

Attachment B – RCPP Rental Activity Guidance

Purpose: Provide guidance for RCPP rental activities and use of attachments C, “RCPP Rental Activity Worksheet,” and D, “RFRP Payment Scenario Justification Worksheet,” of this national bulletin.

- Rental Activity Payments
 - RCPP projects may include rental activity payments only if they are included in the approved programmatic partnership agreement (PPA).
 - Rental activity may be included in a producer contract only when NRCS determines that such activities would address project resource concerns. In addition, the participant shall agree to implement project-specific rental activity requirements as outlined in attachment C.
 - Participants will earn rental payments for completion of RFRN (FA Rental Payment based on NRCS Defined Model) or RFRP (FA Rental Payment based on Negotiated Project-Specific Model) practice(s) per contract terms, included in the schedule of operations and associated implementation requirements. States will use RCPP rental activity codes (available in the Conservation Practice Data Entry System (CPDES) and further described in attachment C) to develop the schedule of operations in Conservation Desktop (CD).

Example: Where a PPA establishes rental activity budget for a project, and attachment C documents project specific requirements, NRCS will include rental activities in project ranking tools, and producer participants can potentially earn project-specific rental payments for adopted RFRN or RFRP practices.

Note: If RFRN and RFRP activity codes do not appear in your State’s practice list, please verify that they have been turned “on” in CD user preferences.

- States are required to use attachments C and D.
 - Attachment C.—Documents both project and participant-level implementation requirements, as well as certification that the requirements are met prior to approving payment. State conservationists are responsible for ensuring that when rental activities are part of an RCPP project, attachment C is developed to provide clear and consistent guidance for use of RFRN and/or RFRP activities in producer contracts. States must also ensure that field staff managing applications and contracts involving rental activities are aware of project-level rental activity requirements for each project where they will be offered and provide the requirements to applicants.
 - Attachment D.—A worksheet to document justification for RFRP payment scenarios. The lead State conservationist is responsible for ensuring attachment D is developed when RFRP rates are used to support rental activities. It must defensibly document RFRP scenario costs, payment percentage, and per-unit payment amounts.

- Required approvals:

- ✓ State Conservationists must approve attachment C in all cases.
- ✓ States must also prepare attachment D for all RFRP rental payments. To facilitate RFRP rate processing, States must ensure that if RFRP rates do not use acres as the contracting unit, attachment D includes defensible estimates of RFRP payments on a per acre basis.

Where all RFRP rates are less than or equal to the lowest RFRN irrigated cropland scenario payment rate, State conservationists may also approve attachment D upon completion of State analysis.

- ✓ National Headquarters (NHQ) approval is required when any RFRP payment rate will exceed the lowest RFRN irrigated cropland rate. States must submit their request (attachment D, and all supporting documentation) to the FAPD SharePoint site - Program Questions, and identify the program as RCPP.

Note: State must not use these RFRP payment rates unless approved by NHQ.

Note: States must ensure that they do not provide a rental payment to a participant after easement closing, for land receiving a Conservation Reserve Program rental payment, or for land earning a Conservation Stewardship Program existing activity payment.