

# Soil and Water Conservation Plan Certification

for calendar year 19 ..... or fiscal year ended ....., 19 .....

▶ **Attach to your tax return.**

Name of taxpayer claiming deduction	Identifying number
Location of property for which expenses are being claimed	Ending date of tax year in which expenses were paid or incurred

The approved soil and water conservation plan under which I am claiming conservation expenses is a (check only one box):

- 1  Soil Conservation Service (SCS) individual site plan  
Date plan was approved.....
- 2  Soil Conservation Service (SCS) county plan  
County and state where farmland is located .....
- 3  Comparable state agency plan  
Name of agency, address of agency, and date approved .....

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that the expenses claimed for the above property are included in the plan approved by the Soil Conservation Service or comparable state agency and that the conservation practice(s) I am applying is consistent with this plan.

Signature	Date
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## General Instructions

*Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.*

**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.**—We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Recordkeeping**, 7 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 5 min.; **Preparing the form**, 8 min.; and **Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS**, 11 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form more simple, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to both the IRS and the Office of Management and Budget at the addresses listed in the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.

**Purpose of Form.**—Use Form 8645 to certify that your soil and water conservation expenses for farmland are consistent with a conservation plan approved by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) of the Department of Agriculture or a comparable state agency.

**Who Must File.**—File this form with your return if you are claiming soil and water conservation expenses for farmland under section 175, and you are required to file any of the following:

- **Schedule F** (Form 1040), Profit or Loss From Farming,

- **Form 4835**, Farm Rental Income and Expenses,
- **Form 1040-PR**, Planilla Para La Declaración De La Contribución Federal Sobre El Trabajo Por Cuenta Propia—Puerto Rico, or
- **Form 1040-SS**, U.S. Self-Employment Tax Return.

If you are claiming a carryforward of expenses paid or incurred in an earlier year, attach to your return a copy of the Form 8645 you filed for the earlier year.

**Deductible Expenses.**—Deductible soil and water conservation expenses generally are those that are paid to conserve soil and water or to prevent erosion of land used for farming. These expenses include (but are not limited to) the cost of leveling, grading and terracing, contour furrowing, the construction, control, and protection of diversion channels, drainage ditches, earthen dams, watercourses, outlets and ponds, the eradication of brush, and the planting of windbreaks.

To claim these expenses, the conservation practice must be part of an approved plan. You can get the standards and specifications of the conservation practices from an SCS local field office technical guide.

**Note:** *If the conservation practice you are applying to your farmland is not listed on the approved county plan, you must get an individual site plan that includes the practice.*

The deductible amount is limited to 25% of your gross income from farming (excluding certain gains from selling assets such as farm machinery and land). Any expenses in excess of the 25% limit may be carried forward and deducted in later tax years. However, the amount deductible for any one year may not exceed the 25% limit for that year.

**Nondeductible Expenses.**—The following soil and water conservation expenses may not be deductible even if they are made according to an approved plan:

- Expenses paid to drain or fill wetlands.
- Expenses paid to prepare land for center pivot irrigation systems.
- Expenses paid to clear land.

**Additional Information.**—For more details on deductible and nondeductible expenses, get **Pub. 225**, Farmer's Tax Guide.

## Specific Instructions

In the entry space directly below the title of the form, enter the calendar year or ending date of the fiscal year of the tax return to which Form 8645 is being attached. Enter your name and the location of the property for which you are claiming conservation expenses. Do not use a P.O. box. If you are a sole proprietor, enter your social security number as your identifying number. All others should enter their employer identification number.

**Line 1.**—If the plan was designed by the SCS specifically for your property, check this box and enter the date the plan was approved.

**Line 2.**—If line 1 does not apply and an SCS plan was approved for the county in which the farmland is located, check this box and enter the county and state where the farmland is located, the plan number, and the date of the plan.

**Line 3.**—If neither line 1 nor line 2 applies and the plan was approved by an agency other than the SCS, check this box and enter the name and address of the agency, and the date the plan was approved.