



United States Department of Agriculture

Feed Management and RCPP Projects

NRCS Projects Branch | September 2024



Presenter:

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1. RCPP overview
2. Feed Management in RCPP context
3. Technical Specialist Roles



- **RCPP funding authorized/managed in 3 buckets:**
 - Implementation TA (TA-I) is available for FA support (planning, design, installation and checkout + application assistance (for now).
 - Enhancement TA (TA-E) (project mgt funds) available for eligible “above parcel” partner responsibilities associated with the RCPP project (vs. any individual easement).
 - FA must meet an activity standard (practice, enhancement, easement, watershed plan)



- **Covered programs (EQIP, ACEP, CSP, HFRP & PL-566)**
 - **Eligible applicants apply** directly to NRCS
 - Selected applications enter into contracts directly with NRCS for Financial Assistance (and sometimes Technical Assistance) Delivery
- **RCPD**
 - 2- or 3-phase application process:
 - An **eligible partner** applies to become a “lead partner” for a “project”: proposal sets geographic area (a state or ???) and targeted resource concerns.
 - **Eligible producers** apply for FA/TA AFTER NRCS+partner enter into project agreement



RCPP Classic

- NRCS directly responsible for FA execution through producer and parcel contracts to address RC on eligible lands
- NRCS leads technical assistance, may contract with partner.
- Partner can earn (limited) TA for project management, and/or provide implementation TA in support of FA contracts.

Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)

- **NRCS contracts with partner and partner responsible for TA and FA delivery to NRCS technical requirements**
- Partner can earn (limited) TA for project management, and must provide implementation TA in support of FA contracts.
- NRCS remains responsible for payment defensibility/NEPA etc.



Negotiate Programmatic Partnership Agreement

Financial Assistance

NRCS
Delivers FA
(Classic only)

Negotiate
Supplemental
Agreement

Partner
Delivers FA

Technical Assistance

NRCS
Delivers TA
(limited in
AFA)

Negotiate
Supplemental
Agreement

Partner
Delivers TA



- **PPA is a plan and a budget**
- **SA is a contract:**
 - Partner agrees to complete one or more eligible activity in exchange for negotiated payment.
 - **ONLY SAs obligate funds/support payments.**



Partner Proposal (STC, ASTC, Coordinator + State SME)

Proposal Evaluation (Coordinator + State SME) / Leadership Selections

Negotiate Programmatic Partnership Agreement (PPA): RCPP Coordinator + State SME & Partner

Supplemental Agreement Negotiations (SA): RCPP Coordinator + State SME & Partner

Type I SA: Technical Assistance
SA Certification and Payment

Type II/III SA: Technical Assistance
SA Certification and Payment



What does this have to do with the new feed management practice?

- IRA statute directs NRCS to prioritize RCPP proposals with climate smart-type relationships
- Substantial number of partners have “fastened” on this priority, and the use of 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) feed additives
- NRCS leadership has recognized this nexus of partner interest and climate smart-type in proposal evaluations/selections



Even prior to FDA path establishment, leadership “tentatively selected” 7 feed mgt related projects

PY proposal selections include the feed mgt

- 2955 Newtrient LLC AFA WI
- 3048 Agaspire AFA WA
- 3151 Newtrient LLC AFA MI
- 3235 T. County Creamery Association AFA OR
- 3242 Dairy Farmers of America AFA CA
- 3290 Agropur AFA ND
- 3388 California Dairies, Inc. AFA CA



RCPP team currently working with the affected states to

- Maximize consistency between these similar projects for both PPAs and SAs.



PPA Considerations

- Encourage comparability in NRCS response to partner questions.
- Maintain consistent treatment of partner contributions (match-like partner responsibility).
- Encourage similar FA delivery models if practical.
- Encourage common “outcome” reporting metrics (a partner responsibility)



SA Considerations for Feed Mgt RCPP Projects

Encourage commonalities in **FA and TA contracting**

SA structures must ensure partner has information needed to maintain defensible payments:

- How will partners “earn” TA for planning elements of “Feed Management” (hourly, cap per plan...)
- How partner will “checkout” producer compliance.
- How partner will provide documentation that Plan implementation occurred (e.g. planned rations actually fed)



If asked as SME to assist, remember SA are most critical, tied to “potential for improper payments.”

- Covered program authorities limit eligible activities
- Partner actual costs/Payment Schedule amounts
- Payment scenarios MUST explicitly exclude partner admin
- NEPA, FB eligibility, and deliverable certification processes all apply.
- NRCS payment certification requires written delegation (from STC to authorized individual)



All require written STC delegation. May include programs folks and or SMEs.

Other details vary by award type and purpose:

1) **Enhancement TA** (TA-E, Project Management) requires legitimate project-level, vs. contract level, expense.

2) **Implementation TA** (TA-I) application and contract support for work that meets FA standards.

3) **FA payments** must meet a practice standard/address an existing RC.



- Meet next week (9/16 – contact RCPP coordinator)
- Review the Feed Mgt Payment Scenarios
 - Utilize as basis of “Valuation Method” in TA/FA Supplemental Agreements scenarios where/if practical (no data as presentation developed)
 - If sufficiently detailed to support payments, propose Payment Schedule scenario in projects
 - If not, and/or unacceptable to partners, continue to work with states to define “suite” of acceptable contracting methods.





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Questions?



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