in applying, please contact Nina Bhattacharyya to set up a meeting with Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist



Questions?
