

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <i>EQIP 2008, Fiscal Year 2012</i>	
Ranking Tool: <i>NE/NY Forestry Initiative</i>	

*National Priorities Addressed*

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5 Point(s)
<b>Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas ( <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html">http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html</a> )?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
<b>Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
<b>Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15 Point(s)
<b>High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5 Point(s)
<b>Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:</b>	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Assist in producing energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, biofuel, etc)?	10 Point(s)

Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10 Point(s)
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>

***State Issues Addressed***

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. NEW ENGLAND PRIORITY FOREST AREAS - The proposed project is located within one of the following (pick only one if the areas overlap):	
a) Connecticut River Watershed (NH, VT, CT, MA)	50 Point(s)
b) Quabbin to Cardigan Region (NH/MA)	50 Point(s)
c) Last Green Valley focus area (MA/CT)	50 Point(s)
2. INTERIOR FOREST SPECIES PERSISTENCE - Is the proposed project located within:	
BioMap 2 Forest Core AND the proposed practice(s) will restore, maintain or enhance late successional forest characteristics?	50 Point(s)
3. STATE PRIORITY HABITAT - The greatest economic portion of the proposed project entails:	
a) Pitch pine-scrub oak restoration or management; Shrubland-young forest restoration or management, or wildlife enhancement in the forest?	50 Point(s)
b) Invasive species control, oak regeneration practices; and or other forestry production practices?	30 Point(s)
4. HABITAT IMPROVEMENT - The MA Habitat Assessment score for the existing and planned condition increased by:	
a) More than 0.5 points?	50 Point(s)
b) Between 0.3 and 0.5 points?	35 Point(s)
c) Less than 0.3 points?	5 Point(s)
5. SPECIES SPECIFIC HABITAT - Is the proposed project located within:	
a) NHESP Priority Habitat AND the proposed practice(s) will benefit the listed species?	50 Point(s)
b) BioMap2 Landscape block AND the practice(s) will restore, maintain or enhance functional corridors to conserve large-area dependent species?	50 Point(s)
6. LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS - For proposed wildlife projects, the plan:	
Has substantial limitations that will likely impact success?	-150 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>395</i>

*Local Issues Addressed*

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the proposed project located within 1/2 mile to a state wildlife management area, local, private, or non-governmental protected open space that provides quality habitat?	35 Point(s)
2. Is the proposed project an appropriate scale for the targeted species (e.g., 5 acres for shrubland, young forest species, etc.)?	50 Point(s)
3. Will the proposed project further the participant's implementation of their forest management plan?	25 Point(s)
4. Are 2 or more resource concerns being addressed by the proposed project?	25 Point(s)
5. SPECIES BENEFITED: The proposed project will:	
a) Benefit >5 species in greatest need of conservation or WHIP listed species? (Document in conservation plan)	65 Point(s)
b) Benefit 1 to 5 species in greatest need of conservation or WHIP listed species? (Document in conservation plan)	35 Point(s)
6. HABITAT PERSISTENCE: The project location is designated as:	
a) Open Space in perpetuity?	65 Point(s)
b) Open Space for a limited time?	45 Point(s)
7. Other Considerations – Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
a) The applicant has never before been selected for funding through EQIP.	25 Point(s)
b) The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-20 Point(s)
c) The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50 Point(s)
d) NRCS has TERMINATED a conservation program contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-100 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>290</i>