

Funding for Innovative Approaches to Improving Water Quality Through Agricultural Nutrient Management: Deadline Friday October 13, 2006

The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to announce a Program Opportunity Notice for implementing projects that will improve water quality by minimizing agricultural nutrient runoff into surface water. Area of primary concern is the Lake Champlain Basin, however proposals in other watersheds that provide potential transferable ideas leading to success in the Lake Champlain Basin will also be considered.

Successful projects will speed up the implementation of traditional conservation practices and/or introduce more effective short and long-term methods for controlling agricultural nutrient movement into Vermont's surface waters draining the Lake Champlain Basin.

The PMNRCD is seeking proposals for projects that will utilize systems, models or technology that will lead to phosphorus reduction as well as reduction of other nutrients and pathogens entering surface water by implementing on-farm conservation practices. The successful proposal will:

- Have a high probability of decreasing agricultural pollution to surface waters through implementation of practices: e.g. new and innovative approaches to nutrient management, and/or methods or models that provide efficiencies in implementation of farmers' conservation plans.
- Produce outcomes that are economically and environmentally sustainable, and are easily incorporated into farm management planning. Proposals that incorporate farm economics and business management concepts as appropriate are encouraged.
- Recognize the variations in farm management practices and issues prevalent in Vermont and provide a site/region specific solution. Projects that are broader in geographic area of demonstration or that can be replicated will be favored.
- Address other (than phosphorus) nutrient or pathogen related concerns where considered pertinent to the region.
- Involve farmer input, either individually or in concerted effort.
- Be implemented in Vermont.

A total of between \$100,000 - \$200,000 is available for projects funded under this RFP. A 25% match of the total project cost is required, either as funds or in-kind services. Budget proposals should clearly document the intended use(s) and source(s) of matching contributions. Federal funds may not be used as a source of matching funds.

Eligible applicants include individuals, colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies and government agencies. To facilitate the review process, applicants must submit proposals with detailed budgets following the format outlined in the Technical Proposal Format Requirements by end of business day, Friday October 13, 2006.

To receive the Request For Proposal and the proposal format guidelines giving complete details, contact: Marli Rupe, PMNRCD, 802-287-8339 or pmnrcd@sover.net.