



United States Department of Agriculture

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in North Dakota - 2016

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 demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2016, NRCS is investing up to \$220 million in 84 high-impact projects that impact every state in the nation, including one in North Dakota. This investment, which builds on the \$370 million invested for 2014 and 2015, will help conservation partners and agricultural producers conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Partnership

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$8.3 million (CCA)

Lead Partner: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Number of Partners: 5

Participating State(s): Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska (**lead state**), North Dakota & South Dakota

Project partners will implement 2,900 EQIP projects on 14,500-acres within the Prairie Grasslands Critical Conservation Areas of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota and will address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife natural resource concerns to improve habitat conditions for honey bees and monarch butterflies. Those concerns will be addressed by working to establish high quality habitat projects with landowners on croplands in the area using innovative strategies that directly connect beekeepers, landowners, honey bees, monarch butterflies and high quality habitat.



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