

# New York State RFB Workplan/Taskforce Report Update

## 1) Leadership, Coordination and Administration of Programs

- Strong commitment/leadership from Federal, State and local leadership
- Additional interagency staff training ☒
- Contribution agreement with SWCDs ☒
- Coordinate with NGOs and other partners
- Develop flexible buffer program/match funding programs
- Increase opportunity for placing riparian buffers under permanent easements

## 2) Policy/Guidance Adjustments

- CREP Amendment ☒
- Simultaneous EQIP/CREP enrollment
- NYSDEC, USDA, US Army Corps joint permitting process
- Coordinate CREP/AgNPS funding (modeled after Delaware County)

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- CREP Amendment
  - Update marginal pastureland eligibility ☒
  - Flexibility to raise cost share caps/3-tiered cost share waiver process (modeled after NYC CREP)/Set cost caps for systems rather than individual components
  - Flexibility to provide PIPs as costs are incurred
  - Update soil rental rates ☒
  - Increase maintenance payments
  - Expand RFB establishment period from 2 to 3-4 years
  - Provide additional cost share for herbicide spraying
  - Increase incentives on cropland ☒

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## 3) Landowner Outreach and Customer Service Strategy

- Staff field training at Stroud ☒
- Focus outreach campaign on new CREP policy changes
- New media/outreach materials ☒
- Increase use of GIS tools for targeting outreach efforts ☒
- Outreach to participants with expiring contracts ☒
- Work with volunteers to replant streambanks ☒

## 4) Establishment, Maintenance, Compliance, Re-enrollment

- Establish network of local contractors to perform planting/increase opportunities for third party maintenance/establish
- Outreach to inform CREP participants with expiring contracts of options to protect RFBs under permanent easements
- NRCS annual status reviews/FSA spot check policy/TA to resolve non-compliance issues
- Increased maintenance payments/increase establishment period
- Increased cost share for invasive species control/herbicide spraying
- Evaluation of tree planting success/mortality for 3 years after initial planting
- Cost share for upgrades/refurbishment of component practices beyond practice lifespan

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## 5) Technical Service Delivery

- Additional FSA/USC staff capacity
- Engage DEC Foresters in CREP through MOU
- Cooperative agreement between NRCS/USC ☒

## 6) Additional Financial Incentives

- Increase rental rates ☒
- Double annual maintenance payment
- Increase bonus on cropland from 145% to 200%
- New FSA/State funded incentive payments ☒
- Increase cost share for component practices (esp. stream crossing)