

# Hillsborough Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting

District Conservationist-Andrew Kears

9/21/2026

| Not-to-Exceed Date            | Milestone                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 31, 2026       | Create deferral mailing list for Unfunded (sign-up 1) CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR applications                                                                                                                                                   |
| Friday, September 4, 2026     | Mail deferral letters First Class USPS to Unfunded (sign-up 1) CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR applicants                                                                                                                                            |
| Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | Sign-Up Deadline for RCP- LMR                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | Ensure All applications received in FY 2026 are entered into CD/Protracts                                                                                                                                                              |
| Wednesday, October 14, 2026   | RCP- LMR Bundled Applications Due to NRCS                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Friday, October 16, 2026      | Ensure FY 2026 application status is accurate for All applications (Application Status = Deferred, Cancelled, Ineligible)                                                                                                              |
| Monday, October 19, 2026      | Promote FY 2026 application to FY 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Friday, October 30, 2026      | Sign-Up Deadline for CSP/EQIP                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday, November 6, 2026      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure FY 2027 CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR applications are entered into ProTracts/CD</li> <li>DC provides a complete FY 2027 application list, including NO SCIMS to FSA CED and NRCS ASTC-FO</li> </ul> |
| Monday, November 9, 2026      | STC provides a complete FY 2027 application list, including No SCIMS applicants, to FSA SED                                                                                                                                            |

| Not-to-Exceed Date        | Milestone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, February 12, 2027 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make CSP program-related eligibility determinations for applicant, land, stewardship eligibility</li> <li>Make EQIP program-related eligibility determinations for applicant, land, resource concern</li> <li>Make RCP- LMR program-related eligibility determinations for applicant, land, project/activity</li> <li>Submit CART assessment/ranking/cost estimates for EQIP/CSP/RCP- LMR</li> </ul> |
| Friday, February 26, 2027 | CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR preapprovals (Notify Area/DCs and FSA SO/CEDs)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Friday, April 2, 2027     | Finalize April funds assessment request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Wednesday, May 26, 2027   | CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR 80 percent obligation milestone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Friday, June 4, 2027      | Finalize June funds assessment request                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday, June 30, 2027  | CSP/EQIP/RCP- LMR 100 percent obligation milestone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

- Deferral Letters
  - 15 Deferral Letter were sent out before 9/4/206 deadline
    - Unfunded applicants are provided **30 days from the date of delivery receipt** to respond to the deferral letter.
    - Protracts status update 'Deferred', 'Cancelled' or 'Ineligible' by 10/16/2026.
    - State program specialist will promote FY 2026 deferrals to FY2027 no later than October 19, 2026

- **EQIP/CSP**
  - Sign-up 1: Applications received by October 30, 2026
  - Sign-up 2: Applications received October 31, 2026 through September 30, 2027
- **FY2027 Payment Caps**
  - Hight Tunnels- \$50,000
  - Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control - \$50,000
  - Mulching- \$50,000
- **Projected FY2027 EQIP Allocation for Plant City F.O.**
  - \$243,750
- **Pause on the Critical Vacancy Process Effective Immediately**
- **FY26 Q4 Open Advance Certification Requirements Deadline**
  - 09/17/26
- **TFC Deadline- Unliquidated Obligations**
  - 9/23/2026
- **Field Visits**
  - 3 High Tunnel Systems
    - 2 Lithia
    - 1 Plant City
  - 1 Prescribe Grazing/Herbaceous Weed Control
  - 1 Mulching
  - 1 Pending Cover Crop Planting Failure
- **Applications**
  - Received 1 application for Irrigation
  - Waiting on 3 applications
    - Mulching/Cover Crops
    - Cover Crops
    - Energy Audit
- **Existing Contracts**
  - 43 Contracts
  - 9 Pending Modifications
  - 4 Expiring Contracts in 2026
  - Advance Payment Pause

## **Meetings**

- **Program Office Hours**
  - 9/1/2026
  - 9/8/2026
  - 9/15/2026
- **DC Monthly Meeting**
  - 9/2/2026
- **All-Hands Meeting**
  - 9/17/2026

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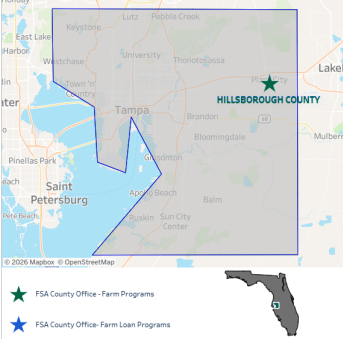
Serving Hillsborough County, Florida:

| Farm Programs                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>★ Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Hours</b><br>Monday - Friday<br>8:00 am - 4:30 pm               | Click below to:<br><a href="tel:813-752-1474">813-752-1474</a><br><a href="#">Get Directions</a><br><a href="#">Make an Appointment</a><br><a href="#">Send an Email</a> |
| <b>Address</b><br>201 S Collins St Ste 201<br>Plant City, FL 33563 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Contact</b><br>craig.stokes@usda.gov                            |                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Farm Loan Programs                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>★ Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Address</b><br>201 S Collins St Ste 201<br>Plant City, FL 33563 |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Contact</b><br>kenneth.digiacomio@usda.gov                      |                                                                                                                                                                          |

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## Trainings

- Irrigation Water Management Training-Gainesville
  - 8/25-27/2026
- Livestock Watering System Engineering Training
  - 9/29/2026

## Federal Holiday

- Labor Day
  - 9/7/2026

## Example of Synthetic/Plastic Mulch for a Strawberry Operation

- Improve the efficiency of moisture management
- Reduce irrigation energy used in farming/ranching practices and field operations
- Improve the efficient use of irrigation water
- Improve plant productivity and health
- Maintain or increase organic matter content

