Table 1. Summary of 2018 Farm Bill Provisions that Impact Soil Health

Tab Farm Bill Title & Section	le 1. Su Program Conservation	Provision in 2018 Farm Bill CRP Grasslands	ry of 2018 Farm What it does Creates a minimum CRP grassland enrollment	Bill Provisions Soil health impacts Protects vulnerable grazing land to ensure	that Impa Links to USDA Agency information	Ct Soil Provision Category ¹ Land Protection	Heat Impact on soil health (1-5) ² 3	
Conservation 2201(c)(2) II Conservation 2201(c)(3)	Reserve Program (CRP) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - CLEAR	Initiative CRP Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative	of 2 million acres and prioritizes expiring CRP land, land at risk of development, and land with ecological significance. Reserves a minimum 40% of Continuous CRP acreage for partial field water quality practices such as a grass sod waterway, riparian buffer, filter strip, prairie strip,	grassland cover and improved conservation benefits. Dedicates land to improve water quality. Many of the practices/installations for water quality improvement help improve soil health by increasing ground cover,	programs-and-services/ conservation-programs/crp- grasslands/index No agency information available yet - FSA 2018FB overview: https://www.farmers.	Land Protection	3	<u>3831(d)(2)</u> <u>16 USC</u> <u>3831(d)(3)</u>
II Conservation 2201(c)(3)	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Continuous CRP	Allows continuous enrollment of conservation buffers and other partial field practices. Offers are not subjected to competitive	removing tillage, increasing plant and microbial diversity. Farmers can enroll land in CRP continuously rather than waiting for a one-time annual general sign up. Most Continuous CRP	gov/sites/default/files/ documents/FSA-FarmBill2018_ WhatsChangedExpanded-19. pdf https://www.fsa.usda.gov/ programs-and-services/ conservation-programs/	Land Protection	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3831(d)(6)</u>
II Conservation 2202	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - CREP	CRP Conservation Reserve	bidding. Minimum enrollment of 8.6 million acres (out of the 27 million acres under 2201(c)(2)) in continuous CRP contracts by 2023. Authorizes CREP, allowing funding and implementation partnership between state government/nongovernment and the	practices and initiatives focus on soil erosion, water quality, and wildlife habitat, but many such practices will also benefit soil health to an extent. Opens up an opportunity for environmentally sensitive acreage to be covered through a partnership with matched funding. States	<u>prospective-participants/index</u> <u>https://www.fsa.usda.gov/</u> <u>programs-and-services/</u> conservation-programs/	Land Protection	3	<u>16 USC 3831a</u>
II Conservation 2204	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - CLEAR30	Enhancement Program (CREP) CLEAR 30 Pilot Project in CRP	federal government to address high priority conservation concerns. It is part of CRP and enrollment is continuous. Allows expiring land under CRP to be enrolled in a 30 year contract through CLEAR 30 instead of re-enrolling in CRP or not enrolling	 can highlight soil health conservation as a high priority concern through eligible conservation practices to reduce soil erosion. 30 years of the land under contract for the same items listed under the shorter term CRP CLEAR initiative. Allows continued 	Conservation-reserve- enhancement/index No agency information available yet - FSA 2018FB overview:	Land Protection	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3831c(a)</u>
II Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program	Soil Health and Income	at all. Only expiring land under CRP contract is eligible. Short term contract (3-5 years). Up to 15% of total eligible land on a given farm, the	coverage and minimal disturbance of the soil, with additional conservation practices to improve water quality. Short immediate fix to cover the soil with semi-permanent vegetation. Takes land	https://www.farmers. gov/sites/default/files/ documents/FSA-FarmBill2018_ WhatsChangedExpanded-19. pdf No agency information available yet -	Land Protection Access	5	<u>16 USC</u> 3831c(b)
2204	(CRP) -SHIPP	Protection Program (SHIPP)	least productive land, is removed and placed into a CRP contract. Landowners receives 50% of the normal CRP rate, no cost sharing. Beginning, socially disadvantaged, veteran, or limited resource farmers get 75% CRP rental rate and 50% cost share.	that is otherwise less productive and most likely in poor soil health and pays the farmer a soil rental rate to increase plant cover, reduce tillage and let the soil recover for at least 3 years.	FSA 2018FB overview: <u>https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/</u> <u>documents/FSA-FarmBill2018_</u> <u>WhatsChangedExpanded-19.pdf</u>		-	
ll Conservation 2206(b)(1)	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	No reduction in rental rate in emergency haying, grazing, or other emergency response given certain	Outlines acceptable conditions for haying, grazing, and other uses of forage on CRP land during emergencies of drought, flooding, and wildfire without a reduction in the rental rate.	Sustainable grazing can improve soil health, increase soil organic carbon, and increase resilience of the soil to natural disasters. Prevents damage to soil during risk of a natural emergency.	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/ programs-and-services/ conservation-programs/ conservation-reserve-program/ emergency-haying-and- grazing/index	Structure Land Protection	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3833(b)(1)(B)</u>
II Conservation 2207(c)	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	conditions. Reduces annual rental payments	Annual rental payments are reduced to some percentage less than the surveyed and USDA determined county cropland and pastureland rental rates. Payments are limited to 85% of the estimated rental rate for general	The intention of the change is to reduce cost, reduce impact on land market, and enroll the most sensitive acres vulnerable to soil erosion. May also reduce interest in the program. The goal of the additional	No agency information available yet - FSA 2018FB overview: https://www.farmers. gov/sites/default/files/	Structure Land Protection	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3834(d)</u>
II Conservation	Conservation Reserve Program	Enhancements to CRP Transition	enrollment, and continuous enrollment is capped at 90% of the rental rate. Adds an incentive to sign up for continuous CRP through a one-time enrollment payout equal to 32.5% of the first annual rental payment. Opens the program to any expiring contract holder whereas previously it was only open	incentives to sign up for continuous CRP is to enroll more land to implement water quality conservation practices. Provides incentives for expiring land to go back into production under sustainable	documents/FSA-FarmBill2018_ WhatsChangedExpanded-19. pdf Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill:	Access Funding	4	<u>16 USC</u> 3835(f)
2208(a)	(CRP) -TIP	Incentives Program (TIP)	to retired or retiring farmers or ranchers. Increases the time allowed for the beginning, socially disadvantaged or veteran farmer or rancher to begin conservation and land improvements or to begin organic certification on the contracted land from 1 year before the date of termination of the	practices, which would help conserve the soil and promote soil health while producing food, fuel, or fiber. Assists beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers or ranchers acquire land.	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/ programs-and-services/ conservation-programs/ transition-incentives/index			
			contract to 2 years prior. Adds language that allows flexibility in the length of the sale or lease to accommodate long-term leases and leases with the option to purchase. Adds that the contracted land is priority for enrollment in EQIP, CSP or ACEP. Increases the annual funding for this program from \$33					
II Conservation 2208(b)	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Environmental	CRP end of contract considerations Climate	million to \$50 million. Landowners of expiring CRP land can enroll and start implementation of practices in EQIP or CSP within 1 year of end of contract. May also begin Organic certification within 3 years of expiring contract. EQIP may be used to help producers	Makes it easier to transition from CRP to sustainable farming practices with overlapping financial support. Reduces soil erosion during production. Helps conserve the soil ecosystem generated under CRP. Implementing changes in production that	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: <u>https://www.fsa.usda.gov/</u> <u>Internet/FSA_File/crp_takeout.</u> <u>pdf</u> https://www.nrcs.usda.	Structure Incentives	4	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3835(g)</u> <u>16 USC</u>
Conservation 2302	Quality Incentive Program	adaptation added as EQIP purpose Soil health	implement practices or make changes to their production systems for "adapting to, and mitigating against, increasing weather volatility, drought resiliency measures, or other practices" on working lands.	protect against extreme changes in climate include many that help conserve the soil and improve soil health. No till and cover cropping help to increase aggregate stability which both helps with water holding capacity and decreases soil erosion.	gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ eqip/	Structure	5	3839aa 16 USC
Conservation 2303	Quality Incentive Program Environmental	planning and resource conserving crop rotation planning in EQIP Soil tests and	activities now covers soil health planning. Specifically includes planning of comprehensive nutrient management, resource-conserving crop rotations plans, soil health planning, etc. Outlines the addition of soil testing and soil	More incentive for producers to implement soil health improving practices when the planning, which may be a barrier to entry, is also covered under EQIP funding and technical assistance.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/technical/cp/ No agency information	Incentives Structure Incentives	- 5	<u>3839aa-1(6)</u> <u>16 USC</u>
Conservation 2303	Quality Incentive Program	remediation eligible practices under EQIP Definition of soil	remediation as practices approved under EQIP. Explains what the terms soil testing and soil	out by the producer, are eligible for funding assistance. Potential for increased soil testing and remediation may lead to use of other soil health promoting practices. This provision will significantly help urban farmers remediate contaminated soil. Soil remediation includes practices that	available yet No agency information	Structure	2	<u>3839aa-1(6)</u> <u>16 USC</u>
Conservation 2303 II Conservation 2304(b)(1)	Quality Incentive Program Environmental Quality Incentive Program	remediation and soil tests for evaluation of soil health in EQIP Improvement in EQIP advance payments	remediation mean for producers plus the associated measurements and actions. States must automatically offer the option of advanced payments to limited resource, socially disadvantaged, beginning, or veteran	regenerate and sustain the soil. Soil testing allows for the producer to understand how degraded their soil may be and how they can improve it. Eases the front loaded work and costs associated with implementing practices related to soil health improvements for	available yet No agency information available yet	Access	2	<u>3839aa-1(9)</u> and 16 USC <u>3839aa-1(10)</u> <u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-2(d)(4)</u>
			farmers and ranchers. States must also ensure producers know advanced payments are an option. If elected by a producer, at least 50% of the agreed upon funding may be provided in advanced for all costs related to purchases or contracting (previously capped at 50%). Makes it easier for producers to	socially disadvantaged, beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.				
II Conservation 2304(b)(2)	Environmental Quality Incentive Program	States can select 10 high priority practices that are eligible	implement conservation practices and helps incentivize their involvement in conservation practices. The 10 high priority practices selected in a state may receive up to 90% of the costs associated with the implementation and management of said practices.	States can choose to focus on soil health improving practices and provide more incentive for farmers to participate with 90% cost coverage for implementation.	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ wps/portal/nrcs/sitenav/ca/ states/	Incentives Structure	4	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-2(d)(7)</u>
II Conservation 2304(c)	Environmental Quality Incentive Program	up to 90% practice cost Includes grazing management practices within EQIP livestock	Grazing management practices can be funded under the EQIP livestock allocation. 50% of EQIP funding is allocated to practices related to livestock production, down 10% from 2014	Grazing management helps maintain plant cover and minimize wildfires on range and pastureland. Grazing can also help to increase plant and wildlife diversity,	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/ nrcseprd1356228.pdf	Incentives Structure	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-2(f)</u>
II Conservation 2304(f)	Environmental Quality Incentive Program	allocation Increases payment cap for EQIP organic Initiative	Farm Bill. Increases the payment cap for conservation practices through EQIP under the organic initiative from \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6 year period to \$140,000 total	which decreases soil erosion, increases soil microbial communities and increases soil health. Increased opportunity for organic producers to implement and receive funding for soil health promoting practices.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ national/programs/financial/ eqip/?&cid=nrcs143_008224	Funding	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-2(i)(3)</u>
II Conservation 2304(g)	Environmental Quality Incentive Program	Establishes a new Conservation Incentive Contract under EQIP	from 2019 through 2023. Creates a new incentive option under EQIP. Three eligible priority resource concerns will be selected by the federal government/states within given watersheds or regions for each of the relevant land uses within those areas. In entering the contract producers must	It is possible that soil health may be one of the three eligible priority resource concerns addressed by these new Conservation Incentive Contracts in EQIP.	No agency information available yet	Structure Incentives	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-2(j)</u>
11	Conservation	Soil health	agree to address at least 1 eligible priority resource concern through implementation and management of an incentive practice throughout the entirety of the contract. Contracts have terms between 5-10 years. This will not be offered until FY2020. Using a portion of CIG funds, provides	Direct mandated funding for implementing,	https://www.nrcs.usda.	Structure	5	<u>16 USC</u>
ll Conservation 2307(c)	Conservation Innovation Grants under EQIP	Soil health demonstration trial under Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) on- farm innovation	incentives to producers to implement practices that improve soil health and increase soil carbon. Funds will also help to establish measurement protocols in assessing changes in soil health and soil carbon after implementation of soil health conservation practices. USDA mandated to	Direct mandated funding for implementing, monitoring, and studying practices that increase soil health and soil carbon.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ national/programs/financial/ cig/?cid=nrcseprd1459039	Structure Data & Incentives		<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-8(c)(7)</u>
II Conservation 2307(b)	Conservation Innovation Grants under EQIP	Air Quality Concerns from Agricultural Operations	initiate a study on changes in soil health due to conservation practices, and then report on the results annually to Congress. Increases funding from \$25 million to \$37.5 million annually through 2023 to grant to producers using cost effective and innovative technologies to address a State's air quality	Could use soil health promoting technologies to address air quality concerns, such as greenhouse gas mitigation and carbon sequestration.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ detail/national/air/ guality/?cid=stelprdb1076866	Funding	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-8(b)</u>
II Conservation 2307(d)	Conservation Innovation Grants under	within Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Conservation reporting and practice	Concerns. USDA must compile, maintain, and make publicly available a database of conservation practices, their impacts, and a list of	Holds the government accountable for making and maintaining information available to the public for ease of assessing	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: https://www.nrcs.usda.	Data	4	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-8(d)</u>
2307(d)	Grants under EQIP Conservation	database, includes soil health within CIG	recommended new and effective practices. USDA must also report back to Congress every 2 years on the results of CIGs with economic outcomes. There is emphasis and specific mention of the soil health demonstration trial and soil health practices.	available to the public for ease of assessing and implementing conservation efforts. There is a focus on soil health promoting practices. This will potentially make incorporation of soil health conservation practices for producers an easier choice. Financial assistance available under CSP	gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ cig/	Incentives	5	10 110
II Conservation 2308(a)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Conservation	Adds eligible activities to CSP including soil health planning and climate adaptation activities Strengthens	Explicitly mentions the eligibility of soil health planning as a conservation activity under CSP. Also includes eligible activities that may assist in mitigating impacts of severe climate events. Raises the bar for setting the stewardship	Financial assistance available under CSP for soil health planning may increase implementation of conservation practices that promote soil health. Also, covers the planning of activities to help mitigate extreme climate events which also increase soil health. Producers may have an increased	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.</u> gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ <u>national/programs/financial/</u> <u>csp/</u> Page not yet updated	Incentives Structure Structure	5	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-21(2)</u> 16 USC
II Conservation 2308(a)(2)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Strengthens definition of stewardship threshold in CSP	threshold in CSP and is more explicit about how it will be determined and set by USDA.	Producers may have an increased understanding of the stewardship threshold they need to meet in order to participate in CSP, as well as the necessary actions to get to that threshold. May encourage more enrollment in CSP and increase efforts towards soil health.	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.</u> gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ <u>national/programs/financial/</u> <u>csp/</u>	Structure	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-21(7)</u>
II Conservation 2308(c)(1) II	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Conservation	Modifies and strengthens CSP ranking criteria Modifies and	Simplifies the ranking of CSP applications to focus on two criteria only - active management of conservation treatment at the time of enrollment, and additional treatment during the contract period.	Applications with higher expected results and outcomes for conservation will get priority for funding. More likely that there will be positive impacts on soil health. More advanced conservation will likely	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.</u> gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ <u>national/programs/financial/</u> <u>csp/</u> Page not yet updated	Structure Structure	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-23(b)</u> (1) 16 USC
Conservation 2308(c)(4)	Stewardship Program (CSP)	strengthens CSP contract renewal	another 5 year CSP contract within the first half of the fifth year of the existing contract. Makes the contract renewal agreement criteria easier to understand. No limit on number of contract renewal periods; previously only allowed one 5 year contract renewal. No longer eligible for automatic	implement soil health promoting practices or may indirectly improve soil health.	post-2018 Farm Bill: <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.</u> gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ <u>national/programs/financial/</u> <u>csp/</u>	ondered	U	<u>3839aa-23(e)</u>
II Conservation	Conservation Stewardship	Removes acreage	renewal, but the conservation benefits achieved during the initial contract create a baseline for the renewal. Supports and incentivizes more advanced conservation practices. Amends the previous acreage enrollment limitation which allowed USDA to enroll 10	Intention is to help USDA more functionally administer and support the CSP program,	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill:	Funding Structure	2	<u>16 USC</u> 3839aa-24
2308(d)	Program (CSP) Conservation	enrollment limitation and replaces with funding limitation CSP payments for cover crop	million additional CSP acres every year with a goal of a national average payment rate of \$18/acre. The 2018 Farm Bill removes that language and inserts a program funding limit instead (see funding comparison in Table 2). Producers are paid at a minimum 125% of the determined annual payment amount for	but may not reach as many acres and producers as before. Unsure of impact on soil health.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill:	Incentives	5	<u>16 USC</u>
Conservation 2308(d)(4) II Conservation	Stewardship Program (CSP) Conservation Stewardship	activities to be at least 125% of payment rate CSP payments for resource-	all activities pertaining to cover crops. Producers are paid at a minimum 150% of the determined annual payment amount for	impact on soil health improvement. Financial incentive to implement a crop rotation that benefits soil health by reducing	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill:	Incentives	5	<u>3839aa-24(c)</u> (5) <u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-24(d)</u>
2308(d)(5) II Conservation 2308(d)(5)	Program (CSP) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	conserving crop rotations to be at least 150% of payment rate CSP payments for advanced grazing	implementing a resource-conserving crop rotation. Producers are paid at a minimum 150% of the determined annual payment amount for implementing advanced grazing	erosion, building soil organic matter, etc. Financial incentive to implement advanced grazing management. Focuses on soil health improvements through managed	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: https://www.nrcs.usda.	Incentives	5	(<u>4)</u> <u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-24(d)</u> (<u>4)</u>
II Conservation 2308(d)(6)	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	management to be at least 150% of payment rate CSP payments authorized for comprehensive	management. Producers are granted a one time payment for the development of a comprehensive conservation plan based on the number of	grazing to promote "improved soil health and carbon sequestration", "drought resilience"; "wildlife habitat"; and "water quality improvement". Has potential to increase the number of producers implementing soil health improving practices.	gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill: https://www.nrcs.usda.	Incentives Structure	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-24(e)</u>
II Conservation	Conservation Stewardship	conservation plan Establishes organic	priority concerns addressed and number of types of land uses. Financial incentive for creating a comprehensive conservation plan. Pays farmers back for their time developing the plan before implementation. Better outlines and supports the ability of producers under CSP contract to transition	Increased opportunity for organic producers to implement and receive funding for soil	gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/	Structure Funding	3	<u>16 USC</u> 3839aa-24(h)
2308(d)(8) II Conservation	Program (CSP) Conservation Stewardship	allocation within CSP Streamlines and coordinates	to organic through direct funding allocations set aside for organic initiatives by the State. No restriction on transitioning to organic under CSP and some financial incentive for producers to transition to organic. Outlines the government's responsibility in streamlining and coordinating easier	health promoting practices. Supports and helps facilitate transition from EQIP to CSP which may increase	national/organic/ Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill:	Structure	2	<u>16 USC</u> 3839aa-24(j)
2308(d)(9) II Conservation 2308(d)(9)	Program (CSP) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	transition between EQIP and CSP Requires management of CSP to enhance	transition from EQIP to CSP Mandates that the government manage CSP, to enhance soil health, to the greatest extent possible.	comprehensive conservation activities on farms and ranches which would also help promote soil health. Provision emphasizes the improvement of soil health through CSP. Unsure how this will be implemented exactly, but USDA may	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ csp/ https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/	Structure	5	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-24(k)</u>
II Conservation 2309	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	soil health Grassland conservation initiative within CSP	Specific one time opportunity for 5 year contract to protect grazing land uses and conserve the land through addressing one priority resource concern. A financial	provide more enhancements and higher financial incentives for conserving soil and advancing soil health. Unsure of the soil health impact, but provision provides an opportunity for producers to keep land in grass, receive payments and enhance the conservation	<u>https://directives.sc.egov.usda.</u> gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=43711	Land Protection Incentives	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839aa-25</u>
			substitute for farms that had been enrolled in commodity payments under Title I for base acres that had been 100% grass for the past 10 years (commodity payments for these acres were suspended by sec 1102(b) from Title I in the 2018 Farm Bill; no price loss coverage and no agricultural risk coverage	efforts on the grassland. There is the possibility that this initiative will increase soil health through enhancements to plant and wildlife diversity, increased plant ground cover, and grazing management strategies, which will reduce soil erosion and increase soil health. Covers planting				
II Conservation 2404	Private Grazing Land Conservation Assistance	Conservation of private grazing land extended and enhanced	payments through 2023). Payment rate of \$18/acre each year. All eligible producers are accepted and applications will not be ranked. Authorizes appropriations for the conservation of private grazing land through the year 2023. Provides assistance to grazing landowners through a voluntary program that	of native herbaceous and woody species which provide shade and plant cover, which may help retain soil moisture. May promote sustainable grazing systems that could increase soil carbon and minimize soil erosion.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/technical/ cpgl/	Structure	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3839bb</u>
II Conservation	Other or N/A	Requires review of annual	provides technical, educational, and other assistance. Also allows USDA to provide partnerships with land grant schools and nongovernmental organizations for education and outreach opportunities. Ensures allocated funds are assessed and reviewed annually and within one year	As soil health is now a priority resources concern and a top priority within CSP, the	No agency information available yet	Structure	2	<u>16 USC</u> 3841(g)
2501		allocation formulas for conservation programs within 1 year of Farm Bill passage with new requirements	of passage of the Farm Bill to effectively address priority natural resource concerns.	annual reviews should verify that funds are appropriately being allocated to soil health efforts.				
II Conservation 2502(c)	Other or N/A	to consider in updating allocation formulas. Review of all conservation practice	Requires USDA to develop a process that expedites the revision of conservation practice standards within 1 year of the Farm	If and when new research reports on improvements of conservation practices (including ones that increase soil health),	https://www.govinfo.gov/ content/pkg/FR-2019-03-11/ pdf/2019-04290.pdf	Data Structure	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3842(h)</u>
2002(C)		standards within 1 year of passage of Farm Bill; development of an expedited revision process	Bill enactment. Also requires the USDA to report to Congress on the process every 2 years. Focuses on increasing flexibility in conservation practices that still equally address priority natural resource concerns, including new innovations or technologies in conservation practices.	they should be more quickly and easily incorporated as approved conservation practices eligible for financial and technical assistance under various conservation programs.	<u>pui/zu19-04230.pui</u>			
II Conservation 2503(b)	Other or N/A	with continued reporting every 2 years on the process. Requires review and guidance of the cost effectiveness of	Within 1 year of the enactment date, and every year after that, USDA will review the costs of conservation practices and payment rates for those practices. This should	Annual assessments may improve the participation rate of producers implementing conservation programs and practices to improve soil health. Allows for	No agency information available yet	Structure Incentives	2	<u>16 USC 3844(j)</u>
	Other or N/A	effectiveness of cost share rates and practices	rates for those practices. This should encourage participation and implementation of the most effective practices for a natural resource concern. Allows for States to execute the review. Allows States to make annual adjustments to accommodate for the results of the assessment. At least 10% of all funds available for	practices to improve soil health. Allows for fair adjustments in payment rates given a changing climate and economy. Most water conserving practices also	https://directives.sc.egov.usda.	Funding	3	<u>16 USC</u>
II Conservation 2503(d)	utner or N/A	out targeting agricultural production practices that conserve and protect drinking water quality	At least 10% of all funds available for conservation programs must be used for conservation practices that address local priorities for protection of source waters for drinking water. Cost share covers up to 90% of the cost associated with the practice.	Most water conserving practices also directly improve soil health. These practices include cover cropping, no till, grassed waterways, nutrient management plans, etc.	https://directives.sc.egov.usda. gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=43499	Funding Incentives	3	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3844(n)</u>
II Conservation 2503(e)	Other or N/A	Producers are allowed to participate in environmental services markets.	Participants in any conservation program are allowed to engage in an environmental service market, and may receive additional funding or compensation if conservation benefits are progressed further and are consistent with the USDA program.	Opportunity for environmental markets to help facilitate soil health conservation practices in addition to what the producer is already doing through a USDA conservation program. More flexibility for a producer to partake in various forms of financial assistance to further experience in affects	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill <u>https://www.usda.gov/oce/</u> <u>environmental_markets/</u>	Structure	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3844(o)</u>
II Conservation 2602	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Adds definition of buy-protect- sell in ACEP	Buy-protect-sell in ACEP allows a land trust or other similar entity to purchase and hold the easement, provided they then sell the land at agricultural value within 3 years to a beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmer or rancher.	Allows for protection of more farmland, which might improve soil health depending on what the new farmer does with the land. Also increases access of land to beginning, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers.	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/easements/ acep/	Structure Access	2	<u>16 USC 3865a</u>
II Conservation 2603(b)(2)	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Begional	Allows USDA to prioritize ACEP applications that maintain agricultural viability BCPP	Allows USDA to prioritize applications that maintain agricultural viability.	More easements that aim to maintain agricultural viability might also protect and enhance soil health.	Page not yet updated post-2018 Farm Bill https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/easements/ acep/	Access	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3865b(b)(3)(d)</u> 16 USC 3871b
II Conservation 2703	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	RCPP requirement for partners to quantify project outcomes	Partners are now required to include more details when defining the scope of the project, such as, the conservation benefits the project will receive. The partner must also assess the progress of the project in reaching the conservation benefit and outcome through some quantified measure.	Holds partners and producers more accountable on the progress of conservation activities and goals. Also adds some data analysis on the conservation activity and the benefits. May be used to help soil health research. May also help to efficiently implement soil health improving practices.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ rcpp/	Data Structure	2	16 USC 3871b
ll Conservation 2703	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Adds option in for longer term partnership agreement in RCPP and allows for a 5 year partnership	Lifts previous 5 year limit agreement if USDA deems the project needs more time to complete the conservation objectives. Also allows for a 5 year renewal and a 1 year extension.	Some soil health improving practices. Some soil health improvements can take a long time to assess, so the longer partnership agreements may allow more opportunities for soil health objectives in RCPP.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ rcpp/	Structure	2	<u>16 USC 3871b</u>
ll Conservation 2704(b)(3)	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	renewal RCPP grant program	Allows grant agreements and alternate funding arrangements with eligible partners for up to 15 projects annually within the program. USDA grants funding to eligible partner to carry out technical and financial assistance.	Unsure of the impacts on soil health until rulemaking process complete.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ rcpp/	Structure Funding	2	<u>16 USC</u> <u>3871c(d)</u>
II Conservation 2705	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	RCPP Funding structure no longer reserves any funding from covered conservation programs.	assistance. Allows RCPP to operate as a standalone program. Increased total mandatory funding from 100 million to 300 million and removed the 7% annual reserve of covered conservation. Program no longer pulling funds from the covered programs. However, total RCPP funding has not increased.	Unsure of impact on soil health. More leverage for conservation contracts in all the other conservation programs, since funds are no longer pulled into RCPP, and RCPP is funded as a standalone program. However, funding for RCPP has decreased overall from the 2014 Farm Bill.	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ rcpp/	Funding Structure	2	<u>16 USC 3871d</u>
II Conservation 2707	Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Defines critical conservation area and priority resource concern within RCPP. Increases	Defines critical conservation (CCA) area as "a geographical area that contains a critical conservation condition that can be addressed through the program." USDA determines 1 or more priority resource concerns within a CCA that, as defined, can be improved though	Addressing priority resource concerns under CCA agreements in RCPP will help improve soil health. Water and habitat related improvements on agricultural land can be directly addressed through practices that also increase soil health such as cover	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/financial/ <u>rcpp/</u>	Structure Funding	4	<u>16 USC 3871f</u>
		percentage of funding devoted to critical conservation areas within RCPP. Also increases	water quality improvement, water quantity improvement, wildlife habitat restoration, and other natural resource improvements. Increases RCPP funding dedicated to CCAs and to states to 50% each, and eliminates the national competition.	cropping, no till, diverse native vegetation, etc.				
VII Research, Extension,	Organic Agriculture Research and	percentage of RCPP funds that are competed for at the state level. Increases and makes permanent	Mandatory funding increases from 20 million in 2019 to 50 million in 2023. Soil health is added as a purpose to the research efforts,	Efforts to research and educate about soil health in organic production may increase now that there is support under OREI.	https://nifa.usda.gov/ funding-opportunity/organic- agriculture-research-and-	Research Structure & Funding	5	<u>7 USC 5925b</u>
VII Research, Extension, and Related Matters	Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	adds soil health as a research priority Adds soil health as an environmental research area within AFRI	Soil health has been added as a research area to be addressed under the "bioenergy, natural resources, and environment" priority area for competitive grants.	Continues the emphasis of soil health in the 2018 Farm Bill. Grants for efforts related to the research, extension, and education of soil health can now be awarded under AFRI.	https://nifa.usda.gov/program/ agriculture-and-food-research- initiative-afri	Research	5	<u>7 USC 3157</u>
Matters 7504 VII Research, Extension, and Related Matters	Biomass Research and Development	within AFRI Adds opportunity for carbon sequestration research under biomass	Categorizes carbon dioxide intended for permanent sequestration or utilization as a high-value bio based product eligible for research and development promotion through policies and programs. Adds an	Increasing soil health may help sequester carbon, as such, this provision may help fund research around soil health and carbon sequestration.	https://biomassboard.gov/ initiative/initiative.html	Research	5	<u>7 USC 8108</u>
7507		research development	advisory committee member with expertise in carbon dioxide capture, utilization and sequestration to the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. Makes development of products and methods of permanently sequestering and utilizing carbon as an objective.	г. <i>и</i>				
VII Research, Extension, and Related Matters 7507(h) VIII	Biomass Research and Development Healthy Forests	No authorized mandatory funding for biomass research and development Healthy Forests	Does not re-instate mandatory funding for biomass research and development. Only re-authorized \$20 million each year in discretionary funding (see funding comparison) Lists specific practices for restoration and	Funding may not be appropropriated despite the authorized emphasis on carbon sequestration and soil health. Research may go un-funded.	n/a <u>https://www.nrcs.usda.</u>	Funding Structure	1	7 USC 8108(h)
Forestry 8407(a) XI Crop Insurance	Reserve Program Federal Crop Insurance -	Healthy Forests Reserve Program describes specific practices to be used under restoration plans Cover crop termination	enhancement of habitat for endangered or threatened species. These practices include vegetative treatments, practices to increase carbon sequestration, practices to improve biological diversity, etc. Defines cover crop termination under crop insurance title as "a practice that historically	restore wildlife habitat will also directly and indirectly increase soil health. Helps to clarify what is meant by cover crop termination. Reduces a barrier to practice	https://www.nrcs.usda. gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ national/programs/easements/ forests/ https://www.rma.usda.gov/ Topics/Cover-Crops	Structure Crop Insurance	4	<u>16 USC 6573</u> <u>7 USC 1502(b)</u> (6)
Crop Insurance 11101 XI Crop Insurance 11107	Good Farming Practices Federal Crop Insurance -	defined Cover crops as good farming	and under reasonable circumstances results in the termination of the growth of a cover crop." Describes cover crops as a good farming practice if it is terminated properly. Allows	adoption. Previous language discouraged cover crop use and producers were afraid that they would be ineligible for crop insurance. Reduces a barrier to practice adoption. Previous language discouraged cover crop	Topics/Cover-Crops https://www.rma.usda.gov/ Topics/Cover-Crops	Crop Insurance	5	(6) <u>7 USC 1508(a)</u> (11)
11107 XI	Good Farming Practices	practices "	the practice of cover cropping without affecting a cash crops insurability. Also allows cover cropping in place of summer fallow, where summer fallow is an insurable practice, without jeopardizing the insurability of the summer fallow. In the Prairie Pothole region, crop insurance	use and producers were afraid that they would be ineligible for crop insurance. Hopefully increases the number of producers executing cover crops. Penalty for removing native sod and	https://www.rma.usda.gov/	Crop Insurance	3	7 USC 1508(o)
Crop Insurance 11114 XII Miscellaneous	Federal Crop Insurance - "Sodsaver" Other or N/A	loophole closed Report on absentee	benefits are reduced for 4 cumulative years within the first 10 years from the initial tillage of land that was native sod, if there is an insurable crop being produced on that land. Mandates a report from USDA to Congress within 1 year of the 2018 Farm Bill enactment	disrupting the diverse habitats and soil ecosystem in the Prairie Pothole Region of the U.S. This provision will hopefully protect native sod from being tilled and produced upon. If any negative damage done to long term economic health of agricultural production,	en/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact- Sheets/Native-Sod-Guidelines- for-Federal-Crop-Insurance n/a; previous, similar data: https://www.ers.usda.gov/	Crop Insurance Data	3	<u>/ USC 1508(o)</u> (<u>2)</u> n/a
12507 XII	Other or N/A	absentee landlords, including impact on soil health Heirs property	A section of the 2018 Farm Bill enactment date that assesses the impact of absentee landlords on the long-term economic health of agricultural production. This includes the impact of land valuation and the impact on soil health. Describes in detail the actions and	economic health of agricultural production, including negative impacts on soil health, due to absent landlord, recommendations need to be made to policymakers on how to fix the issues. May result in better soil health on land in agricultural production with absentee landlords. May help inform older owners and assist	https://www.ers.usda.gov/ topics/farm-economy/land-use- land-value-tenure/farmland- ownership-and-tenure/ No agency information	Access	2	<u>7 USC 2266b</u>
XII Miscellaneous 12615	or ny/A	Heirs property and eligibility for NRCS programs	Describes in detail the actions and requirements of an operator on heirs property to obtain a farm number to participate in any USDA programs.	May help inform older owners and assist them in providing proper documentation for an heir to successfully operate the farm, obtain a farm number and apply for federal programs. May assist in heirs eligibility to apply for conservation programs. This is especially important for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.	No agency information available yet	66000.	L	000
XII Miscellaneous 12618	Other or N/A	Report on data on conservation practices and effects on crop yields and soil health.	Within 1 year of enactment, USDA is mandated to find data sets within USDA on the use of conservation practices and their impact on farm and ranch profitability. This includes impacts on crop yields and soil health. Also requires USDA to report to Congress a summary of findings, how	Data generated within USDA regarding soil health will soon be available to universities. This will help coordinate research efforts around soil health. Data will also help corroborate conservation practices impacts on crop yields, which will help guide crop insurance and build a better economic case	n/a	Data	2	<u>16 USC 3847</u>
			the data will be accessible to university researchers and any recommendations to allow access of the data to maximize research potential.	insurance and build a better economic case for producers to adopt soil health practices.				
Land Protectio	n: relating to taking	agricultural land ou	gory. Definitions of Provision Categories. t of production for conservation purposes. anges, definitions, clarifications, or functional cha	anges within an existing program.				

Provisions may fall into more than one provision category. Definitions of Provision Categories.
 Land Protection: relating to taking agricultural land out of production for conservation purposes.
 Structure: broad term used to cover administration changes, definitions, clarifications, or functional changes within an existing program.
 Incentives: provisions pertaining to changes in financial assistance.
 Access: provisions that allow for increased land access opportunities or improved financial and technical assistance to beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers or ranchers.
 Data: pertaining to the requirement of data output, analysis, management, collection, plans in any part of program operation.
 Crop Insurance: provisions that deal with crop insurance implementation. Research: relating to programs, funding opportunities, initiatives involving research.
 Funding: changes to program funds, authorization or authorization for appropriations.
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2. Impact on soil health scale defined:
5-Direct soil health initiatives
4-Direct soil health impact through other initiatives
3-Indirect impact but soil health may benefit
2-Organizational or structural support that may help adoption of conservation practices that impact soil health in the near future; or provisions of unknown impact on soil health
1-Negatively impacts or creates a barrier for soil health

All information updates will be available at https://soilhealthinstitute.org/resources/catalog/#farmbill