

Farm Bill Updates



CSP Interim Rule

- Published November 12, 2019
- Public comment period closed January 13, 2020

EQIP Interim Rule

- Published December 17, 2019
- Public comment period ends February 17, 2020
- Environmental review (EA or FONSI) comments due January 16, 2020

ACEP Interim Rule

- Published December 30, 2019
- Public comment period ends March 6, 2020
- Environmental review (EA or FONSI) comments due February 5, 2020

RCPP Interim Rule

- In clearance for publication





United States Department of Agriculture

Regional Conservation Partnership Program



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2014 vs. 2018 RCPP



- **All existing RCPP projects will continue to be managed under the policies established under the 2014 Farm Bill (and any new covered program policies).**
- **The FY 2019 funding announcement will lead to awards that are managed according to the forthcoming RCPP interim final rule.**
- **RCPP renewals announced this fall will also be managed according to the new interim final rule.**



2018 Farm Bill--Significant Changes

- **Standalone program with \$300 million annually**
- **RCPP contracts and new agreement structure**
- **Three funding pools reduced to two**



2018 Farm Bill--Significant Changes

- **Noncompetitive project renewals**
- **Emphasis on project outcomes**
- **Customer service provisions**



Proposal Review Process



- **All proposals will be reviewed at the State level by a team of NRCS employees.**
- **State/Multi-state and CCA proposals will require coordination between NRCS States.**
- **Reviews are based on the evaluation criteria included in the funding announcement.**
- **State reviews and rankings are submitted to NRCS leadership for final project selection by the Chief.**



RCPP Principles



- **Impact**
- **Partner Contributions**
- **Innovation**
- **Partnership and Project Management**



OUTCOMES



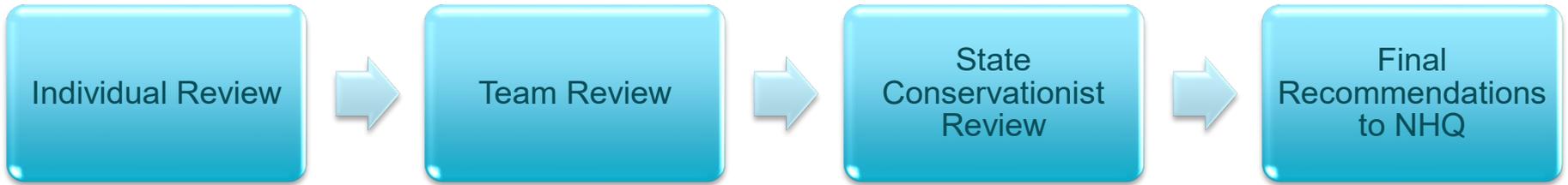
RCPP FY 19/20 Timeline



<u>RCPP Action</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
RCPP FY 2019 funding announcement released	September 3, 2019
RCPP renewals awards announced	By November 15, 2019
Application period closes	December 3, 2019
RCPP Interim Final Rule (IFR) released	Late 2019/Early 2020
AFA funding announcement released	Soon after IFR release
RCPP project selections, negotiations begin	March 2020
FY 2019 RCPP partnership agreements (including renewals) executed	By mid-June 2020
Next funding announcement released	July 1, 2020
AFA awards announced	Summer 2020



State Review Process





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Questions?

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