

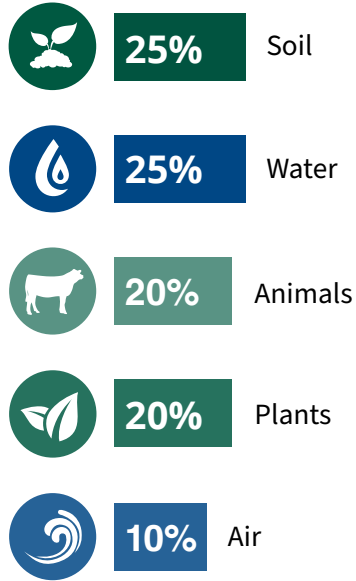
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
**Fundamentals of Conservation
& Sustainability in Agriculture
Certification**



The NRCS Fundamentals of Conservation & Sustainability in Agriculture Certification verifies individuals have obtained exceptional knowledge and skills in the areas of conservation and sustainability of various natural resources including soil, water, animals, plants and air.

CERTIFICATION EXAM

The certification exam, hosted on the iCEV platform, consists of 100 questions and assesses knowledge and skills from the following weighted industry standards:



MEETING THE INDUSTRY NEED

- Assesses Competencies Based on Weighted Industry-Valued & Industry-Accepted Standards
- Validates Knowledge & Skills
- Allows Employers to Identify & Connect with Skilled Candidates
- Jump-Starts Individuals' Careers

INDUSTRY STANDARDS BREAKDOWN

SOIL

Formation & Processes
Properties
Functions & Values
Health & Qualities
Conservation & Management

WATER

Physical & Chemical Properties
Sources
Hydrologic Cycle
Quality & Pollution
Regulations & Standards
Treatment & Conservation

ANIMALS

Morphology & Physiology
Food Web & Trophic Levels
Habitats
Terrestrial & Marine
Reproduction
Conservation & Management

PLANTS

Physical Structures & Functions
Growth & Reproduction
Nutrient Cycling
Annuals & Perennials
Natives & Invasives
Crop Production
Conservation & Management

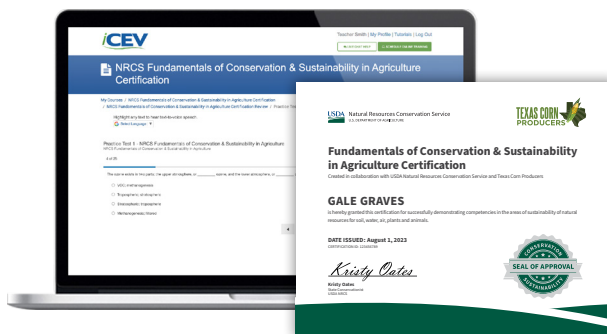
AIR

Quality & Components
Contaminants
Sources

EXAMPLE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. Soil started with _____ will develop _____ soil.
 - A** Granite; clay rich
 - B** Sandstone; sandy
 - C** Parent material; rich
 - D** Sand; granite
2. Select the correct answer from the choices provided in the underlined section.

Watershed/Reservoirs is an area of land between two high points where water drains to a common area below, also called a drainage basin or water catchment.
3. Jimmy has failed to provide adequate shelter for his livestock from climatic conditions, exposing them to extreme wind, cold or heat. Failure to provide adequate shelter forces livestock to seek shelter in low-lying areas, such as streams. This issue can cause damage to which of the following?
 - A** Windbreak areas
 - B** Tree line areas
 - C** Riparian ecological sites
 - D** Cover crops along the stream



TESTING PLATFORM

NRCS utilizes iCEV as the testing platform for this certification.

iCEV fulfills the following responsibilities:

1. Provides secure testing technology for certification exams
2. Regulates testing environments
3. Works with secondary and post-secondary academic institutions, workforce development associations and the public at large to offer certification options for career advancement
4. Provides certification verification to employers for potential job applicants
5. Offers optional certification exam preparation materials

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- Abundant resources available for learner engagement and education
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ABOUT NRCS & TEXAS CORN PRODUCERS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has been partnering with industry professionals for over 80 years to help protect the natural resources of the world. The NRCS emphasizes cultivating a diverse, well-trained workforce, supporting urban agriculture and innovative production, addressing climate change and advancing equal opportunities. The NRCS mission is to deliver conservation solutions so agriculture producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

The Texas Corn Producers promotes and protects the interests of Texas corn farmers through two organizations: the Texas Corn Producers Board and the Texas Corn Producers Association. TCPB is funded by a voluntary checkoff program. Checkoff funds are used for research, education and promotion to create better opportunities for farmers. TCPA advocates for farmers as it aims is to build a strong organizational support system for the corn industry across the state.