



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)



Regenerative agriculture is a conservation management approach that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities. The Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) is a farmer-first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency to its core mission, helping people help the land, by addressing whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture Conservation Plans.

NRCS website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regenerative-pilot-program>

Regenerative Pilot Program

- NRCS is targeting **\$700 million** of EQIP and CSP
- **Conservation is producer driven**
 - Goal: 1 application, 1 assessment, 1 funding decision
- States must create a category with the name "**Regenerative Pilot Program**"
 - Ensure applicable practices in the ranking pool includes all practices needed
 - There is **No Majority Eligibility Requirement** for planned practices needing to be RPP primary practices.

Regenerative Pilot Program Requirements

- Whole Farm Assessment
- Primary Practices
- Soil Health Testing
- Minimum 5-year contract



Primary RPP Practices

A minimum of one primary Regen Practice

- Existing - being implemented
- Planned – future implementation

May also include supporting as well as other practices and activities

- Supporting – needed to facilitate the primary
- Other - allows for a conservation plan to be written to meet all the client's objectives, beyond RPP

Conservation Practices

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Y	N	N	N
330	Contour Farming	Y	N	N	N
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop	Y	N	N	N
340	Cover Crop	Y	Y	Y	N
554	Drainage Water Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
511	Forage Harvest Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N	Y	Y	N
449	Irrigation Water Management	Y	Y	Y	N
484	Mulching	Y	Y	Y	Y
590	Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	N
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Y	Y	Y	Y
528	Prescribed Grazing	Y	Y	Y	Y
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Y	N	N	N
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced	Y	N	N	N
585	Stripcropping	Y	N	N	N

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
CEMA 216	Soil Health Testing	Y	Y	Y	Y
CEMA 217	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	Y

Planning CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing

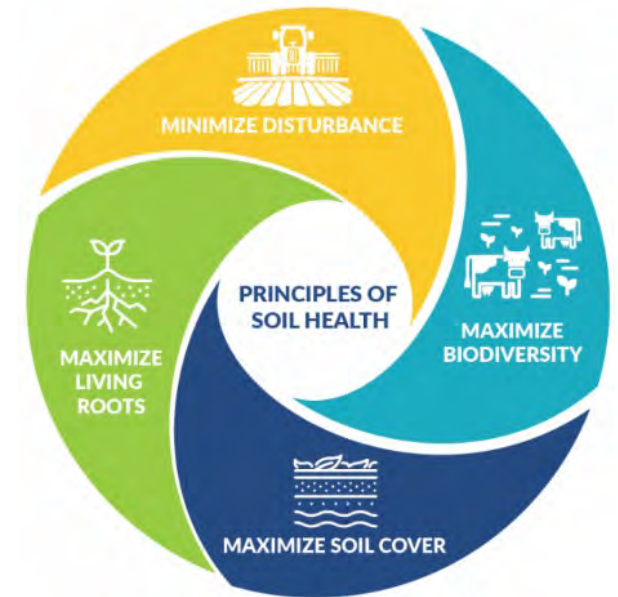
Through the planning process customers should be encouraged to plan Soil Health Testing to provide a sampling protocol that provides comprehensive results of their whole farm. At a minimum Soil Health Testing must be planned on one planning land unit.

Extent will depend on the client's operation in combination with the client's objective.

- Crop Rotation
- Soil variability
- Livestock vs no livestock
- Nutrient sources
- Client's desired extent of testing
- Etc....

When does Soil Health Testing need to be planned?

- Minimally at beginning and end of the conservation plan / contract



Soil Health Testing CEMA 216

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs)

CEMA are provided by Qualified Individuals (QIs). QIs self-certify they meet qualification criteria stated in a CEMA document. Professional licenses, accreditations, certifications, and experience typify qualification criteria for CEMA QIs. A QI may, or may not also hold TSP certification.

A QI for Soil Health Testing CEMA 216 meets one of the following:

- 1) Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) through the American Society of Agronomy or a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) or Associate Professional Soil Scientist (APSS) through the Soil Science Society of America.
- 2) Technical Service Providers (TSP) certified for Soil Health Management Plan Conservation Practice Activity (116) or Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity (162).
- 3) An associate degree or higher in an agricultural or soil science field with at least 2 years of experience collecting soil for laboratory analysis.
- 4) Individuals working under the guidance or management of a QI are allowed to collect soil samples for this CEMA.

Excerpt from CEMA 216 Soil Health Testing document

Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)

- Unique approach
- Prioritizing Soil Health and Water Management
- National priority
- Competitive applications



Contact Us

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www.nrcs.usda.gov/ak



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