Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Pasture and Perennial Cropland

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Pasture and Perennial Cropland		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes O or No O
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes O or No O
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	Yes O or No O
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
2. Will this EQIP application correct deficiencies in agricultural waste or water quality oriented land management practice associated with one or more land units located in a watershed containing an agriculturally stressed segment of water identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters, surface water source protection areas, or in a public wellhead protection area?	Yes O or No O
3. Will this treatment address a critical water quality resource concern on a farm located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog watershed?	Yes O or No O
4. Has an approved Grazing Plan (meeting NRCS standards) been developed/updated, but not fully implemented, and will be addressed with this application?	Yes O or No O
5. Will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent vegetation?	Yes O or No O
6. Are there not enough grazing acres to meet the grazing requirements of the existing livestock at the time of application based on a completed grazing plan?	Yes O or No O
7. Will all pastures where livestock have access to perennial or intermittent streams be treated (livestock will be excluded from surface waters or access will be managed)?	Yes O or No O
8. Does the application contain a practice for improving grassland bird habitat through Delayed mowing, or Delayed grazing?	Yes O or No O
9. Is the planning area within the High Priority Champlain Valley Grassland Bird Area?	Yes O or No O
10. Is there a significant change in the current management (e.g. frequent disturbance from 3-4 cuts a year to 2-3 cuts under this new management)?	Yes O or No O
11. Are adjacent lands predominantly in pasture/hayland/other grassland? Using a 160 acre block centered around the field(s) in question, does grassland comprise 65% or greater area of the block?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant	

ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Bennington Local Working Group	
2. Does this application include practices to control livestock access to streams?	Yes O or No O
3. Does this application include practices which will have the effect of creating a buffer between the pasture and the stream in order to improve water quality?	Yes O or No O
4. Does this application address erosion or other water quality issues occurring within 100 feet of a blue line stream, or on a gully emptying into a blue line stream?	Yes O or No O
5. Will there be a change in land management as a result of this application (e.g. reduction of disturbance from 3-4 cuts per year to 2-3 cuts per year?) in order to improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. Does this application include prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes O or No O
Franklin and Grand Isle Local Working Group	
7. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water courses?	Yes O or No O
8. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes O or No O
9. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes O or No O
10. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation?	Yes O or No O
11. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes O or No O
Poultney Mettawee Local Working Group	
12. Will this application address water quality concerns within 100’ of an impaired waterbody or waters indicating high nutrient counts according to PMNRCD water quality monitoring?	Yes O or No O
13. Will this application address Soil Erosion occurring within 100’ of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion impacting a critical resource area?	Yes O or No O
14. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
15. Will this application include prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes O or No O
16. Will there be a change in land management as a result of this application (e.g. reduction of disturbance from 3-4 cuts per year to 2-3 cuts per year?) in order to improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O
Rutland Local Working Group	
17. Will this application fence livestock from a stream which would have the effect of creating a buffer between the pasture operation and stream?	Yes O or No O
18. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 100’ of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes O or No O
19. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
20. Will this application include prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes O or No O
21. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O
Ottauquechee Local Working Group	
22. To help address resource concerns resulting from a livestock confinement operation, will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent hayland or pasture?	Yes O or No O
23. Does this application address grassland bird habitat within the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes O or No O
24. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes O or No O
25. Does this application address resource concerns that are a result of uncontrolled livestock access to	Yes O or No O

streams?	
26. Does this application include watering facilities for livestock in order to improve grazing management?	Yes O or No O
Windham Local Working Group	
27. Will this application include practices to support conversion towards a forage or grass based operation?	Yes O or No O
28. Will this application include practices to control livestock access to streamsor will it improve aquatic organism passage?	Yes O or No O
29. Will this application include implementation of prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes O or No O
30. Will this application include control of invasive species?	Yes O or No O
31. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes O or No O
Caledonia Local Working Group	
32. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes O or No O
33. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture land?	Yes O or No O
34. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes O or No O
35. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes O or No O
36. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O
Lamoille Local Working Group	
37. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water?	Yes O or No O
38. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes O or No O
39. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes O or No O
40. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation with a 35 foot buffer zone?	Yes O or No O
41. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes O or No O
Orleans Local Working Group	
42. Does this application include practices that will address soil compaction?	Yes O or No O
43. . Is this application within the Mud Creek, Sterns Brook, Black River, or John's River watersheds?	Yes O or No O
44. Does this application incorporate nutrient management planning and soil fertility practices?	Yes O or No O
45. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O
46. Does this application include practices that exclude livestock from waterways?	Yes O or No O
White River Local Working Group	
47. Will this application exclude livestock from streams and wet areas and/or provide alternative water sources?	Yes O or No O
48. Will this application address soil health concerns by implementing soil sampling practices?	Yes O or No O
49. Will this application include practices to address and help control invasive species?	Yes O or No O
50. Will this application include practices that address soil compaction?	Yes O or No O
51. Will this application include practices that will improve pasture quality?	Yes O or No O
Otter Creek Local Working Group	
52. Will the proposed project lead to better soil quality on degraded lands?	Yes O or No O
53. Will this EQIP application reduce denuded heavy use areas through improved rotation?	Yes O or No O
54. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing streambank and stream crossing erosion in a pasture and hayland?	Yes O or No O
55. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by excluding grazing animals from watercourses.	Yes O or No O
56. Does this EQIP applicant have a nutrient management plan and does the application include practice identified in the nutrient management plan?	Yes O or No O

Winooski Local Working Group	
57. Will the proposed project lead to better soil quality on degraded lands?	Yes O or No O
58. Will the proposed project lead to better water quality by limiting access to adjacent waterways?	Yes O or No O
59. Does the proposed project provide assurances for the protection of soil and water resources?	Yes O or No O
60. Does this application address concentrated areas of feeding and watering, and plan for more even distribution of animal waste?	Yes O or No O
61. Will this application reduce areas in the pasture that are denuded?	Yes O or No O
Essex Local Working Group	
62. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes O or No O
63. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture land?	Yes O or No O
64. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes O or No O
65. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes O or No O
66. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**