



Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative

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

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The engineering and construction oversight provided by CTAI opened a bottleneck in our conservation implementation system, bringing \$7.0 million in 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 Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. The implementation of these practices spurs the local economy through the purchase of materials and the use of local contractors.

FY18 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CTAI employees provided assistance on 57 different types of conservation practices.
- 746 conservation practices were designed or implemented across 45 Michigan counties.
- This work translates to more than \$7.0 million being made available to Michigan landowners by the CTAI program.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2015	2016	2017	2018
Counties Served	40	44	51	45
Engineering Staff (FTEs)	5	5	5	5
Soil Conservationists (FTEs)	9	9	9	9
Conservation Practices Designed or Implemented	528	644	625	746
Federal Cost Share	\$6.5 M	\$6.5 M	\$5.3 M	\$7.0 M

FY19 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to work with partners to determine the best placement and types of technical assistance needed across the state.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Farmers
- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Commodity groups
- Conservation and environmental groups

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