

National Bulletin: 450-24-01

Date: 11/07/2023

Subject: TCH-Designation of a Conservation Evaluation
and Monitoring Activity 221 Point of Contact

Action Required By: December 7, 2023

Purpose: This national bulletin requests state conservationists and directors of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean areas to designate state points of contact for the Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA) 221 Soil Organic Carbon Stock Monitoring.

Expiration Date: June 1, 2024.

Background: NRCS awarded four regional funding agreements to provide training and outreach for assessing and monitoring the effects of climate-smart practices on soil carbon sequestration and the use of CEMA 221 Soil Carbon Stock Monitoring. The awards are as follows:

- Central Region – Iowa State University
- Northeast Region – Michigan State University
- Southeast Region – American Climate Partners
- West Region – University of Texas-El Paso

These partners will help in recruiting and training qualified individuals to provide CEMA 221 services and providing outreach to producers about assistance on getting carbon stock data as part of a practice or activity.

Explanation: The partners will coordinate across NRCS national headquarters and state offices to develop and implement a strategy that will support NRCS in providing CEMA 221 services. Therefore, each state conservationist and the directors of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean areas must designate a CEMA 221 point of contact.

The primary responsibilities of the CEMA 221 point of contact are to:

- Serve as point of contact for agency efforts and partner activities related to CEMA 221
- Maintain a working knowledge of CEMA 221 policies and procedures
- Identify CEMA 221 training needs
- Participate in CEMA 221 meetings and training events
- Engage with local, regional, and national contacts

Email the name and contact information of the designated CEMA 221 point of contact to Carl Koch at carl.koch@usda.gov by December 7, 2023. The email should have the subject line, “Designated CEMA 221 Point of Contact.”

Contact: Direct questions related to this request to Candiss Williams, national soil health specialist, at candiss.williams@usda.gov or 301-752-0802.