



American Farmland Trust (AFT): Wisconsin Farmland Protection Partnership Project – 2018 FB RCPP Project #2329 (State)

Project Description/Summary:

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partnership that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages project partners, and works collaboratively with agriculture producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. In this project with American Farmland Trust (AFT), the adoption of project eligible conservation practices will improve soil health on permanently protected land. Case studies of farms will be developed that quantify the beneficial environmental and economic outcomes, equipping farmland protection partners with metrics and tangible examples they can share with landowners to increase conservation practice adoption on land protected from conversion to non-agriculture uses.

Project Area:

Applicants must have >75% of the project in the AFT project area; ranking will be set to implement these boundaries. See map at the end of this document.

Eligible Land Management Producer Contract Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Pasture, and Associated Ag Land

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

Soil Quality Limitations

Eligible Land Management and Rental Practices:

The Schedule of Operations must include at least one of the applicable core practices or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already implemented on the land proposed in the application and identified in the CART assessment as historical or observed practices.

Code	Practice Name
110	Grazing Management Conservation Plan Activity 1/
159	Grazing Management Design DIA
311	Alley Cropping
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
332	Contour Buffer Strips
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting – added FY24



380	Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment
381	Silvopasture
382	Fence
386	Field Borders
391	Riparian Forested Buffer
393	Filter Strip
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting – added FY24
484	Mulching
490	Tree and Shrub Site Preparation
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
561	Heavy Use Protection
612	Tree and Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
642	Water Well

1/ CPA 110 is typically the only activity needed to have a grazing plan to qualify for implementation. CPA 159 should never be contracted alone without already having an equivalent 110 CPA Grazing Management Plan

Application Processing:

RCPP is a stand-alone program and requires its own NRCS-1200 application separate from other NRCS FA programs. All 2018 Farm Bill (FB) RCPP applications will be continuously accepted, and signup cut off dates will be publicly announced each year. For Land Management and Rental producer contracts, question 2 of the NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application (version October 2021) should be marked “Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)”. Write “2329 AFT RCPP” in box 2a (see NB 300-22-8). 2018 Farm Bill RCPP applications will be managed through Conservation Desktop. USDA Financial Assistance Eligibility will need to be determined manually with the Farm Service Agency’s Subsidiary Report.

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

2329 AFT RCPP

Workload Prioritization:

There will not be a Workload Prioritization Tool for FY24.



Ranking Criteria

Ranking Criteria will prioritize applications presented by the lead partner as a bundle, historically underserved participants, application of soil health practices on land that is already protected by easement or other permanent protection, and applications in project priority areas.

Survey: Applicability Questions

Section: Applicability - WI - 2329 AFT RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Does the assessed practice schedule intersect the boundary of the 2329 AFT priority area?	>75% of the project is in the RCPP project Area (Blue Counties)	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category - WI - 2329 AFT RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is this application meant to compete in the 2329 AFT RCPP Project?	Yes - 2329 AFT RCPP	--
	No	--

Survey: Program Questions

Section: Program - WI - 2329 AFT RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
PQ1: Is the land this schedule of operations will be implemented already protected through an easement or through land ownership by a conservation organization?	Land is already under permanent protection by an easement or other method (does not include CRP), or is in the process of being protected by an easement or purchase that would permanently protect the land.	110
	Land is not protected and there are no plans in the process to permanently protect the land.	0
PQ2: The applicant has marked on the NRCS-CPA-1200 that they are a Historically Underserved participant.	YES	40
	NO	0

Section: Program - WI - 2329 AFT RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
PQ3: Is this application identified as a bundle by the lead partner?	YES	50
	NO	0

Survey: Resource Questions

Section: Resource - WI - 2329 AFT - RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
RQ1: A majority of the application area is the SE Wisconsin Fox River watershed or Lowery Creek watershed. *	75% or greater of the project area is within a priority area	150
	Otherwise	50



RCPP Project Contacts:

RCPP Coordination:

RCPP Coordinator, Brandi Richter, brandi.richter@usda.gov

LMR Contract Coordinator, Jenn Chakravorty, jennifer.chakravorty@usda.gov

Lead Partner with American Farmland Trust (AFT):

Angie Doucette, (414) 285-3623, adoucette@farmland.org



Approved project scope:
AFT Project Area (in blue)

