

§ 652.2

Conservation practice means a specified treatment, such as a structural or vegetative practice, or a land management practice, that is planned and applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Contract means the same as that term is defined in the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act, 31 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*

Contribution agreement means the acquisition of technical services entered into under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Cooperative agreement means the same as that term is defined in the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act, 31 U.S.C. 6301 *et seq.*

Department means the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, or any other agency or instrumentality of the United States Department of Agriculture that is assigned responsibility for all or a part of a conservation program subject to this part.

Entity means a corporation, joint stock company, association, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, non-profit organization, a member of a joint venture, or a member of a similar organization.

Program participant or participant means a person who is eligible to receive technical or financial assistance under a conservation program covered by this rule.

Public agency means a unit or subdivision of Federal, State, local, or Tribal government, other than the Department.

Recommending organization means a professional organization, association, licensing board or similar organization with which NRCS has entered into an agreement to recommend qualified individuals for NRCS certification as technical service providers for specific technical services.

Secretary means the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

State Conservationist means the NRCS employee authorized to direct and supervise NRCS activities in a State, the Caribbean Area, or the Pacific Basin Area.

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Technical service means the technical assistance provided by technical service providers, including conservation planning, and/or the design, layout, and installation of approved conservation practices.

Technical service provider means an individual, entity, or public agency certified by the State Conservationist and placed on the approved list to provide technical services to program participants or to the Department.

§ 652.2 Applicability.

The regulations in this part set forth the policies, procedures, and requirements related to delivery of technical assistance by individuals and entities other than the Department, hereinafter referred to as technical service providers.

§ 652.3 Administration.

(a) As provided in this part, the Department will provide technical assistance to program participants directly, or at the option of the program participant, through a technical service provider in accordance with the requirements of this part.

(b) The Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will direct and supervise the administration of the regulations in this part.

(c) NRCS will:

(1) Provide overall leadership and management for the development and administration of a technical service provider process;

(2) Consult with the Farm Service Agency and other appropriate agencies and entities concerning the availability and utilization of technical service providers and the implementation of technical service;

(3) Establish policies, procedures, guidance, and criteria for the certification, recertification, decertification, certification renewal, and implementation of the use of technical service providers;

(4) Certify, decertify, and recertify technical service providers as well as renew certification for technical service providers.

(5) Encourage development and availability of training opportunities for individuals interested in becoming technical service providers;