

Factsheet: Gulf of Mexico Initiative

The Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GoMI)

Background/Purpose

The Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GoMI) provides focused technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to improve ecosystem health in the Gulf of Mexico and its associated watersheds.

GoMI complements the existing Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI), which addresses similar concerns in the Mississippi River Basin, by working on smaller watersheds that drain directly into the Gulf of Mexico.

The conservation programs utilized to support the goals and objectives of the GoMI are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP).

Goals/Objectives

Through this initiative, NRCS and its partners assist agricultural producers and cooperators in improving water quality, increasing water conservation and enhancing wildlife habitat within watersheds draining into the Gulf of Mexico.

Expected Outcomes

The outcomes to be measured for the GoMI are reductions in nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment that contribute to water quality concerns in the Gulf of Mexico.



Priorities

Working in conjunction with state and federal agencies, local partners and producers, NRCS selected 16 priority watersheds in seven major river basins that have the opportunity to build upon existing conservation efforts.

The seven river basins identified include Weeks Bay in Alabama, the Escambia River in Alabama and Florida, the middle Suwannee River area in Florida, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary and Mermentau Basin in Louisiana, the Jourdan River in Mississippi, and the Lower San Antonio River in Texas.

Eligibility

Participants in the GoMI must meet eligibility requirements for NRCS conservation programs.

Additionally, the land must fall in an identified priority watershed draining into the Gulf of Mexico.

More Information

For more information and updates about the Gulf of Mexico Initiative and other NRCS conservation efforts, please visit the NRCS website at: www.nrcs.usda.gov.

