

## 307.14 Regenerative Agriculture Initiative

**Name and Acronym:** Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (RAI)

### Initiative Description

Regenerative Agriculture is a conservation management approach that addresses natural resource concerns through soil health, water management, and biodiversity to improve the productivity and prosperity of agriculture, communities, and ecosystems. Focusing on regenerative agriculture builds upon the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) existing conservation work by helping producers restore land health, improve long-term productivity, and build resilient, future-ready operations.

RAI will offer financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to promote whole-farm planning and the voluntary development of regenerative agriculture conservation plans that are designed to address natural resource concerns.

### Requirements for RAI

- **Whole Farm Assessment:** A complete assessment of all resource concerns is required, with the goal of establishing a whole farm plan before the end of the contract period. At a minimum, whole farm plans must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories. These plans may be developed by NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers.
- **Primary Practices:** At least one primary regenerative management practice must be included in the contract. All practices identified in the conservation plan will be eligible for financial assistance; however, producers may select which practices they want to include in the financial assistance application based on their goals and objectives.
- **Soil Testing:** Participants must agree to perform soil testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes. Financial assistance for soil testing will be available to both producers who have not previously completed soil testing and producers who are already testing their soil.

### Initiative Contact and Questions

Please use the [Financial Assistance Programs Division SharePoint](#) to identify the current initiative point of contact and submit questions through the Program Questions tool.

### Availability of the Regenerative Agriculture Initiative

All 50 states and territories will offer the RAI through both EQIP and CSP.

## Business Tool Requirements

Follow the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool guidance in 440 NI 310 on the EQIP and CSP requirements for managing funds and tracking accomplishments in a consistent and accountable manner.

## Funding and Allocation Guidance

States will receive notice of RAI allocations for program funds through annual allocation letters. States should refer to the annual allocation letter when allocating funds to the respective Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool ranking pool categories in the Select Application Tool.

## Eligible Practices and Activities

The following table identifies primary regenerative management practices by land use. Conservation plans and contracts developed under RAI must include at least one primary practice from the table and meet the general and additional criteria of the conservation practice standard for the targeted resource concerns within the initiative. Conservation plans and contracts developed under RAI may also include supporting practices as well as other practices and activities.

### 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

### Conservation Planning Activity

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
CPA 199	Conservation Plan	Y	Y	Y	Y