

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Investing in New Jersey



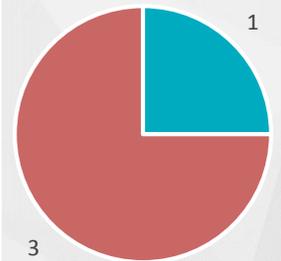
## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

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 every state in the nation, including one in New Jersey. 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.

### New Jersey Projects to Date

#### Projects by Resource Concern



■ Soil Health 
 ■ Water Quality

4

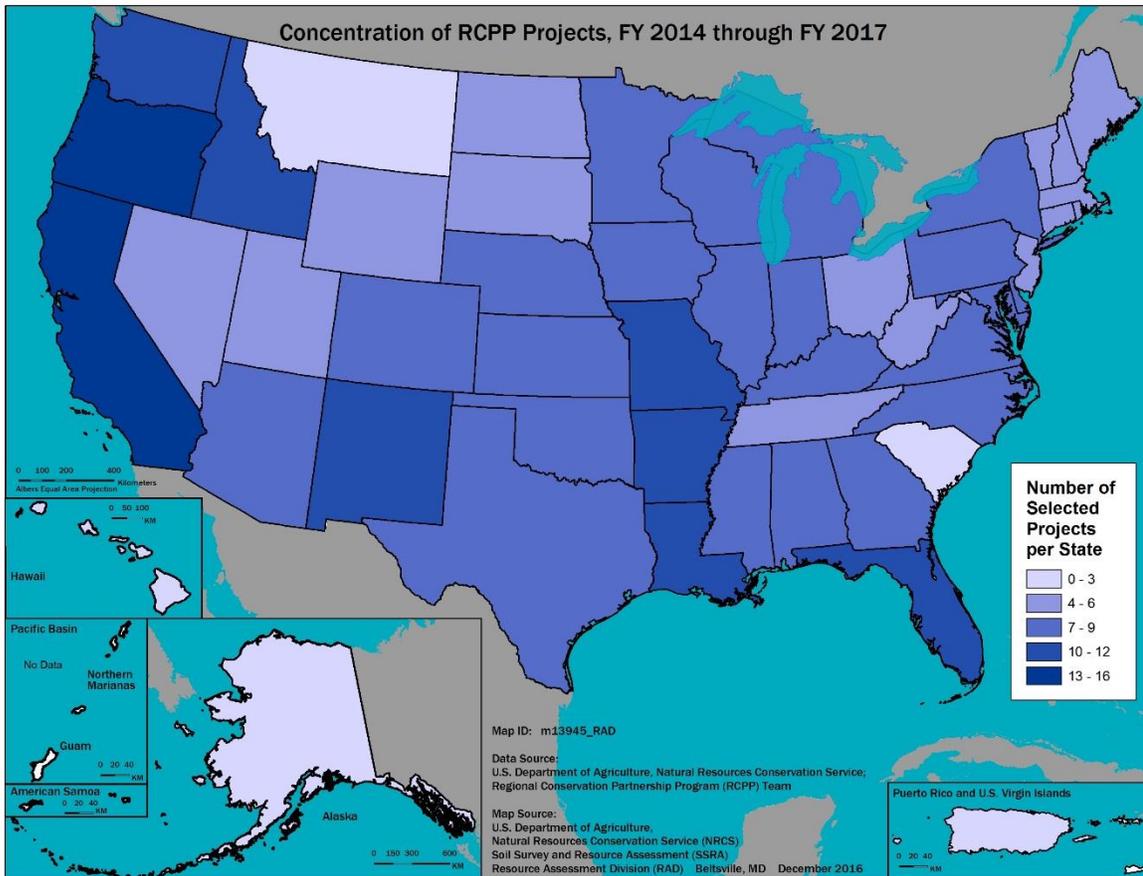
Projects

\$15 million

NRCS Investment

45

Partners



## Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Raritan Basin Partners for Source Water Protection	State	New Jersey Water Supply Authority	3	\$700,000
2014/2015	Delaware Bay Soil and Water Quality Protection Initiative	State	New Jersey Conservation Foundation	10	\$700,000
2014/2015	Delaware River Watershed Working Lands Conservation and Protection Partnership	National	American Farmland Trust	27	\$13 million

## 2017 RCPP Projects

### Whole Farm Systems Conservation Trial

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$644,000 (State)

Lead Partner: New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee

Number of Initial Partners: 5

Participating States: New Jersey (Lead State)

The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee and its preservation partners have been at the forefront of farmland preservation since 1983. With a full third of the New Jersey agricultural land base in permanent preservation, the average size of farms entering into permanent preservation now is shrinking. Anecdotally, these farms have more environmental constraints and require more staff time to close. Coupled with the new reality of smaller budgets, SADC is exploring options to leverage additional funding to help landowners steward their properties and to conserve additional farmland. As a pilot, this program will create one potential framework for continued farmland preservation in New Jersey. This project will utilize New Jersey farmland preservation funding and wetland restoration funds together to preserve actively farmed areas for agriculture while restoring modified wetlands. The SADC and partners hope to give landowners more choice in the way they preserve their farms while protecting additional farmland for future farmers.

