

## Partnership Highlights

### REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

#### FY2018 RCPP Awards

- **Columbia Dam Removal and Restoration, \$567,500** agreement managed by Nature Conservancy to support restoration practices in selected areas after the removal of the Columbia Dam (Warren County) has been completed.
- **Black River Greenway-Soil and Water Protection, \$922,000** agreement managed by New Jersey Conservation Foundation to support forestry and water quality conservation projects and agricultural conservation easements in the Black River area of Hunterdon and Somerset counties.



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

*Since being introduced in the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program has proven to be a great benefit for the Garden State.*

*New Jersey's conservation partners with similar missions are working with NRCS to protect New Jersey's natural resources.*

#### RCPP Projects in Progress

##### FY2015 RCPP Awards

**Delaware River Watershed Working Lands Conservation Protection**, a 5-year national/multi-state award of \$13 million managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) with \$6.4 million directly benefitting New Jersey. Funds provided were used to implement cover crop and irrigation by New Jersey growers and three easements were purchased in Salem County.

**Delaware Bay Soil and Water Quality Protection Initiative**, \$700,000 agreement managed by New Jersey Conservation Foundation treated resource concerns on 6,797 acres and 4 easements in Salem County.

##### FY2016 RCPP Award

**Raritan Basin Partners for Source Water Protection**, a \$700,000 agreement managed by New Jersey Water Supply Authority toward conservation projects in the South Branch Raritan River and Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creek Watersheds and one easement in Hunterdon County.

##### FY2017 RCPP Award

**Whole Farm Systems Conservation Trial**, \$644,000 agreement managed by NJ State Agriculture Development Committee to enhance natural resource protection on farms already enrolled in farmland preservation and to restore and preserve wetlands in Salem County.

# Partnership Highlights

## Together we can do more!

### New Jersey Partners Promote On-farm Soil Health Practices

NRCS enjoys strong partnerships with other agencies and organizations with similar missions. We especially appreciate these partners that highlight the benefits of cover crop and offer programs that help producers defray cost for aerial seeding, acquisition of specialized equipment, and other soil health activities. Through their efforts and promotion, many New Jersey farmers are becoming familiar with and utilizing opportunities offered through NRCS conservation programs.

### North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council

- Offers Cover Crop Consulting
- Held the New Jersey No-Till & Cover Crop Conference, December 2018
- Promotes NRCS Soil Health Initiative
- Created signage to promote public awareness



### Burlington Soil Conservation District



From right, Burlington County farmer Larry Roehr; Robert Reitmeyer, Burlington County Soil Conservation District manager; and Nicole Cicciaglione, NRCS district conservationist, talk about the benefits of using cover crops in one of Roehr's soybean fields. Roehr planted a cover crop mix last year, participating in a program within the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer.

*Photo by Sean Clougherty*

Burlington District was able to offer a “free sample” of cover crop seeding to growers in the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer in Burlington and Camden counties as described on page 7 of this report. The program attracted farmers who had not participated in soil health programs, and was a great boost to expanding the NRCS Soil Health Initiative in that watershed.

*Grant allows BCSCD to make pitch for cover crops, by S. Clougherty, The New Jersey Farmer, August 2017.*

<https://americanfarmpublications.com/3744-grant-allows-bcsd-to-make-pitch-for-cover-crops/>

## NRCS values our conservation partnerships!

#### Traditional agency partnerships

- USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Rutgers University
- NJDA – State Agricultural Development Committee
- State FAC
- NJ Association of Conservation Districts (NJACD);
- 15 NJ Soil Conservation District

#### Local Work Groups

NJ State Technical Committee

#### Conference Exhibits and Presentations:

- NJ Agricultural Convention and Vegetable Growers
- NOFA-NJ
- NJCF Conservation Land Rally
- Central Jersey Vegetable Growers
- FFA Career Development Events