

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in Delaware



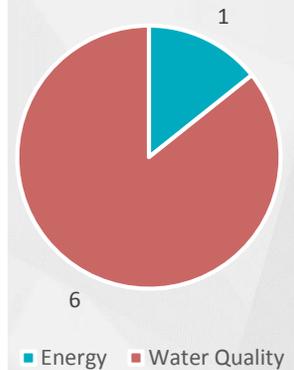
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including two in Delaware. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.

### Delaware Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



7

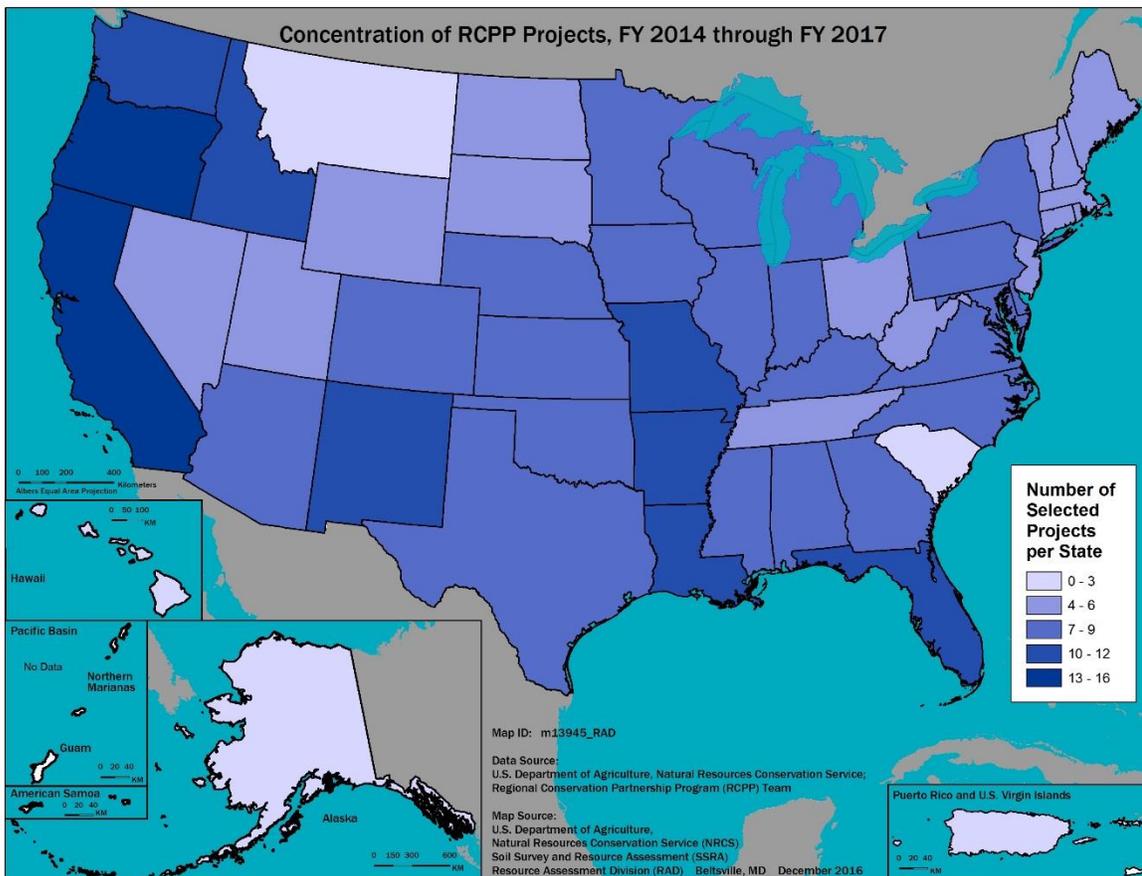
Projects

\$17.55 million

NRCS Investment

80

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Assisting Beginning Farmers with Poultry HQ BMPs	State	Sussex Conservation District	8	\$1 million
2016	DE & MD – Meeting WIP Goals in the Chesapeake Bay	CCA	Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	15	\$4.5 million
2014/2015	Accelerating Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans	CCA	Maryland Department of Agriculture	12	\$5.5 million
2014/2015	Delmarva Whole System Conservation Partnership - From Field to Stream	CCA	The Nature Conservancy	35	\$5 million
2014/2015	Watershed Channel Restoration Projects in Sussex County, Delaware	State	Sussex Conservation District	5	\$600,000

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### Cost-share Opportunities for Beginning Farmers

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$475,300 (State)

Lead Partner: Kent Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 4

Participating States: Delaware (Lead State)

The Kent Conservation District in Delaware along with public and private partners will assist new and beginning farmers in Kent County with initial costs associated with poultry operations, particularly with waste and manure disposal. The improper composting and manure storage can increase the possibility of nutrients contaminating surface and ground water. The project will provide cost-share funding to the ever-growing pool of new and beginning farmers in Kent County for composters, freezers and manure storage facilities. The ready access to these resources will provide new farmers with the opportunity to establish safe and effective management practices from the initiation of their operation.

### Energize Delaware Farm Energy Efficiency Program

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$475,300 (State)

Lead Partner: Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility

Number of Initial Partners: 1

Participating States: Delaware (Lead State)

For Delaware farms, the greatest agricultural revenue – approximately 88% - comes from the energy-intensive poultry and irrigation sectors. To address this challenge, the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility and EnSave sought the feedback and support of Delaware agricultural organizations and farmers, and worked together to develop an SEU-funded program that will offer energy audits, renewable energy assessments, grants, loans and connections with other sources of funding. The Energize Delaware Farm Energy Efficiency Program will match the SEU financial assistance and provide a greater percentage of cost-share to producers than the SEU funds alone. The investment will spur interest in energy conservation and renewable energy and deliver cost savings to Delaware producers.

