**NRCS 2024 RCPP Application Cutoff Date for Working Lands, Water, and Wildlife Partnership**

CHAMPAIGN, February 15, 2024 – State Conservationist Tammy Willis announced that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will offer Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding for the Working Lands, Water and Wildlife Partnership for select counties throughout Illinois. Illinois NRCS has partnered with The Conservation Fund to help producers address resource concerns, through the planning and implementation of cover crops.

Landowners can apply for assistance through RCPP to implement the cover crop practice. This years project focus is to increase cover crop use and lesson sheet and rill erosion on farm ground in the following 37 counties: Adams, Alexander, Boone, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Cook, Crawford, DeKalb, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Iroquois, Jackson, Jefferson, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Madison, Mason, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Sangamon, Tazewell, Vermilion, Will, Winnebago, and Woodford.

NRCS financial assistance will be available to producers in Illinois who have land in the above-mentioned counties. While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit by March 29, 2024 a signed application (NRCS-CPA-1200 form) to the local NRCS field office, or through the <http://www.farmers.gov> website using their account, to ensure their application is considered for 2024 funding.

A blank NRCS-CPA-1200 application form may be obtained from the local office or on the Illinois NRCS website. Producers wishing to use Farmers.gov, can sign in or create an account by clicking on “Sign up” in the upper right of the website.

For additional information and to determine program eligibility, producers should contact their local NRCS field office or visit the Illinois NRCS website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/il](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/il).

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