

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Local Work Groups

WHAT IS A LOCAL WORK GROUP (LWG)?

- Local Work Groups are subcommittees of the State Technical Committee
 - Every state has an NRCS State Technical Committee to advise the State Conservationist on the guidelines for implementing natural resources provision of Farm Bill legislation
- Local Work Groups provide a platform for local landowners and partners to input and voice their conservation priorities and recommendations

HOW TO JOIN A LWG?

- Individuals or groups wanting to become LWG members may submit a request to the LWG chairperson and the NRCS district conservationist
 - Explain your interest and credentials for becoming a member in your submission
- Meetings occur at least once a year at a time and place determined by the chairperson
- Meetings are open to the public and conducted as an open discussion among LWG members
- **Public Participation:** Individuals attending the local work group meetings have the opportunity to address natural resource concerns, priorities, and problems
- This supports **locally led conservation efforts** and the implementation of NRCS support that actually meets stakeholder needs

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING A LWG FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE:

- The USDA gives strong consideration to LWG recommendations and implements this in NRCS program administration, program policy, and program funding
- This ensures conservation needs are determined using stakeholder input from organic farmers
- High priority areas for organic farming can be identified and addressed
- Facilitates multi-county cooperation and partnership which creates an opportunity to educate upon and emphasize organic farming
- Program policies at both the local and national levels are improved

