

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Productive Conservation on Working Land

Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), is looking for farmers within the state of Minnesota who are interested in Productive Conservation on Working Lands (PCWL). PCWL is a perennial crop establishment incentive, not an easement program. PCWL is intended to reduce the economic, environmental, and social risks to the farmers growing new conservation crops for energy and emerging industry. PCWL has been designed to offer environmental benefits in Minnesota without the idling of lands. This project is in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and funded through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG).

Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council are offering an alternative agricultural program to Minnesota landowners and/or farmers who would like to be involved in an innovative conservation program that provides sustainable economic opportunities and farm diversity.

Productive Conservation on Working Lands will provide incentive payments for establishment of conservation crops to EQIP eligible producers in Minnesota. The selection of crops will be chosen by the farmer, and approved by the PCWL Technical Committee. Some examples of crops already enrolled include - hybrid poplar, native grasses and forbs, willows, hazelnuts, and other alternative energy or non-conventional crops.

The PCWL grant will provide 150\$ per acre or up to 50% of eligible costs to establish a productive conservation crop. There is a limit of 150 acres per project. Funding for this project requires matching non-federal cash and in-kind contributions. A producer should complete a "PCWL Producer Request for Services Application" and submit it to Three Rivers RC&D. A state wide technical committee will review and rank proposals shortly after the deadline. Any applications received after the deadline will be considered at the next meeting. Your local RC&D Council may develop the proposal, or the individual may complete this proposal, and submit it to Three Rivers RC&D. Three Rivers RC&D will work with the MN Association of RC&Ds (MARC&D) and the PCWL Technical Advisory Panel to determine project feasibility and make recommendations for a final funding decision. We will continue to accept applications as funding and grant conditions allow.

For more information and to submit applications, please contact:

Three Rivers RC&D
Attn: Joe Domeier
1160 Victory Drive Ste. 4
Mankato, MN 56001
jadomeier@threeriversrcd.org
Phone: 507-345-7418 ext.127
Fax: 507-345-4818

The USDA, RC&D, and partners prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA and partners are equal opportunity providers and employers.

PCWL Producer Crop Establishment Program Application

Instructions: Please provide information for project proposal. If more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

1. Name of applicant (landowner): _____

Contact person (if different from applicant): _____

Address of applicant: _____

County: _____ Township: _____ Section _____

Phone #: _____ email address: _____

Legal description: _____

Please attach aerial photo of project area. Your local FSA or NRCS can provide you with an aerial photo.

2. If you are not eligible for EQIP you will not be eligible for PCWL, are you EQIP eligible?

Yes__ No__

Optional: Are you considered a Limited Resource or Minority Farmer according to NRCS standards?

Yes ____ No ____ If you are unsure, go to: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp> and complete the online self evaluation

3. What type of crop do you plan on planting? _____

4. How many acres of land do you plan to plant to this new crop? _____

Estimated planting date: ____/____/____ Estimated harvest date: ____/____/____

Is the soil suitable for your intended crop? Yes ____ No ____ Don't Know ____

(Attach a soils map from the county NRCS/SWCD office.)

What is the crop history of the proposed project area? _____

What is the current land cover? _____

5. What are your plans or ideas on how the conservation crop will be marketed?

How easily can this new crop technology be transferred to other landowners in your area?

What type of marketing assistance, if any, would you need from PCWL?

What businesses or industry is interested in this new crop and what is their level of commitment? _____

Budget explanation:

When filling out the budget below, first fill in the cost per acre column. Then fill in the # of acres box. When deciding what areas to request funds from PCWL from, please note that we can only pay for practices when they are complete. As a result, it is best to ask for assistance for the first activities that will be conducted for the crop establishment. Generally most applicants have requested assistance in the land preparation, seeds/plant material and planting categories. Keep in mind that the total

Please show how you will provide 50% In-Kind or a non-federal cash match. If partners or other agencies are involved, please state their role and their proposed In-Kind or cash match. The (A landowner may receive 50% cost share for crop establishment, please justify your total costs, cash crop establishment payment you are requesting, and remaining costs that you will provide)

Show any cash you contribute to the project and its source. **Federal funds are not eligible for the match.**

Item	Total cost per acre	Grant funds*	Matching funds**	Source of match (applicant, state, other)	Project Total
Land preparation					
Seeds/plant material					
Planting					
Weed Control					
Land Cost (rent)					
Maintenance					
Harvesting					
Processing					
Marketing					
Other					
Total					
Total acres for this application		* Total requested from PCWL cannot exceed \$150/ acre ** Total must be equal to or greater than total for grant funds			
Total available from PCWL*					

Applicant Signatures

Pending approval of applicant's signature indicates their agreement to:

1. Grant Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development or their representative access to the parcel where the PCWL planting will be located in order to inspect and verify the completion of terms of this contract.
2. Be responsible for maintenance and care of PCWL planting described in application through November 2010

Applicant Signature:	Date:
Authorized Three Rivers RC&D Representative:	Date: