

SUBCHAPTER A—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PART 700—EXPERIMENTAL RURAL CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 96-108, 93 Stat. 821, 835.

SOURCE: 45 FR 14009, Mar. 4, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 700.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) The purpose of this part is for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), with certain concurrences by

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to set forth regulations to carry out an experimental Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP) as authorized by the Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, fiscal year 1980, Pub. L. 96-108 (hereinafter referred to as the "1980 Appropriations Act") and subsequent appropriations.

(b) The RCWP will provide financial and technical assistance to private land owners and operators (participants) having control of agricultural land. The assistance is provided through long-term contracts of 3 to 10 years to install best management practices (BMPs) in approved project areas which have critical water quality problems resulting from agricultural activities. The project area must reflect the water quality priority concerns developed through the established water quality management program process. Participation RCWP is voluntary.

(c) This is a new USDA program using the experiences under various ongoing USDA programs and the established water quality management program of EPA.

[45 FR 14009, Mar. 4, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 29454, June 2, 1981]

§ 700.2 Objective.

The objectives of the RCWP are to:

(a) Improve impaired water use and quality in the approved project area in the most cost-effective manner possible in keeping with the provision of adequate supplies of food, fiber, and a quality environment.

(b) Assist agricultural land owners and operators to reduce agricultural nonpoint source water pollutants and to improve water quality in rural areas to meet water quality standards or water quality goals.

(c) Develop and test programs, policies and procedures for the control of agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

[45 FR 14009, Mar. 4, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 29454, June 2, 1981]