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Legal Authority: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended

Description of the Program:

- The Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) Program provides technical assistance to land owners interested in implementing conservation practices on their land.
- The CTAI Program is a partnership between the federal, state, and local units of government, working together to assist farmers and rural land owners.
- The program assists conservation districts in their efforts to help Michigan citizens better understand, plan, manage, protect, and utilize their natural resources.



Why it matters:

- The engineering and construction oversight provided by CTAI opened a bottleneck in our conservation implementation system, bringing federal revenues into Michigan that otherwise would have been allocated to other states.
- CTAI supports farmers' efforts to implement the conservation practices needed for verification under the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program.
- The implementation of these practices spurs the local economy through the purchase of materials and the use of local contractors.

Key Stakeholders

- Farmers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation district technicians
- Conservation and environmental groups
- State agencies

Key Program Statistics

- In operation from 2006 to 2015
- Technical assistance provided for more than 6,500 conservation practices across Michigan
- \$78.6 million in federal cost share dollars made available to Michigan landowners

FY15 Accomplishments:

- CTAI employees provided assistance on approximately 528 practices. These include 35 different practice types in 40 Michigan counties. This work translates to more than \$6.5 million being made available to Michigan landowners by the CTAI Program.

Measuring Success:

Metric	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
Counties Served	49	44	44	30	40
Engineering Staff (FTEs)	6	6	6	5	5
NRCS Soil Conservationists (FTEs)	12	12	12	7	9
Conservation Practices Implemented	1,039	960	1,168	346	528
Federal Technical Assistance (\$ Million)			1.0		
Federal Cost Share (\$ Million)	11.3	11.0	16.3	5.0	6.5

Dashboards and Scorecards:

- The CTAI Program does not have a dashboard item. The outcomes can be seen in the number of conservation practices implemented under the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, as well as the number of site verifications occurring via that program.

FY16 Program Goals:

- Continue to work with partners to determine the best placement and types of technical assistance needed across the state.
- Fill an engineering vacancy in Kent County.