

**The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Irrigation Partnership to Protect Ground Water (IPPGW)
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Land Management (LM) Signup.**

Background

This project, led by MDA and several partners, will work directly with agricultural producers using irrigation to implement conservation practices that protect groundwater and promote expanded precision irrigation practices.

Application Period

Applications may be taken at any time. Producers must submit an RCPP application on or before June 17, 2022, to be considered for funding.

Farm Business Management

Producers willing to sign the Farm Business Management Participant Letter must do so by June 17, 2022, at the time of application.

Eligibility

For all RCPP LM producer contracts, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

- (1) Producer eligibility,
- (2) Land eligibility, and
- (3) Project and activity eligibility.

Eligible Project Area

Producers located within the IPPGW project area are eligible to participate in the project's RCPP-LM sign-up. The conservation activity(s) identified in the application must be located within the 20 eligible counties: (Becker, Benton, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, East Otter Tail, Grant, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wadena, West Otter Tail, and Washington).

Prioritization Worksheet

The prioritization worksheet must be completed by June 21, 2022, to be considered for funding.

Eligible Activities and Payment Rates

LM activities include NRCS-approved conservation practices and enhancements. **"FY22_2365 RCPP LM Payment Schedule & Eligible Activities"** provides the activities eligible for RCPP LM-#2365 IPPGW project and payment rates.

- Not all conservation practice scenarios are eligible for this sign-up.

Project specific cost list in CD: **Minnesota RCPP18**

Eligible Land Uses

- **Crop**
- **Pasture**
- **Associated Agriculture Lands**
- **Farmstead**

Eligible Resource Concerns and Resource Concern Categories

- **Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss**
- **Degraded Plant Condition**
- **Source Water Depletion**
- **Weather Resilience**

Assessments

Planners must assess all RCPP applications using CART. **A maximum of 3 Resource Concerns/Primary Practice will be assessed. Only eligible Resource Concerns will be assessed.**

Ranking

All rankings will be conducted in CART. The efficiency score calculated in the CART ranking must be used when a tie breaker is needed between one or more RCPP-LM applications. When using the tie breaker, NRCS will select the application with the highest efficiency score first.

CART Ranking Pool: 2365 LM Producer FY22

Funding

Available RCPP-LM #2365 IPPGW funds will be allocated based on the numerical ranking in CART. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with extra project funds if available or deferred to the next ranking period.

Payment Limitations/Payment Caps

Each RCPP-LM contract with a person or legal entity is limited to \$450,000 over the term of the contract, and each RCPP-LM contract with a joint operation (Farm Service Agency business type 2 or 3) or group projects may have a contract limit of up to \$900,000.

Activity Payment Caps have been set by the partner on the conservation activities. The land management activity payment caps for this project are a cap for the designated activity by application. They are not annual practice payment caps.

For example: The payment cap for 449 regardless of what scenarios are selected over the life of the contract is \$6,900.00. This means that all \$6,900.00 could be scheduled in one year or up to three years. Reminder, Intermediate or Advanced IWM needs to be scheduled at some point even if the payment cap has been met. This follows the prioritization worksheet.

0	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Advanced IWM < 1 acre	SqFt	\$	0.63	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
1	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Advanced IWM, greater than 30 acres	Ac	\$	23.00	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
2	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Advanced IWM < 1 acre	SqFt	\$	0.95	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
3	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Advanced IWM, greater than 30 acres	Ac	\$	34.50	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
4	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Intermediate IWM < 1 acre	SqFt	\$	0.76	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
5	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Intermediate IWM, greater than 30 acres	Ac	\$	20.71	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
6	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder with Telemetry_YR1	No	\$	2,350.07	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
7	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder_YR1	No	\$	1,717.26	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
8	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	HU-Soil Moisture Sensors_YR1	No	\$	1,301.63	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
9	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Intermediate IWM < 1 acre	SqFt	\$	0.51	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
0	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Intermediate IWM, greater than 30 acres	Ac	\$	13.81	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
1	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder with Telemetry_YR1	No	\$	1,566.71	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
2	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder_YR1	No	\$	1,144.54	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				
3	RCPP18	Irrigation Water Management	Soil Moisture Sensors_YR1	No	\$	867.75	PR	100	\$	6,900.00				

Reference “FY22_2365 RCPP LM IPPGW Payment Schedule & Eligible Activities” that provides the payment caps for each of the applicable conservation activities.

Applicability

- When scheduling 442 and/or 449 irrigation history requirements apply. The land must be irrigated 2 of the last 5 years. (Note: Irrigation waivers may be considered)
- Management practices 329, 340, 345, and 590 are only eligible on irrigated land where 442 and/or 449 is scheduled.
- Exception: Scheduling 442 and/or 449 is not a requirement when planning the following supporting practices on adjacent non-irrigated land. 351, 372, 374, 430, 441, 533, 642

Program Ranking Questions (200 Points Max)

1. Does the application include an activity that addresses either Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss or Source Water Depletion resource concerns? 60 pts
2. Does the application leverage cash contribution from the SWCD?
 - a. (Becker, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, EOT, Pope, Stearns, Swift, Wadena) 60 pts
 - b. All other applications. 40 pts
3. Did the applicant self-certify on the CPA-1200 application as a Historically Underserved Producer? 40 pts
4. Has the applicant signed the letter committing to enroll in the Farm Business Management Program? 40 pts

Resource Concern Ranking Questions (200 Points Max)

1. Which of the locations does the application fall within? (If multiple fields, take the highest points. The field must be covered by 50%)
 - a. DWSMA >8 ppm 170 pts
 - b. DWSMA 5.4 - 8 ppm 140 pts
 - c. Township MDA >10 ppm 130 pts
 - d. Township MDA 5 - 10 ppm 120 pts
 - e. Township Testing <5 or not final testing 110 pts
 - f. DWSMA - All Other 80 pts
 - g. MDA's vulnerability map 50 pts
 - h. All other Irrigated Land 20 pts

Reference GIS CD LAYER: RCPP LM_IPPGW DWSMA

2. Does the application include:
 - a. 340 AND 329 or 345 on irrigated land that is associated with IWM 449. 20 pts
 - b. 340 or 329 or 345 on irrigated land that is associated with IWM 449. 10 pts
3. Does the application include Fertigation Retrofit under Sprinkler System 442? 10 pts

CONTRACT POLICY GUIDANCE RCPP LM # 2365 IPPGW

- Reoccurring Land Management (LM) activities (such as cover crops (340), irrigation water management (449), and all other reoccurring LM activities with a **1-year lifespan are limited to 3 years of scheduling in a producer contract(s)**.
- LM producer contracts will be limited to a maximum of **5 years** in contract length, unless NRCS determines there is a need for a longer contract to address resource concerns/contract management needs based on the planned LM activities.

Point of Contact (POC) RCPP LM # 2365 IPPGW

RCPP LM Agreement: Jessica Weis-RCPP Coordinator

RCPP LM Contract Implementation: Keith Kloubec-ASTC Programs

-Please route all questions through Area Office staff