Partnership Programs
Tammy Timms, NRCS Programs Initiatives Coordinator
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Project Updates
- Conservation Desktop & RCPP
- RCPP Classic & AFA Funding Opportunity Announcements
FB14 – RCPP Projects Update

• **Project 1661 – Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27**
  Expires: 6/30/22
  Progress: Preliminary Design completed January 31st, expected final design December 2022 with construction following.
  One-Year No-Cost Extension to 6/30/2023

• **Project 1712 – Papillion Creek Site WP-1 Dam**
  Expires: 12/31/2023
  Progress: Plan at NWMC for review, expected final design completed in February 2023.

• **Project 1564 – Divots in the Pivots**
  Expires: 9/30/2022
  Progress: ACEP-WRE – one parcel agreement pending
  One-Year No-Cost Extension
FB18 RCPP Projects Update

• Project 1966 – Soil Carbon Project (TNC)
  RCPP FA Funds: $3.1M
  Progress:
  FY21 Obligations for Producer Contracts: 20 Contracts $545,571
  FY22 Obligations for Producer Contracts: Budgeted @~ $600K
  43 Applications $2.16M
  FY21 Contract Payments for:
    Crop Rotation
    No-till
    Cover Crop
  Finalizing Project Supplemental Agreements
FB18 RCPP Projects Update

• Project 2135 – Cropland Cover Project (NGPC)
  RCPP FA Funds: $700K
  Progress:
  FY22 Obligations for Producer Contracts: Budgeted @~ $150K
    21 Applications  $209K
    15 Applications Pre-Approved
  Practices: Access Control
  Cover Crop
FB18 – RCPP Projects Update

• Project 2271 – Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery (CP NRD)
  Project FA: $1.7 M
  Progress: Producer Signups this Fall

• Project 2434 – Platte River and Playa Wetland Protection (DU)
  Project FA: $1.3 M for Easement Acquisitions
  Progress: Programmatic Partnership Agreement, Supplemental Agreement for TA-E (outreach, communication)
  Parcel Agreements on HOLD
FB18 RCPP Projects Update

- Project 2173 – Nebraska Forest Restoration Partnership (NFS)
  - RCPP FA Funds: $3.2M
  - Progress:
    - PPA Signed
    - SA for FA Signed
  - Producer Applications this Spring for Tree Practices

Alternative Funding Arrangement = NFS will administer FA contracts
RCPP & Conservation Desktop Updates

FY21 Conservation Desktop

• Planning and Mapping
  Same as other FA Programs

• Applications
  Manual Producer/Land Eligibility

• Obligations
  Manual CPA-1202 Contract Document
  Manual Eligibility
  Manual Obligations of Funds

• Administration
  Manual Modifications, Reviews, etc

• Payments
  No Certification of Practices
  Manual Payment Documents

FY22 Conservation Desktop - Upgrades

• Planning and Mapping
  Same as other FA Programs

• Applications
  Current Update for Pulling Eligibility Documents from FSA
  Manual Entry

• Obligations
  Partial Completed CPA-1202 Contract Document
  Double Check Eligibility prior to Obligation
  Funds Reservation – Still Manual Obligations of Funds

• Administration
  Manual Modifications, Reviews, etc

• Payments
  Certification of Practices
  Partial Completed CPA-1245 Payment Document
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

- Opportunity Announcement
  - $225 M total in Classic and AFA Projects
  - Deadline to Submit Proposal - April 13, 2022
  - [RCPP - How to Apply | NRCS (usda.gov)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
  - Prior to Submitting Proposal – contact RCPP Coordinator
    - Guidance about the Proposal with State NRCS Leadership
    - Guidance on how to use the Portal, Login Instructions
  - Submit Proposals via Programs Portal

Classic = Standard version where NRCS and the lead partner both oversee contracts with producers and landowners engaged in RCPP Activities

AFA = Partner-led contracts to achieve conservation benefits not possible under Classic
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

• **Award Ceiling:** $10,000,000.00
• **Award Floor:** $ 250,000.00

• **Eligible Entities:**

An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers. • A State or unit of local government. • An Indian Tribe. • A farmer cooperative. • A water district, irrigation district, acequia, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to agricultural producers. • A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity. • An institution of higher education. • An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by NRCS, to address—o Local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, or nonindustrial private forest land management; o Critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource issues. • An entity, such as an Indian Tribe, State government, local government, or a nongovernmental organization that has a farmland or grassland protection program that purchases agricultural land easements, as defined in 7 CFR Section 1468.3. • A conservation district.
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

RCPP Funding Levels

- **FA $** - Financial Assistance for on-the-land conservation
- **TA $** – Technical Assistance
  - TA-E – Enhancement
    Outreach, Marketing, Communication, Project Management
  - TA-I – Implementation
    Practice Implementation. $ directly tied to the specific FA $.

70% **FA**

30% **TA**

- TA-E 7%
- TA-I 23%
- NRCS 5%
- Negotiable 18%
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

FB18 RCPP Items to Note:

RCPP is not a Grant, functions more as a Contract

Lead Partner is held accountable for:

- Entering Proposal in the Portal
- If selected, entering Project in the Portal
- Administering Project in the Portal
- Acquiring and Accounting for each $ for Reimbursements, Contributions and Match
- Audits from FB14 resulted in more stringent accountability for FB18 RCPP
- Other....
Reporting Example:

RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

Key Principles of RCPP

• Impact (25%) - does proposal include effective, compelling solutions to address one or more natural resource concerns?

• Partner Contributions (25%) – Cash or In-Kind FA and/or TA? Must be 1:1 ratio with RCPP funding. Cash is KING.

• Innovation (20%) – Integrate multiple or innovative conservation approaches or technologies? Build new partnerships?

• Partnerships and Management (30%) – Experience with Project Management
RCPP Classic and AFA National Funding Opportunity

Administration Policies – Focus on:

• Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry projects

• Urban Agriculture – address natural resources of urban farmers in metropolitan areas, energy conservation, water conservation, soil health, long-term protection of land.

• Racial Justice & Equity – ensure equity across the Department, removing barriers to access, and building a workforce representative of America

• HU Producers – Beginning, Limited Resource, Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran producers
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- General / Continuous Signup – Jana & Lavaine (FSA)

- Status Reviews – FO’s are prioritizing for re-enrollments

1st CRP Practice Installation

Potentially 3,000 Contracts

2nd CRP Practice Establishment

not later than 2 years after installation.

3rd CRP Contract Expiration

Expiring 2022/2023

9,062 Fields

7,683 Fields

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Thank you to all Partners!

Tammy Timms, NRCS Programs Initiatives Coordinator
tammy.timms@usda.gov
402-437-4114

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender