

Climate Resilient Farming
Round 3 Questions and Answers—First Posting (January 22, 2018)

- 1. We have a farm that is interested in applying for funds for a cover and flare. The storage they would like to incorporate this with will be built in 2018. Does the storage need to be already existing in order for the farm to apply for funding?**

No, the storage does not need to already exist to be eligible to apply for funding. However, the RFP and Rating Sheet requires specific information about the proposed amount of methane reduced, clean water exclusion, etc. from the storage. A design for the pending storage system should be in place in order to answer the required questions pursuant to the Round 3 CRF RFP.

- 2. The Wallkill Valley Drainage Improvement Association represents the landowners and land users within the Wallkill Valley Drainage District. The District and the Association are enabled and described by section 15, title 19 of Environmental Conservation Law. The Association has officers, owns property and is set up to receive and disperse funds. The District will be the applicant and contribute the required match, but can the Association act on behalf of the landowners for a CRF grant proposal?**

Current CRF Program Policy does not allow for a drainage improvement association to act on behalf of landowners for a Round 3 CRF grant proposal. The project must be completed on lands or in streams under control of a landowner/operator of a farm operation as defined by AGM Article 25-AA §301*. However, the project proposal should specify all the farms that will benefit from the project.

*“Farm Operation” means the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation, and marketing of crops, livestock, and livestock products as a commercial enterprise (AGM Article 25-AA §301).

- 3. The District received a grant through Round 1 of the CRF Program. The project design demonstrates a much higher cost than what was originally budgeted. Can the District apply in Round 3 for additional funds to cover the budget shortfall?**

No, the District cannot apply in Round 3 for additional funds to cover the budget shortfall for the Round 1 project. The District and farmer could decide to re-apply under Round 3 for funds with a design in hand and more accurate budget for the project and cancel the Round 1 project.

4. **We have a farm in the county that is in the process of establishing a small farm on about 25 acres. The farm plans to graze animals and plant about 10 acres of apple and nut trees. As far as the Climate Resilient Farming grant is concerned, they are most interested in Track 3, and specifically the Prescribed Rotational Grazing System. Regarding eligibility, they are in the process of purchasing the property and establishing the farm, with an anticipated property transfer closing date at before the RFP deadline. Does the CRF Program require a certain level of experience or 'establishment' for a farming operation to apply?**

The CRF Program does not require a certain level of experience or establishment for a farming operation to apply. However, landownership and/or control must be established before the closing of the RFP and the District must conduct the required Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) assessment and planning before the proposal details can be developed. In addition, the goal of the CRF Program is to reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change and to increase the adaptability and resiliency of New York State farms in the face of a changing climate. Any applications made on behalf of the farm(s) must meet these goals.