

PART 4XX – Technical Service Provider Policy

4XX.XX Purpose

This part establishes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) national policy for Technical Service Provider (TSP) Assistance.

4XX.XX General

NRCS has responsibility for providing conservation planning and technical assistance to clients and participants. Section 1242 of the Food Security Act greatly expands the availability of technical assistance to producers by encouraging other non-USDA potential providers of technical assistance to assist in the delivery of technical services to implement farm bill programs.

The Conservation Program Manual Title 440, part 504 provides detailed policy, roles and responsibilities related to Technical Service Provider Assistance.

The National Technical Service Provider Handbook provides procedure and guidance on implementing this policy.

4XX.XX Policy

Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107–171, May 13, 2002 (referred to as the 2002 Farm Bill), specifically provides for delivering technical assistance to a producer directly or through a payment for an approved third party, if available. It also calls for establishing a system for approving individuals, entities, public agencies and American Indian Tribes to provide technical assistance through the establishment of criteria for the evaluation of potential or approved providers of technical assistance, establishing the amounts and methods for payments for that assistance, and executing agreements or contracts to help provide technical assistance necessary to develop and implement conservation programs.