Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Purpose and Overview

Project Code: 912

CEAP- Conservation Effects Assessment Project

- **Led by:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (**NRCS**)

- **Goal: Quantify** effects of conservation practices

- **Outcomes:** Provide data to guide conservation **policy**

National Resources Conservation Service

- NRCS is a USDA agency (just like NASS)

  - Provides technical assistance to farmers to ensure land **stays productive**

  - CEAP is NRCS' **"report card"** to Congress

  - **Helping People Help the Land**
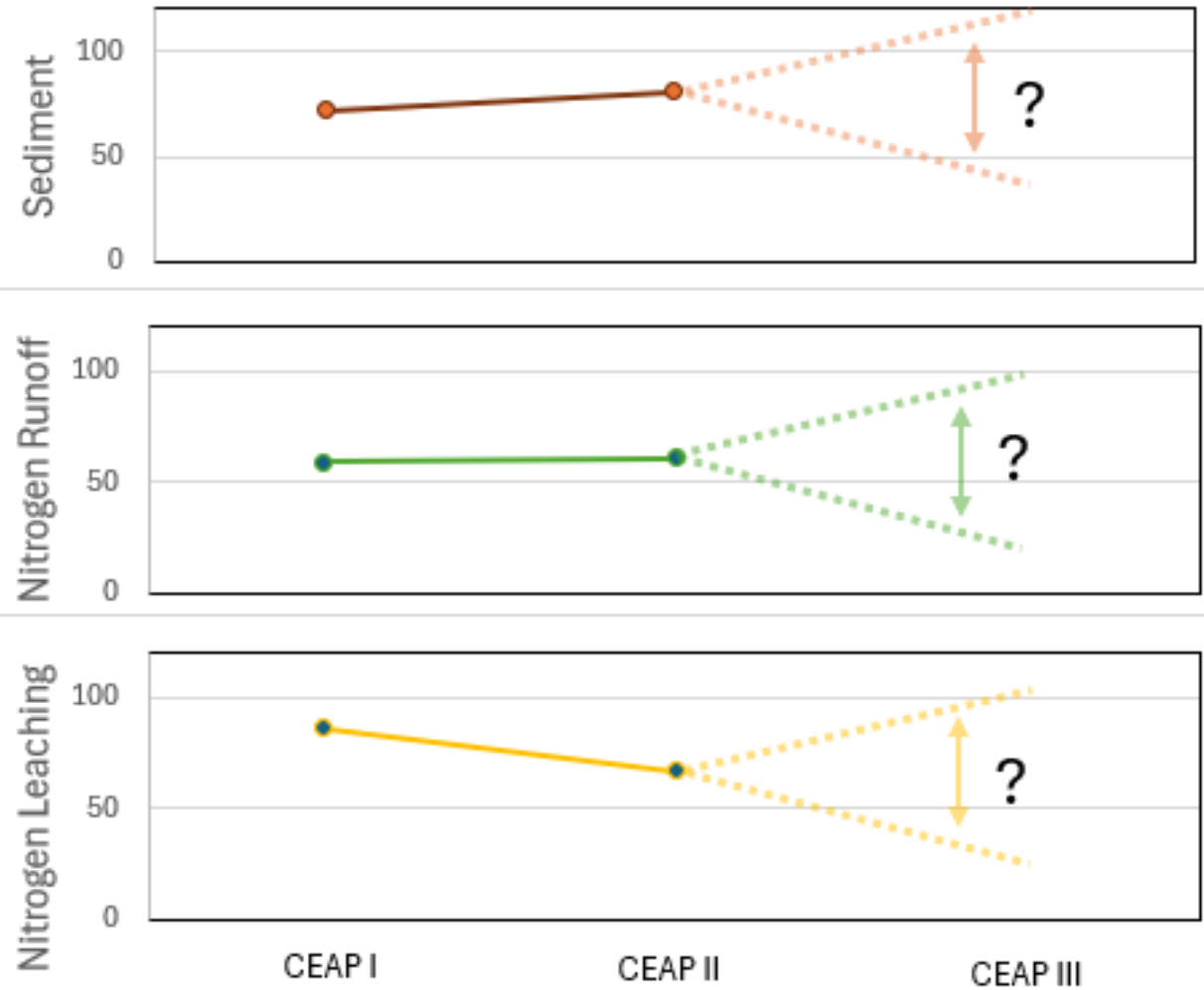
Why is Conservation Important?

- Conservation ensures farms **remain profitable** for future generations
  - Preventing soil erosion
  - Maintaining water quality
  - Protecting habitat (pollinators, fish)
- Dust Bowl
  - ~75% of topsoil lost
  - $550 mil losses/day
  - FDR established NRCS
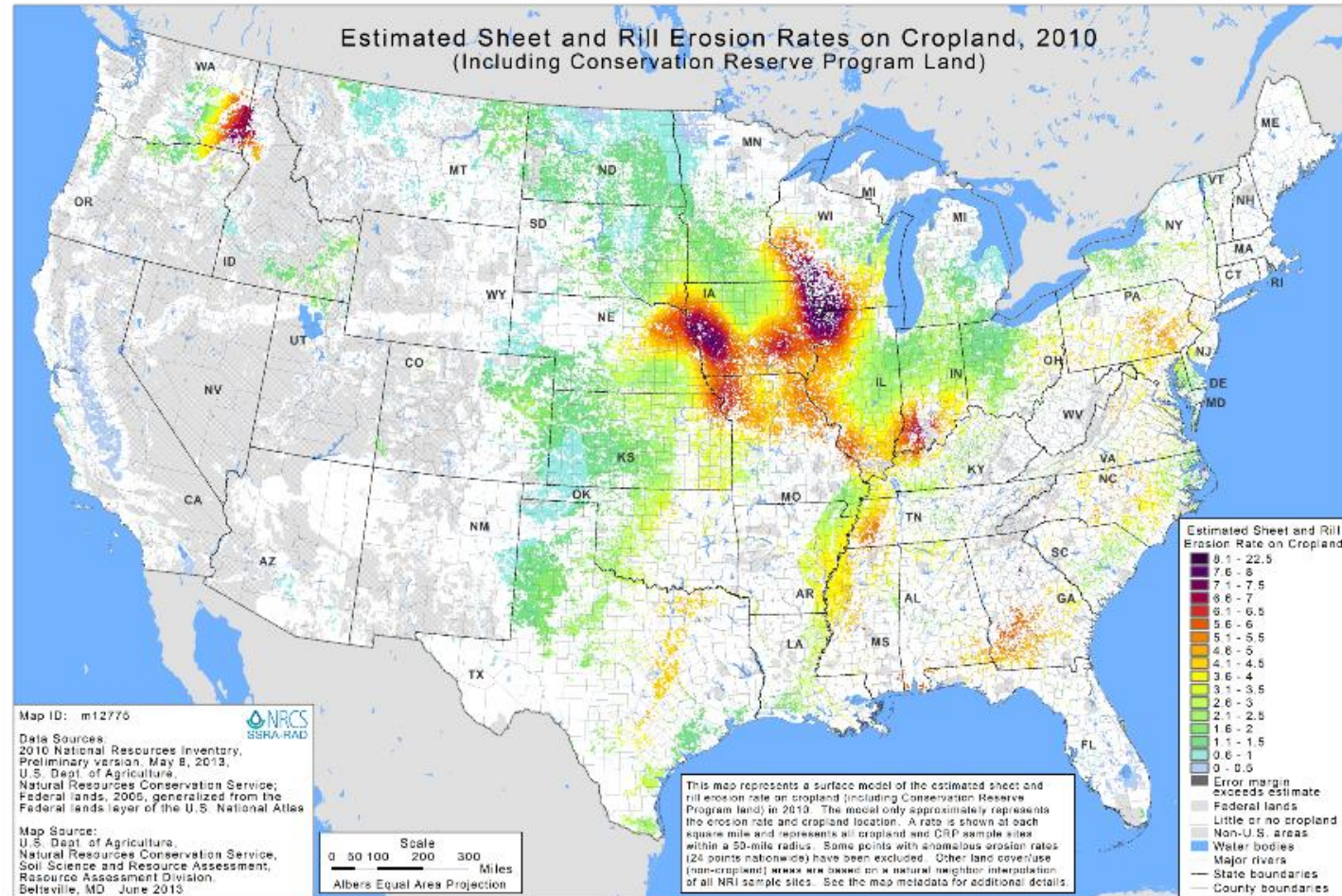
Goals of CEAP

- Evaluate environmental **impacts** of conservation practices

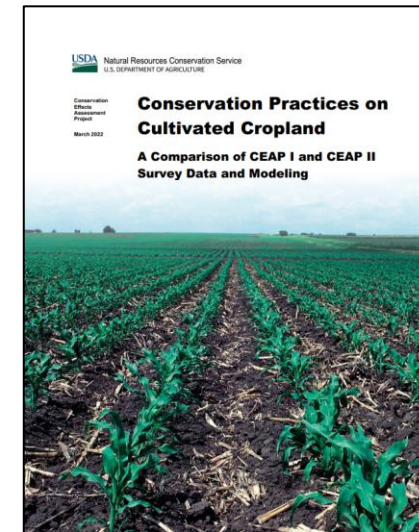Progress toward Erosion and Nutrient Management

Goals of CEAP

- Evaluate environmental **impacts** of conservation practices

- Inform farmers, policymakers, and the public about the **effectiveness** of USDA conservation effects
  - Best use of funds
  - Accountability – Taxpayer $
  - **Targeted** funding

Estimated Sheet and Rill Erosion Rates on Cropland, 2010
(Including Conservation Reserve Program Land)

How Are Findings Distributed?

- NASS – Highlights Report at end of each survey year (2025, 2026, 2027)

- NRCS - **National Report (2027)**

- Regional reports by CEAP crop production regions

- Information provided to state NRCS conservationists and other state agricultural agencies

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conservation Effects Assessment Project

March 2022

Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland

A Comparison of CEAP I and CEAP II Survey Data and Modeling

Conservation Practice Adoption on Cultivated Cropland Acres: Effects on Instream Nutrient and Sediment Dynamics and Delivery in Western Lake Erie Basin, 2003-06 and 2012

CEAP content

Will ask the respondent about the selected field:

- Which **conservation practices** (if any) were used
- Crop **rotations** – 2024, 2023, 2022
  - Use of cover crops in rotations
- **Irrigation** (water sources, application method, efficiency, amount)
- **Nutrient management** (rate, timing, and method)
- **Manure** application trends (rate, timing, and method)
- **Pest** management practices

CEAP Survey Flow

- **Phase 1: Screening for eligibility**
  - Confirm operator
  - Draw field/conservation area boundary
  - Confirm field eligibility

- **Phase 2: Collecting specific field data**
  - November 15 – February 26
  - Questions will cover conservation practices associated with the selected field
    - Fertilizer, pesticide, field ops tables

Survey Flow – Phase II

- CAPI will be used for the updated assignment listing

- Submit all records in CAPI once mailed
    - Only used to **track** progress!

- Data entered into a labeled **paper** questionnaire w/ barcode

- **All** questionnaires are shipped to NOD for scanning & keying
    - Including inacc/refusals
    - Use **blue** or **black** ink, not pencil

Important Details

- Schedule the interview **after harvest** has been completed

- <u>No PII allowed on the questionnaire</u>

    o Use CAPI for comments with PII

- If matched with ARMS II/III, VCUS, **use the CEAP field** as the selected field for both surveys

Key Dates
Phase II

Key Date	Event
November 15, 2024	Begin data collection
December 13, 2024	25% benchmark
January 10, 2025	50% benchmark
February 4, 2025	75% benchmark
February 26, 2025	End data collection
February 27, 2025	Last day to ship quests to NOD

Completion Codes, DK, REF

- If a section is incomplete/refusal or a valid zero, enter a 1 or 3 in the completion code at the bottom of the section

Manure Table Completion Codes		
1 = Inaccessible/Refusal 3 = Valid Zero		
2024	2023	2022
0454 **1**	0453 **3**	0452

- Enter **DK** <u>next to</u> the box if answer is unknown

- Enter **REF** <u>inside</u> the the box if question is refused

- Since there are no "None" boxes, enter a **dash** and not a 0

6. If the amount of water applied is known, what was the total amount of water applied? .... Inches per Acre

2024	2023	2022
3407 **1.5**	3408 **1.1**	3409 **---**

PII Procedures

- **No PII allowed on questionnaire**
  - PII stands for Personally Identifiable Information
  - Examples: names (incl. nicknames), addresses (incl. partial addresses), phone numbers, health info, etc.
  - NRCS is not a statistical agency, unlike NASS
- Use CAPI to submit
  - Name and address updates
  - Comments with PII

What makes a good CEAP comment?

Explains unusual situations or data
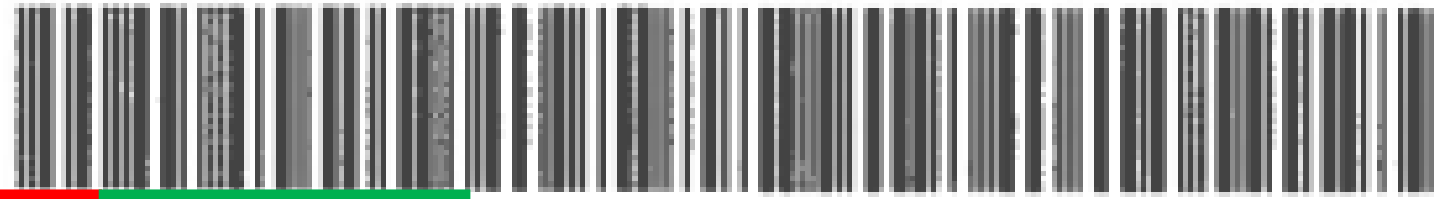
Adds to understanding

Does **not** contain any PII

Does not add extraneous info

Directly related to the CEAP survey

Label

State

POID

NRI Point

County id/name

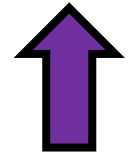55 69400961 0 01 01 003273 000061894 3 0
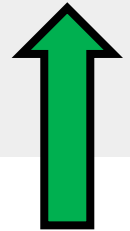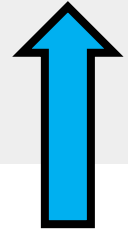
11083 010402R3 005

BARRON

55172   0

FLD-11421

Assignment Listings = **State POID**

Contact Information

Seq #	State Id	Target POID	POID Tract-Subtract	Op Dom Status	Matches	Name and Address Oper Address	Phone/Other/Oper
11083	55	694009610 DCMS=420 County Id=5 Barron / Op County Id=5 Barron	694009610	0	010402R3	Updated based on CAPI contact information submitted with CEAP, Phase 1	

State

County id/name

POID

NRI Point

Face Page

- Write 9 digit **CEAP ID** before interview begins

VERSION 1	CEAP ID 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	TRACT 01	SUBTRACT 01

- Find CEAP ID by entering State, County, NRI Point ID into the CEAP Screener App

- There is space to record **Contact Notes**

- Please remember to include your **Starting Time**

HHMM

0004

Beginning Time **1 7 3 0**

Military __ __ __ __

Review

- What is CAPI used for?
  - Assignment listing
  - Contact info updates
  - Comments with PII
- What is the last day to ship questionnaires to the NOD?
  - **February 27**, 2025
- What writing utensil can be used?
  - Pen – **blue** or **black** ink

Questions?

project code 912