

Deadline approaching for Louisiana and Texas producers to apply for RCPP funds.

Rice producers in Texas have until March 15th to apply for a special RCPP EQIP program, while rice producers in Louisiana have until April 19th to apply for two RCPP EQIP programs.

The **Texas Gulf Coast Water and Wildlife Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) EQIP sign-up** is available to producers in 12 counties until **March 15th, 2019**. Eligible counties include: Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Jackson, Jefferson, Lavaca, Liberty, Matagorda, Waller and Wharton. A priority emphasis is placed on Colorado, Wharton, and Matagorda counties where surface water conservation is critical. In addition to the special funding opportunity through RCPP, supplementary EQIP funding is also available in all of these counties. Practices such as irrigation land levelling and water-control structures are the highest priority practices for rice farms using surface water. Elevated conservation planning efforts will be delivered by project partners. For more information on the Texas sign-up, contact Texas Rice Stewardship staff Kirby Brown at (210) 213-2805 or kbrown2@ducks.org, and Dennis Neuman at (512) 373-5736 or dneuman@ducks.org.

The **Louisiana Gulf Coast Water and Wildlife Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) EQIP sign-up** is available to producers in 11 parishes until **April 19th, 2019**. Eligible counties include Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion. Surface water irrigation to replace groundwater use is the targeted result to be supported by this special sign-up. For example, a re-lift pump along a bayou with plentiful flow and annual water availability could be used to irrigate rice and crawfish operations. Surface water irrigation practices commonly used include CP 533 pumping plant, CP 430 irrigation pipeline, CP 587 structures for irrigation water control, and supporting practices, all to increase surface water irrigation to reduce groundwater use. Elevated conservation planning efforts will be delivered by project partners. For more information, contact Louisiana Rice Stewardship staff Kyle Soileau at (337) 443-4309 or ksoileau@ducks.org.

The **Northeast Louisiana's Cultivating Water Conservation (aka Cypress Brake Project) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is available to producers in 10 parishes until **April 19th, 2019**. Eligible parishes include Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Richland, Tensas, and West Carroll. This northeast Louisiana project desires to pilot cypress brakes or old river oxbow lakes as surface water irrigation source, and opportunity to improve the natural waterbody as well. For example, a re-lift pump beside a cypress brake or oxbow lake with annual water availability could be used to irrigate rice, corn, and/or other crops. Approximately \$400,000 in financial assistance to producers is anticipated for this specific RCPP sign-up. For more information, contact Louisiana Rice Stewardship staff Biff Handy at (318) 582-3620 or bhandy@ducks.org.

Additional information on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>.