Significant changes for FY15

- Can be used to address true agricultural air quality issues, not just nonattainment
- States apply for funds
  - 10 states submitted Requests to Participate (RtPs) for FY15
FY 15 NRCS NAQI

• 3 funding pools
  – National nonattainment (limited to CA and AZ)
    • CA and AZ submitted national nonattainment RtPs
  – Regional air quality
    • MD/DE and TX/OK submitted regional RtPs
  – State air quality
    • CA, CO, OR, PA, and WA submitted state-level RtPs
FY 15 NRCS NAQI

- AZ - $1,718,649
- CA - $20,623,794
- CO - $1,964,171
- DE - $98,209
- MD - $196,417
- OK - $638,355
- OR - $932,981
- PA - $3,289,986
- TX - $4,419,385
- WA - $2,946,256
FY 15 RCPP

• 3 projects with air quality as a primary resource concern
  – National funding pool
    • Unlocking Carbon Markets for NIPF Landowners in the Pacific Northwest – OR, WA
    • Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative – MO, NE, KS, IA
  – State funding pool
    • North Central New Mexico Watershed Restoration Project - NM
FY 15 CIG

• $20 million total
  – $10 million – Natural Resources Pool
    • Projects benefitting Historically Underserved Producers, Veteran Farmers or Ranchers, or organizations comprised of or representing these individuals or entities (i.e., Outreach)
• **Air Quality**
• Soil Health
• Aquatic Resources
• Economics and Sociology
• Organic Operation Technologies
• Wildlife
• Water Quality
• Nutrient Management and Water Quality
• Energy Conservation
• Co-management for Food Safety
• Herbicide Weed Resistance
• $20 million total (cont.)
  – $10 million – Environmental Markets and Finance
    • Greenhouse Gas Markets
    • Environmental Markets for Water
    • Impact Investments in Working Lands Conservation

• Pre-proposals have been accepted

• Full proposals due April 30
US submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on March 31 that includes ALL SECTORS and domestic markets.

USDA developing a climate change mitigation action plan to be shared publicly later this year in preparation for the Paris climate change negotiations in December 2015.

- NRCS and voluntary conservation practices will likely be a component of the USDA mitigation plan.
Leveraging partnerships will be key to achieving emissions reductions and increased sequestration – State, Local, non-profit, for-profit, and many others – CA example from last AAQTF meeting

• COMET-Planner released for CA work
• $20 million for conservation, GHG reductions, carbon sequestration
NAQSAT Update

• National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool

• NRCS National Instructions NI-190-309 were published on March 12
  – “NAQSAT will be used to evaluate air quality resource concerns for all livestock and poultry operations by the end of calendar year 2015.”

• Developing plans for appropriate outreach and training for conservation planners

• Example of CIG projects resulting in changes to NRCS conservation delivery ability
New NRCS Air Quality Practice

• Field Operations Emissions Reduction
  – Conservation Practice Standard Code 376
  – Piloted as an interim standard in CA
  – Finalized and approved as a national practice standard in March 2015
    • Awaiting publication in the next release of practice standards
    • States typically have 1 year from publication to adopt
Field Operations Emissions Reduction

Promotes reduction in particulate matter emissions from field operations via:

• Combined tillage operations
• Precision guidance systems
• Alternative equipment technology
• Timing of field operations
• Modification of crop cultural and harvest methodologies
Work continues on development of case studies to better characterize emissions from agricultural sources in EPA modeling

Recent discussion of ammonia mitigation strategies for:

– Land application
– Animals and feed
– Animal housing and manure management systems
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