



Hello:

We are set to begin planning for the 2021 funding of RCPP and CIS programs. Below, information for each program is included. You will also find an application and short questionnaire enclosed. **The application and questionnaire must be returned no later than October 5, 2020.**

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

This program will provide cost share for converting flood irrigation to pivot systems and applying practices that will increase soil health. Contract holders will have between 1-9 years to apply any practices in their contract. The same rules will apply as the EQIP program. Priority will be given to producers interested in installing a pivot, using soil moisture sensors, and implementing soil health practices such as cover crops and no-till. If we have evaluated your field in the past and the soils do not support a pivot, we will not cost share one through this program.

**Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)**

This program will provide cost share for conversion of open irrigation ditches to buried irrigation pipeline or installation of new irrigation pipeline to shorten irrigation runs. Associated practices, such as cover crops and no-till, will also be cost shared. The same rules will apply as the EQIP program. Contract holders will have 1-10 years to complete practices scheduled in their contract. The priorities below will be used to rank BUT are not required as we will use the ranking system and projects with one or more of these conditions will be funded first, and then projects without any of the following priorities will be funded until money is spent for that year. The following priorities will be used when ranking:

1. Projects within the township 8N-6E which is the area located between Newell and Vale. Although this is the priority area, we will fund projects outside of this area.
2. Priority will be given to applicants who are implementing or willing to install soil health practices such as cover crops, no-till, grazing cover crops, and crop diversification.
3. Anyone willing to use moisture sensors for 3 years to schedule irrigation.
4. Lastly, fields where pivots won't work because of soil type, size, or other reasons.

**Again, please return all forms no later than October 5, 2020.**

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the NRCS office at (605) 892-3368 ext. 3 or at the individual contact information listed below.

Sincerely,

Victor Tuschen  
District Conservationist

Victor Tuschen- 605-667-0022 [Victor.Tuschen@usda.gov](mailto:Victor.Tuschen@usda.gov)  
Andrea Westlake- 605-220-4749 [Andrea.Westlake@usda.gov](mailto:Andrea.Westlake@usda.gov)  
Gary Hendrickson- 605-659-1475 [Gary.Hendrickson@usda.gov](mailto:Gary.Hendrickson@usda.gov)  
Tyler Swan- 605-659-1479 [Tyler.Swan@usda.gov](mailto:Tyler.Swan@usda.gov)

## **CIS/RCPD Questionnaire**

1. Is your land currently irrigated?
  - a. Is your land located within the Belle Fourche Irrigation District?
    - i. If so, what lateral delivers water to your field(s)?
  - b. If not, what is the source of your irrigation water?
2. Are you interested in installing an irrigation pipeline or a pivot?
3. Would you be interested in installing additional core practices, such as cover crops, crop rotation, or no-till?
4. Would you be interested in implementing irrigation water management practices for 3 years, such as using irrigation scheduling, soil moisture sensors, flow meters, crop water use forecasts, and weather station data?

**CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Application Date:</b>
	<b>County and State:</b>
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>Watershed:</b>
	<b>Subaccount:</b>
<b>Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):</b>	

1.  **Yes**  **No** Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

*If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.*

2. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CSP Renewal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>EQIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CSP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACEP- (WRE)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)</b>

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

**Individual**

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

**Entity** (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

b)  **Yes**  **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

**Joint Operation** (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

b)  **Yes**  **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

**4. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?**

Crop Production

Livestock Production

Crop Type:

Livestock Type:

**5. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):**

Private Land

Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)

Tribal, Allotted, Ceded or Indian Land

**6. You certify that Certification of control of the land offered under the application is evidenced by:**

Deed or other evidence of land ownership (required for all ACEP-WRE applications)

Written lease agreement

Years of control are      through

Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

Years of control are      through

**7.  Yes  No Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?**

**8. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply)**

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher

Beginning Farmer or Rancher

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher

Veteran Farmer or Rancher

Not Applicable

*If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. Definitions are provided below. For more information please go to this website:*

<https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

**Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** – The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

**Beginning Farmer or Rancher**– The term “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” means a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and who
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

**Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher-** The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

**Veteran Farmer or Rancher-** The term “Veteran Farmer or Rancher” means a farmer or rancher who:

- Served in the active military, naval, or air service, and
- Who was discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable, and
- Who has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

**9. Is any of the land offered for enrollment under this application:**

- Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)**
- Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP**
- Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP**
- Not Applicable**

*Certification in any of these categories is to assist with planning and will not automatically result in the application being considered in any initiatives made available for organic-related production. Applicants must specifically request to participate in an organic initiative. Note that the EQIP Organic Initiative has a lower payment limitation (\$20,000/year and \$80,000 over any 6-year period per person or legal entity) than payments made to a person or legal entity under General EQIP.*

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will obtain the landowner's signature on the contract or provide written authorization to install structural or vegetative practices. The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by CCC. The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify land control or certify eligibility as Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the Participant to provide accurate information to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the FSA.

**10.  Yes  No I have received a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix.**

<b>Applicant Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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