

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



SUMMARY

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) provides grants for the implementation of agricultural and urban best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from nonpoint sources.

- Established in 2018 federal Farm Bill
- Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Annual program funding: million \$11.4 million (PA-2021); \$300 million annually nationwide
- Funding Source: Federal - Farm Bill

FEATURES

Program co-invests NRCS funds with local or state funds. 2018 Farm Bill made RCPP a stand-alone program with its own dedicated funding and emphasizes partner reporting of outcomes.

Changes in 2018 incorporated source water protection as a priority resource concern.

Latest RCPP initiatives in PA: \$7.4 million awarded to Lancaster Clean Water Partners and \$4 million toward Turkey Hill Partnership for agricultural BMPs in Lancaster County.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

PA conservation districts, producer associations, state or local governments, higher education, and nongovernmental organizations. RCPP projects must be carried out on agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land.

Eligible Costs

Supports technical and financial assistance for farm, forest, and habitat land improvements (BMP costs, land rentals, land easements); generally 70% toward financial assistance and 30% toward technical assistance.

Match: 1:1 is encouraged; other non-NRCS federal agency funds are eligible as match.

Typically RCPPs are five-year contracts.



Last Update: March 2021

HELPFUL TIPS

RCPP Classic projects use contracts and easements between NRCS and landowners. Under RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA), the lead partner(s) contracts directly with landowners. AFAs are more grant-like and rely more on partner capacity to implement conservation activities.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact: NRCS State RCPP Coordinator Susan Marquart at susan.marquart@usda.gov, 717-237-2237

Request a meeting with PA's NRCS State RCPP Coordinator at least 4 weeks prior to applying to RCPP. Must obtain level 2 eAuthentication permission which can take time.

Application deadline: May 28, 2021; next release in summer 2021