

# New USDA survey to measure areas for improvement

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA August 7, 2020 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at [farmers.gov/survey](http://farmers.gov/survey).

“We want to hear from our customers so we can learn what we’re doing right and where we’re missing the mark,” Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey said. “Good data is critical to good decision-making. The more responses we receive, the better we can understand what we need to do to improve our services to America’s farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners.”

This survey is part of the President’s Management Agenda. It requires High Impact Service Provider agencies across the federal government, including

FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas needing improvement.

“We recognize producers and our staff may be experiencing a lot of change in how they interact with USDA,” Farm Service Agency Administrator Richard Fordyce said. “This is a good time to check in with our customers.”

“We will use this input to help improve the delivery of our conservation programs as our sister agencies will do for their programs.” Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Matthew Lohr said.

“We’re about our customers,”

Risk Management Agency Administrator Martin Barbre said. “RMA works to provide producers with crop insurance policies that meet their needs and we need to know where we can improve.”

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated. The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30% response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at [www.farmers.gov/survey](http://www.farmers.gov/survey).

# USDA to invest up to \$360 million in partner-driven conservation

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA August 7, 2020 – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) today invited potential conservation partners to submit project applications for federal funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS will award up to \$360 million dollars to locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation’s water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

“RCPP projects are locally led and demonstrate the value of strong public-private partnerships working with agricultural and forest producers to design solutions that work best for them,” said Chad Kacir, State Conservationist for NRCS in Louisiana.

Partners may request between

\$250,000 and \$10 million in RCPP funding through this funding announcement. Partners are expected to offer value-added contributions to amplify the impact of RCPP funding in an amount equal or greater to the NRCS investment.

Eligible lead partners are encouraged to apply. Funding is open to private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts and universities, among others. The full list of eligible entities is available in the RCPP funding announcement.

First authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP has combined nearly \$1 billion in NRCS investments with close to \$2 billion in non-NRCS dollars to implement conservation practices across the nation. There are 336 active RCPP projects that have engaged more

than 2,000 partners. Successful RCPP projects provide innovative conservation solutions, leverage partner contributions and offer impactful and measurable outcomes.

NRCS requested public comment on the RCPP Critical Conservation Areas and their associated priority resource concerns as part of a review allowed by the Farm Bill once every five years. This funding announcement introduces CCA changes that resulted from the review:

- The California Bay-Delta and Columbia River Basin CCAs have been combined into the Western Waters CCA, which also encompasses the Klamath River Basin and the Puget Sound Basin.
- A new CCA—Northeast Forests and Waters—has been added to the roster. This CCAs

priority resource concerns include water quality and wildlife habitat. The boundaries of the CCA encompass Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

USDA is now accepting proposals for RCPP through the RCPP portal. Proposals are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 4, 2020. For more information, view the Application for Program Funding on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

A webinar with general program information for RCPP applicants is scheduled for 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Aug 27, 2020. Visit the RCPP website for information on how to participate.

For more information on RCPP, visit the RCPP website.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Catahoula Parish School Board Special Education Department will destroy inactive Special Education records after Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Records to be destroyed are those dated from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. If you wish to pick up your records, you may do so anytime by August 11, 2020. The records will be available to you at the Catahoula Parish School Board Office, Monday through Thursday from July 27, 2020 until August 11, 2020. If you wish to obtain your records, contact:

**Mandy Edwards**  
Special Education/Pupil Appraisal Secretary  
318-744-5727 Ext 108

**Catahoula Parish School Board**  
200 Bushley Street  
Harrisonbur, LA 71340  
Barbara Stevenson-Moseley, Supervisor  
Catahoula Parish Special Education Department

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The full text of the Acts from the 2020 Regular Session and First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature may be viewed on the website of the Official Journal of the State at [www.theadvocate.com](http://www.theadvocate.com).



Prepared by  
**Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin**  
pursuant to Act 802 of the  
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