

# RCPP Application Guidance

This guidance is numbered to match the Conservation Program Application and should be used to assist landowners in completing their application accurately.

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## Landowner Contact Information

- **The applicant (decision maker)** listed on the application must be the exact name that is registered with the Farm Service Agency (FSA.) This means if the farm is registered under “Jones Farm, LLC” you would list that name and not your personal name.
- **Assistance Requested** this box should state “RCPP planning assistance and Land Management and Rental Contract application”.

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## Application

1. Select if you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA.) If you **do not** have a customer record, please contact your [local FSA office](#) to schedule an appointment. **Please note:** you can still apply without a record in place.
2. Applicants should select the box for **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**. Landowners are encouraged to select other funding programs such as EQIP.
  - a. Please write “RCPP Project 3273” in the enrollment type box.
3. Please list the name associated with your customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA.) The tax number will be the EIN number registered to your customer record.
  - a. Please indicate whether you have appropriate documentation for legal/joint operation.
  - b. Please use the table and links below to determine if you are considered Historically Underserved (HU).

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher</a>       | The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant: with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years. A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.   |
| Beginning Farmer or Rancher                              | The term “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” means a participant who: Has not operated a farm, ranch or nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF), or who has operated a farm, ranch or NIPF for not more than 10 consecutive years.  |
| <a href="#">Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher</a> | The term “Socially Disadvantaged” means an individual or entity (The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.) who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. These groups consist of the following: American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, or Hispanics.  |
| Veteran Farmer or Rancher                                | The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period. A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. |

4.

- a. Please select the land type that matches the property you are enrolling.
- b. Please select the control of land that applies.
- c. Please indicate if the land is enrolled in other USDA programs.
- d. Please indicate the organic certification that’s applicable.
- e. Please list the crop type(s) that are applicable. Ex. corn
- f. Please list the livestock type(s) that are applicable. Ex. cattle

- **Applicant Signature:** please sign and date the application. **Please note:** spouses cannot sign on behalf of one another. Only the name associated with the customer record can sign.

- An information release form is attached to the Conservation Program Application where landowners can specify personnel to be included in their application correspondence (spouses, family members, local conservation planner / forester, etc.)

Even if you do not wish to include additional personnel **you must sign and submit this form** with your application.

## Submitting an Application:

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### How to submit

- Once you have completed your application and information release form, please review it to make sure all questions are answered correctly and that it is signed.
- Please reach out to Kait Jones, Agricultural Grant Program Coordinator at [Kaitlyn.jones@vermont.gov](mailto:Kaitlyn.jones@vermont.gov) or (802) 505-1635 for guidance on how to submit.

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### Next Steps

- Once your application has been submitted you can choose to use your own conservation planner or the RCPP program will provide technical assistance at no expense to you.