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Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Investments in 118 Partnerships (Including Arkansas)

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The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”) announced it is investing \$50 million in 118 partnerships to expand access to conservation assistance for what it describes as “climate-smart agriculture and forestry.”

Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are stated to fund two-year projects to:

... expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are new to farming, low income, socially disadvantaged or military veterans.

The projects focus on one or more of the following conservation priorities:

- Improving soil health and water quality;
- Providing habitat for at-risk wildlife;
- Improving natural resources and productivity on agricultural lands; and/or
- Building and strengthening local and regional food systems and markets.

Two Arkansas-related projects are listed, which include:

- American Forest Foundation – Growing the SFLR Network to Reach More Historically Underserved Landowners and Provide Climate Smart Solutions
- Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation - Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Conservation Justice Equity and Equality Collaboration Project

A copy of the news release with a link to the full list of partnerships can be downloaded [here](#).