

Agencies Working with Agriculture and Nonpoint Source Pollution

[Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission](#)

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) is the lead agency for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention in the state, developing NPS water quality programs and conducting educational activities to promote conservation and protection of land and water resources devoted to agricultural uses. The GSWCC provides guidance and assistance to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and oversight for the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

[Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#)

The State Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) include all counties and are governed by boards of supervisors comprised of local citizens. The SWCD provides technical assistance to the agricultural community in addition to sponsoring educational programs and field days to encourage and demonstrate new and/or innovative conservation practices.

[USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) cooperates with federal, state, and local units of government to provide technical assistance to landowners, cooperators, producers, and special interest groups. Standards and specifications regarding conservation practices, animal waste management systems, grazing activities, plant materials, and other practices are developed and revised by a variety of staff.

[UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#)

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) includes the Cooperative Extension Service and Experiment Stations. Services provided include classroom instruction in agriculture related topics, basic and applied research, consultative assistance and information on nonpoint related impacts on water quality. In addition, they provide water quality monitoring, pest control and analyses of nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, and other constituents in forage, water, and animal waste. Nutrient management plans for farms are often developed by Cooperative Extension Service agents.

[University of Georgia Marine Institute](#) and the [Skidaway Institute of Oceanography](#)

Both institutes are involved in research and monitoring programs for agricultural nonpoint source impacts in coastal or estuarine waters. The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 22 estuarine sites nationwide devoted to protection of the resource and study of estuarine function.

[U.S. Farm Services Agency](#)

The U.S. Farm Services Agency (FSA) administers conservation cost-sharing programs for practices, which improve water quality on farms. A large portion of the funds allocated is targeted for high priority watersheds with water quality problems.

[Georgia Forestry Commission](#)

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) provides technical information and assistance regarding areas such as reforestation, forest stewardship and management, harvesting, marketing, and education. Services provided by the GFC include management plan development, timber marking, equipment rental, fire break plowing, and seedling sales.

[Georgia Department of Agriculture](#)

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) administers a variety of insect and plant and animal disease control programs. The Department also enforces a myriad of Georgia laws that include inspections of agricultural products and the registration and use of pesticides. The GDA also provides guidance in location of animal waste facilities and disposal of dead animals.

[Agricultural Research Service](#)

As part of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is involved in a wide variety of agricultural research projects and monitoring programs. Research on grazing land systems and irrigation methods relevant to watershed scale monitoring projects and nutrient movement in surface and ground water are examples of work performed by the ARS.

[Resource Conservation and Development \(RC&D\) Councils](#)

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils are groups of local citizens that are involved in a program to encourage economic development as well as the wise conservation of natural and human resources. The RC&D Councils are locally organized within geographic regions served by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The 1962 Food and Agriculture Act established the RC&D Council program with USDA employees assigned to help the RC&D Councils and termed coordinators. Currently, there are eleven RC&D Councils in Georgia.

Other organizations

Federal and state agencies work closely with Georgia agricultural commodity commissions and organizations such as:

- Georgia Farm Bureau
- Georgia AgriBusiness Council
- Georgia's Cattleman's Association
- Georgia Milk Producers

- Georgia Pork Producers Association
- Georgia Poultry Federation
- other producer groups and agriculture support industries to control, prevent, and/or abate nonpoint source pollution.