

National Bulletin: 290-24-02

Date: 11/03/2023

Subject: INV–Enhanced Climate-Smart, Equity, and Urban
Priority Data Dashboards Now Available

Purpose: This national bulletin announces the availability of enhanced Climate-Smart, Equity, and Urban Agriculture Priority Data dashboards for conservation assessment and planning at the state and county levels.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2024.

Background: The Priority Data Layers project provides data for assessing past conservation treatments and potential opportunities for directing financial assistance conservation program funding. NRCS staff may use Priority Data Layers resources to identify priority areas to mitigate climate change, advance equity in program delivery, and promote conservation for urban and peri-urban agriculture.

The Resource Inventory and Assessment Division (RIAD) first announced the release of Priority Data Layers resources through [NB 290-22-13](#). The release included a Priority Data Layers web application, which featured static mapping layers. RIAD is now releasing enhanced Climate-Smart, Equity, and Urban Agriculture Priority Data dashboards accessible to all USDA staff through eAuthentication. These enhancements include new functionality and fiscal year 2022 climate data.

Explanation: The Priority Data Layers project now features three Tableau-based dashboards.

- **Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard:** The Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis dashboard provides a gap analysis for identifying opportunities to target climate-smart mitigation practices. This dashboard uses data from the National Resources Inventory, AgCensus, the National Planning and Agreements Database, and COMET-Planner. Potential treatment gaps for climate-smart mitigation practices are presented based on both the available land use base and historical conservation treatment. Data are now available through fiscal year 2022. The analysis currently only includes climate-smart mitigation activities available in COMET-Planner. Future updates will include practices from the [Fiscal Year 2024 CSAF Mitigation Activity List](#).
- **Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard:** The Equity in Program Delivery dashboard is part of the NRCS Outreach, Equity, and Program Delivery suite of dashboards. It focuses on measures of engagement and distribution to assess equity of program delivery and identify opportunities for improvement. This dashboard uses ProTracts and FSA Business Partners to provide data on beginning farmer and rancher (BFR) and socially disadvantaged farmer and rancher (SDFR) producers by both geographic level and NRCS program. Additionally, users may view the proportion of obligations for BFR and SDFR producers and compare distribution of program delivery components against the customer baseline for a selected demographic group.

- **Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard:** The Urban Agriculture Priority Data dashboard provides data to deliver targeted conservation support for urban and peri-urban operations. This dashboard uses data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture and the National Planning and Agreements Database, among other sources. Data may be filtered by a range of variables such as urban census tracts, conservation practices in urban areas, and urban areas available for agricultural use.

The dashboards are accessible to eAuthenticated users. Data must not be shared externally at this time.

This release is the first of two updates. A separate update is planned during fiscal year 2024 that will include data refreshes for all three dashboards.

Users may access these dashboards, as well as additional resources from the NRCS Priority Data Layers project, through RIAD's [Integrated Landscape Planning Toolbox](#). An [optional feedback form for NRCS staff to provide input](#) on the Priority Data Layers web application released with state data in August 2022 is also available. Feedback will inform future improvements to the dashboards.

Contact: For questions related to specific priority topics, contact:

- Climate-Smart Mitigation Analysis Dashboard – [Sara del Fierro](#)
- Equity in Program Delivery Dashboard – [MichaelCarlo Altman](#) and [Erica Westbrook](#)
- Urban Agriculture Priority Data Dashboard – [Robert McAfee](#)

Contact [Peter Chen](#), RIAD resource analytics lab coordinator, with any access issues or [Mark Xu](#), RIAD director, with overall questions about the Priority Data Layers project.