



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

NRCS and New Jersey Water Supply Authority *partnering through RCPP in the Raritan Basin*



Photo credit: Mim Dean, USDA-NRCS

In February 2016, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced a collaboration with New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) for *Raritan Basin Partners for Source Water Protection*, an RCPP agreement that will assist producers in the Raritan Basin who are interested in improving water quality on their land.

What is RCPP?



The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), established through the 2014 Farm Bill, allows conservation partners with similar missions to collaborate with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to further the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of soil, water, and wildlife habitat in their region. By submitting a joint RCPP proposal to NRCS, these organizations can request that NRCS conservation program funding be set aside for agricultural landowners and producers in the region they serve to augment their existing efforts.



What does this mean for Producers?

This RCPP agreement provides funds that will be available through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Producers located within the partnership target area will have the opportunity to apply for this funding if they meet NRCS criteria and have interest in the goals of the partnership. Funding will be available for conservation practice installation and easement acquisition.

About New Jersey Water Supply Authority



New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) manages the Raritan Basin System that includes Spruce Run Reservoir, Round Valley Reservoir, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. This system provides water to approximately 1.5 million customers in central New Jersey. NJWSA's Watershed Protection Programs Unit focuses on working with landowners to help them improve their land management techniques and protect the water supply in their area.

NJWSA Partners in Conservation

Other partners working with NJWSA in this effort include:



Hunterdon Land Trust
Protecting the places you love



Hunterdon County
New Jersey

Partnering through RCPP in the Raritan Basin

Targeting Water Quality

The goal of this RCPP project is to improve water resources through partnerships among NRCS, NJWSA, farmers and landowners.

Additional Funding Opportunity

Landowners in the project area who are participating in NRCS programs may be eligible for additional financial assistance through **NJWSA's Agricultural Mini- Grant Program**. This program funding complements NRCS financial assistance to cover 85 to 100% of actual costs for conservation practice installation. Practices that improve water quality are eligible for this funding, and include:

- Grassed Waterways
- Diversions
- Cover Crop
- Waste Storage Facility
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Stream Crossing
- Stream Exclusion Fence
- Wetland Restoration/Creation
- Riparian Buffer Planting
- Nutrient Management and more.

To determine if you are eligible for EQIP and confirm that your farm is in the targeted watersheds, contact NRCS:

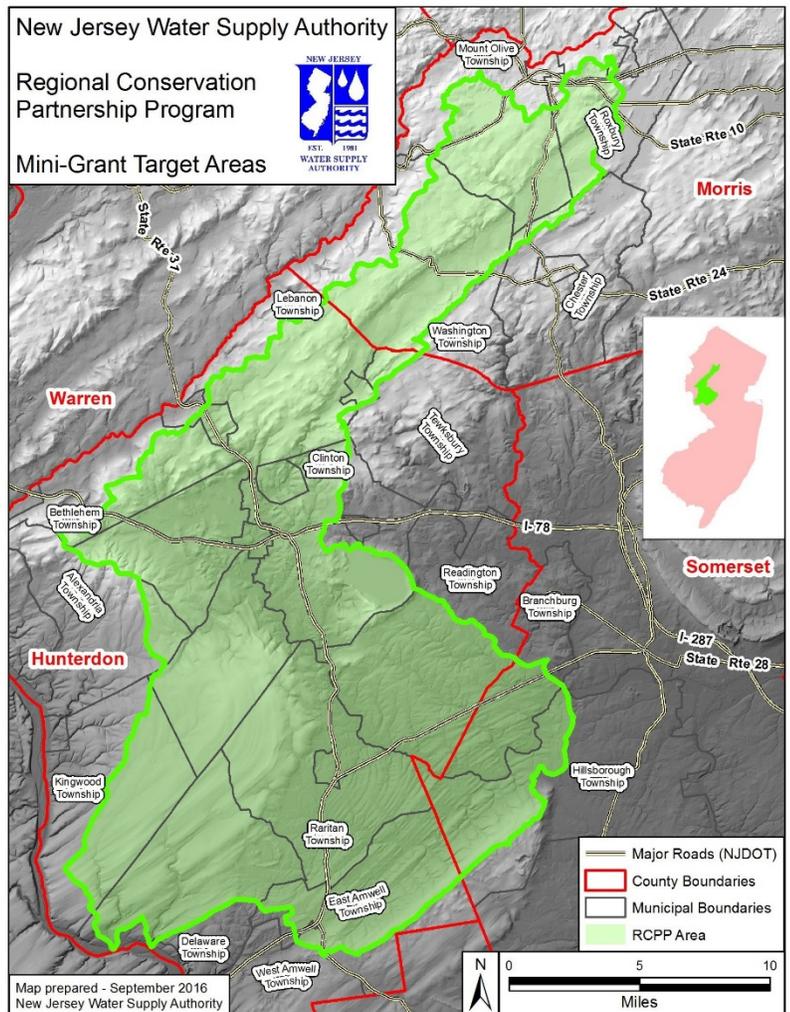
For locations in Hunterdon & Somerset Counties
Frenchtown NRCS, 908-782-4614 x 3

For locations in Morris County
Hackettstown NRCS at 908-852-2576 x 3

For information regarding NJWSA's Ag Mini-Grant program, contact Dan Reynolds:
New Jersey Water Supply Authority
daniel.reynolds@nj.usda.gov
or 908-782-4614 ext. 2361
www.raritanbasin.org

Target Area

The Raritan Basin Partners for Source Water Protection project focuses on specific watersheds where water quality impairments were identified. In the Raritan Basin, all areas that drain into the South Branch of the Raritan River and its tributaries are included in the project area. The Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek watersheds of the Delaware River watershed are also included due to their importance to the D&R Canal. These target areas include parts of Morris, Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, as shown on the map below.



To view map and learn more, visit

www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov and navigate to

[Regional Conservation Partnership Program at work in NJ.](#)

Then follow link to

[NRCS & NJ Water Supply Authority partnering through RCPP in the Raritan Basin](#)