



Dane County LWRD: Improving Soil Health and Water Quality – 2018 FB RCPP Project #2512 (CCA)

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. This project focuses on the Yahara and Upper Sugar Rivers in Dane County, Wisconsin. The goal is to reduce phosphorus loss from cropland, especially during late winter and early spring, and improve soil health. The project is also expected to increase the organizational effectiveness of the three producer-led watershed groups in the project area.

Project Area:

Applicants must have >25% of the project in the Yahara River and Sugar River watersheds; 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, Farmstead, and Associated Ag Land

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

This RCPP Project is within the Mississippi River Basin Critical Conservation Area (CCA). As such, each producer contract must address at least one of the priority resource concerns of inadequate habitat, insufficient water/drought, or water quality degradation (equivalent CART resource concern categories are Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss AND/OR Terrestrial Habitat AND/OR Aquatic Habitat AND/OR Source Water Depletion AND/OR Weather Resilience.*

**CART Resource Concern Level of “naturally available moisture” and CART Resource Concern Component of “moisture management and drought susceptibility” only.*

The Dane County LWRD priority resource concern categories are: Aquatic Habitat, Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss, Terrestrial Habitat, and Weather Resilience. At least one of these primary resource concern categories must also be addressed by the producer contract. For example, a producer contract could address a resource concern in the Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss category and meet both CCA and Dane Co LWRD requirements or a producer contract could address resource concerns in Source Water Depletion and Terrestrial Habitat categories to meet both CCA and Dane Co LWRD requirements.

NOTE: The resource concerns chosen for the CART assessment should be aimed at meeting the project goals of reducing phosphorus loss from cropland and improving soil health. Though insufficient water/drought is a concern for the CCA, there are other resource concerns that might be more applicable to the projects priority resource concerns that also meet the CCA requirements. i.e. assessing for field sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loss for surface water quality improvement.



Eligible Land Management 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.

Code	Practice Name	Core Practice
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	Core
340	Cover Crops	Core
512	Pasture and Hayland Planting	Core
528	Prescribed Grazing	Core
311	Alley Cropping	
313	Waste Storage Structure	
317	Composting Facility	
327	Conservation Cover	
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	
330	Contour Farming	
332	Contour Buffer strips	
342	Critical Area Planting	
350	Sediment Basin	
351	Well Decommissioning	
360	Waste Storage Closure	
362	Diversion	
367	Roofs and Covers	
381	Silvopasture	
382	Fence	
386	Field Border	
391	Riparian Forested Buffer	
393	Filter Strips	
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	
412	Grassed Waterway	
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	
472	Access Control	
484	Mulching	
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	
500	Obstruction Removal	
516	Livestock Pipeline	
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	
522	Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete	
533	Pumping Plant	



558	Roof Runoff Structure
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Protection
572	Spoil Spreading
575	Animal Trails and Walkways
576	Livestock Shelter Structure
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protections
582	Open Channel
585	Strip-cropping
587	Structure for Water Control
590	Nutrient Management
600	Terrace
606	Subsurface Drain
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
620	Underground Outlet
632	Waste Separation Facility
634	Waste Storage Transfer
635	Vegetated Treatment Area
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
657	Wetland Restoration
782	Phosphorus Removal System

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 “2512 Dane County LWRD RCPP LM” 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):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | |

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

2512 Dane County LWRD RCPP LM

Workload Prioritization:

Follow the approved Workload Prioritization Tool for the Dane County LWRD RCPP #2512 project. All High Priority applications will be ranked. Medium Priority applications may be ranked, depending upon funding and the desire of the project partners.

Priority Determination – Select One:	
<p><u>High Priority Category:</u> Within the project scope, this application will address 1 of the 4 eligible resource concern criteria (Aquatic Habitat, Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss, Terrestrial Habitat or Weather Resilience) by implementing one of the priority practices: 329 Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till, 340 Cover Crops, 351 Well Decommissioning, 360 Waste Facility Closure, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, or 528 Prescribed Grazing.</p>	High
<p><u>Medium Priority Category:</u> If the application includes a practice that requires a CNMP prior to implementation, then by the application deadline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has a current approved CNMP or has submitted a complete CNMP for approval, AND • All designs and construction drawings are complete and have been submitted for approval to NRCS. 	Medium
<p><u>Low Priority Category:</u> All other applications.</p>	Low



Partner Responsibilities:

Dane County LWRD is responsible for project promotion, outreach, and education. A Supplemental Agreement provides Dane County LWRD with funds to carry out conservation planning, design, and project check-out. The NRCS will assist as needed, especially performing ranking, approving NEPA, managing contracts, and completing contract payments.

Ranking Criteria

The ranking criteria will be written to favor applications meeting project objectives, such as soil health, phosphorus reduction in surface water, and soil loss improvements.

Survey: Applicability Questions

Section: Applicability - WI - 2512 Dane LWRD RCPP v2		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Are 25% or greater of the application acres located within the RCPP project boundary?	25% or greater of the application acres are located within the project boundary	--
	Otherwise	--

Survey: Category Questions

Section: Category - WI - 2512 Dane LWRD RCPP v24		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
Is this application meant to compete in the Dane County LWRD RCPP Project?	Yes - Dane County LWRD RCPP	--
	No	--



Section: Program - WI - 2512 Dane LWRD RCPP v24

Question	Answer Choices	Points
PQ1: This application includes the following high priority practice(s) - multiple practices may be selected (see hover text):	340 Cover Crops	40
	329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	30
	512 Pasture and Hayland Planting	30
	528 Prescribed Grazing	30
	360 Waste Facility Closure	30
	351 Well Decommissioning	30
	None of the Priority Practices are included	0
PQ2: The applicant has worked with a conservation planner through the conservation process to the extent that;	all implementation requirements or designs for all activities included in the application are complete and final.	75
	at least 1 practice in the application has an implementation requirement or design that is complete and final.	50
	no implementation requirements or designs are complete and final.	0
PQ3: Where is the participant's progress in obtaining permits to complete the project?	The project does not require permits.	12
	The project requires permits and the participant has all final permits in hand.	12
	The project requires permits and the participant has applied for all required permits.	6
	The project requires permits and the participant has not applied for all required permits.	0

Section: Resource - WI - 2512 Dane LWRD - RCPP v24

Question	Answer Choices	Points
RQ1: What percentage of the land being addressed by practices is internally drained?*	0-25% internally drained	75
	26-50% internally drained	50
	51-75% internally drained	25
	76-100% internally drained	10



RCPP Project Contacts:

RCPP Coordination:

RCPP Coordinator, Ryan Gerlich, ryan.gerlich@usda.gov

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

Lead Partners with Dane County LWRD:

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NRCS Madison Field Office:

Resource Conservationist, Brooke Lerum, brooke.lerum@usda.gov

District Conservationist, Tonya Pautzke, (608) 224-3750, tonya.pautzke@usda.gov



Approved project scope: Yahara and Sugar River Watersheds in Dane County

