

**1. Can I apply for multiple tracks on behalf of the same farm?**

Yes, but you must submit separate applications for each track and the systems must each stand alone and not be dependent on the other.

**2. How long will the contract be?**

The contract term will start as 3 construction seasons plus three months for administration to close out the project, with an additional 24 months possible through no cost time extensions (with consent of all parties), consistent with the Agricultural NonPoint Source program.

**3. Is an educational, publicly owned farm eligible?**

The definition of a farm in the Agriculture and Markets Law (which is the definition that will be used for the Climate Resilient Farming program) is:

"Farm operation" means the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise (AGM Article 25-AA §301)

The farm in question here is an educational rather than commercial enterprise, and is therefore ineligible as a farm.

**4. Is a farm that has an easement on it eligible?**

Yes, as long as the easement does not preclude any of the proposed practices.

**5. On the rating sheets under mitigation, the last bullet asks about the commitment by the producer and District to engage in regular testing and/or recording to be able to demonstrate greenhouse gas (GHG) emission savings as a result of practice systems implemented. Could this be clarified as to the type of testing and/or recording expected?**

There are no specific requirements for how to engage in testing and/or recording of GHG emission savings. It is up to the District and the farmer to determine what is the most appropriate plan.

For Track 1, Agricultural Waste Storage Cover and Flare systems, a more basic form of testing/recording could include installing a gas flow gauge on the flare component of the system to determine how much gas is being combusted. A more advanced system might also include regular testing of the gas to determine its composition and/or a gauge on gas overflow valves to determine how much (if any) gas is escaping through overflow.

For Track 2, On-farm Riparian, Floodplain, and Upland Water Management, and Track 3, Soil Health, basic monitoring for GHG emission savings might involve determining how well riparian forest buffers are growing and/or ongoing tracking of fuel savings through reduced tillage systems. A more extensive approach could involve forming partnerships with local universities, extension agents, or others to calculate soil carbon gains or improvements in nitrogen management. While RUSLE2 estimates form a

good basis for modeling soil carbon and other changes, regular soil health testing would add another level of verification and management.

In terms of adaptation/resiliency, testing and recording could involve going out during or immediately following adverse weather conditions (when safe to do so) to determine the performance of specific practice systems.

It is up to the District and the farm to determine what makes the most sense for each project. While the “testing and/or recording” element is only a portion of how projects will be scored, it does give an opportunity to elevate a project. Partnerships with local universities, extension agents, not for profits, or others are encouraged to test and record the impacts of Climate Resilient Farming projects.

**6. With regard to Track 1, Agricultural Waste Storage and Flare, would a solids separator unit to help reduce carbon matter and gas development be an eligible component?**

The solids separation is considered a critical component of the system to reduce solids accumulation in the storage. It is eligible for in-kind match (refer to RFP Appendix A—Guidance Document Track 1).

**7. Does the program have a preference on whether equipment is brand new or refurbished?**

Any District with specific questions about particular equipment etc. is welcome to ask specific questions regarding their situation.

However, a general rule of thumb consistent with the Agricultural Non-Point Source Program, is that equipment that has been professionally refurbished and/or carries a new warranty is likely to satisfy program requirements, and equipment that is being simply reused may not meet requirements.

**8. Is the flare a required component of Track 1, Agricultural Waste Storage Cover and Flare?**

Yes—the methane must be burned and converted to carbon dioxide.

**9. Is there a minimum landowner/operator contribution requirement? Can the sponsor or County provide the whole 25% local match?**

There is no landowner/operator contribution requirement.

The maximum state cost share rate is 75% with a 25% local match, which can be provided through District, federal, or landowner funds (or any combination thereof). State funding cannot match other state funds.

However, one of the metrics for scoring under “Cost Effectiveness” (worth 20% of the overall score) is “Landowner support is documented.” If the landowner is not providing funding for the project, it may be advisable to add some other documentation of landowner commitment to completing the project and eventual upkeep, operations, and maintenance.

**10. Is a CNMP required for Track 1? Are CNMP updates eligible for funding?**

Any farm receiving funding for a manure storage cover and flare system must have a CNMP. Updates to the CNMP are eligible for in-kind match (refer to RFP Appendix A—Guidance Document Track 1).

**11. Is a not for profit farm eligible?**

See question 3 above for the definition of “farm operation.” A farm is eligible as long as it meets the criteria of being a commercial farm, regardless of its 501(c)3 status.

**12. Is a farm that has received previous funding from an AgNPS grant eligible for funding a similar or related practice through CRF? For example, is a farm that is currently in the middle of an AgNPS Soil Health grant eligible for a CRF grant for additional cover crop plantings, to take the cover crop program to the next level by planting mixes of cover crop species? What about a farm that wants to apply for funding to add a cover and flare system to a manure storage that was partially funded by AgNPS?**

There are no restrictions in the Climate Resilient Farming program on farms that have received state, federal, or local grants; current or in the past.

Previous conservation projects can be used to demonstrate landowner commitment to this project (a factor in the “cost effectiveness” portion of the rating).

The Track 1 Cover and Flare retrofit is eligible, regardless of how the initial manure storage was funded. The Track 3 Soil Health cover crop system is eligible, as long as it is on *additional acreage* from the first grant. Climate Resilient Farming funds cannot be used to “extend” an AgNPS cover crop grant on the exact same fields as received the previous grant. It is also advisable for the application to highlight the ways in which this proposal would take the farm’s cover crop program to the next level.

**13. If a farmer is going to do cover cropping or buffers in order to try and get mitigation points in conjunction with a project in track 2, should the cover crop or buffers be close by the main project?**

There is no requirement that the cover crop/buffers be proximal to the main project.

However, a project with systems that are designed to function together in event of extreme weather are more likely to score better than a similar project with discrete systems that function on their own but do not build on each other.

**14. Can fields converted to riparian buffer and thus taken out of production would qualify for the 25% match?**

The fields taken out of production cannot be considered as in kind or cost share match in this round.

We are, however, considering adding some form of conservation easement to eligible practices for future rounds, and any Districts with insights into how to make that work well are welcome to contact Gabriella Spitzer with feedback.

**15. What level of AEM Tier 3 planning must a farm have achieved to be eligible for each track?**

*Minimum* Level of AEM Planning Required for CRF Eligibility:

Track 1: CNMP (see question 10)

Track 2: Tier 3A

Track 3: Tier 3A

**CLARIFICATION OF RFP (12/2/15)—regarding whether animal units are required on farms seeking assistance with animal based systems**

It is not required for a farm to own animals *in the application phase*. Farms seeking assistance for animal-based systems must have animals before the contract is executed. Delays in acquiring the appropriate animal units may result in delays in issuing the contract.

Applications should clearly reflect the anticipated animal units, and that they are anticipated and not yet on the farm.