Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Cropland, Vegetable and Specialty Crop

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Cropland, Vegetable and Specialty Crop		**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
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 state 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes O or No O
Seasonal High Tunnels - Answer Yes to Question 2, 3 or 4 if the application is for a seasonal high tunnel	
2. Will food produced in the high tunnel be marketed directly to consumers within 10 mile radius of the farm?	Yes O or No O
3. Will food produced in the high tunnel be marketed directly to consumers within a greater than 10 but less than 25 mile radius?	Yes O or No O
4. Will food produced in the high tunnel be marketed directly to consumers greater than 25 miles away?	Yes O or No O
Project Location	
5. 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
6. 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
Implementation of a CNMP	
7. Will this application result in implementation of practices outlined in a recently completed or updated NMP?	Yes O or No O
Irrigation	
8. Does this application include at least one practice to assist the participant in converting to drip irrigation on 50% or more of their existing irrigated land?	Yes O or No O
9. Does this application include an improvement to air quality as a result of a replacement of an inefficient irrigation pump?	Yes O or No O

Soil Erosion	
10. Does this application include land management practices that will reduce soil erosion from above 'T' to 'T' or less?	Yes O or No O
11. Does this application include land management practices that will reduce soil erosion by at least 2 tons per acre and to 'T' or less on cropland fields of 8% or greater slope?	Yes O or No O
Soil Quality and Water Quality	
12. Will the application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to water quality?	Yes O or No O
System of Practices - Answer YES to question 13a, b or c if applicable.	
13. a.Does the application include one of the following practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	Yes O or No O
13. b.Does the application include two practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	Yes O or No O
13. c.Does the application include three or more practices listed in this funding pool's guidance document?	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 national 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
Franklin/Grand Isle LWG	
2. Does this application reduce sheet and rill soil erosion by the installation of agronomic practices?	Yes O or No O
3. Does this application improve soil condition by increasing organic matter?	Yes O or No O
4. Does this application reduce sediment or nutrient loss from the edge of fields?	Yes O or No O
5. Does this application make a change in management to increase organic matter or reduce erosion through the adoption of seldom used practices such as cross slope tillage, reduced tillage, strip cropping or the incorporation of grass waterways?	Yes O or No O
6. Does this application include converting cropland to grass?	Yes O or No O
Bennington LWG	
7. 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
8. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	Yes O or No O
9. Does this application include a buffer as recommended by a watershed, river corridor, or other plan addressing water quality issues, or will a buffer be included for improved wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
10. Does this application provide for the improved management of nutrients and/or pesticides?	Yes O or No O
11. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes O or No O
Ottauquechee LWG	
12. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes O or No O
13. Are there practices in the application to address current crops produced on the land contributing to accelerated erosion?	Yes O or No O
14. Does this application include a field border, riparian buffer, and/or a filter strip for improved wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and/or reduced soil erosion?	Yes O or No O

15. Will this application include crop rotation, cover crop, seasonal high tunnel, and/or composting facility to address pest management concerns, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and/or improve soil health?	Yes O or No O
16. Does this application include practices which will improve availability and/or diversity of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 50 miles)?	Yes O or No O
Poultney Mettowee LWG	
17. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	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. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes O or No O
20. Will this application reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management strategies, or will it reduce the use of nutrients through nutrient management plan strategies?	Yes O or No O
21. Will this application address recommendations of the South Lake nutrient workplan or PM Basin plan?	Yes O or No O
Rutland LWG	
22. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment; and/or will it include composting to address a water quality and/or soil health concern?	Yes O or No O
23. 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
24. Will this application reduce pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management strategies, or will it reduce the use of nutrients through nutrient management plan strategies?	Yes O or No O
25. Will this application include buffers specified as a need in river corridor plan/other water quality management plans/ identified through monitoring and assessment, or if a buffer will be installed for improved wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
26. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes O or No O
Windham LWG	
27. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes O or No O
28. Will this application improve energy-use efficiency?	Yes O or No O
29. Will this application include buffers in order to enhance surface water quality and/or improve wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
30. Will this application improve soil health and/or decrease soil erosion through the implementation of cover crop, seasonal high tunnel, composting, crop rotation, and/or reduced tillage?	Yes O or No O
31. Will this application include practices that will improve nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Caledonia LWG	
32. Does this application include practices that increase soil organic matter?	Yes O or No O
33. Will the application incorporate nutrient management planning and soil fertility practices?	Yes O or No O
34. Does this application include structural practices to contain agricultural waste runoff?	Yes O or No O
35. Will this application include practices that address soil compaction or related agricultural runoff issues?	Yes O or No O
36. Does this application include practices that reduce soil erosion on all cropland to soil loss tolerances	Yes O or No O
Essex LWG	
37. Does this application include practices that increase soil organic matter?	Yes O or No O
38. Does the application include practices that reduce nutrient runoff?	Yes O or No O

39. Does the application control soil erosion by applying crop rotation or conversion to permanent grassland?	Yes O or No O
40. Does the application include practices that control pests and disease through non chemical methods?	Yes O or No O
41. Will the applicant market its products within a 100 mile radius?	Yes O or No O
Orleans LWG	
42. Is this application within the Mud Creek, Stern s Brook, Black River, or Johns River watersheds?	Yes O or No O
43. Does this application address stream bank erosion control (riparian buffers, crop set-back)?	Yes O or No O
44. Does this application include practices that increase Soil Organic matter?	Yes O or No O
45. Does this application include practices that promote manure incorporation on hay and annual cropland?	Yes O or No O
46. Will this application include practices that will address soil compaction?	Yes O or No O
Winooski LWG	
47. Will this application provide benefits to soil quality through any of the following: cover crops (340), improved tillage practices (345 or 329), or seeding to perennial forage crops (512)?	Yes O or No O
48. Does this application provide assurances for the creation, enhancement, or protection of cropland buffers? Or, will this EQIP application protect nesting grassland birds and/or enhance forest and grassland bird species habitat?	Yes O or No O
49. Will this project help the applicant to reduce their use of fertilizers, chemicals, or pesticides?	Yes O or No O
50. Will this application reduce erosion from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a watershed identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters or, is this project part of a LTP or NMP?	Yes O or No O
51. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 50 miles)?	Yes O or No O
Otter Creek LWG	
52. Will this EQIP application reduce soil erosion and enhance soil quality or address critical source areas?	Yes O or No O
53. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing field borders-386? Or, will this EQIP application protect nesting grassland birds and/or enhance forest and grassland bird species habitat?	Yes O or No O
54. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing ephemeral gully erosion, or is this project part of a LTP or NMP??	Yes O or No O
55. As a component of an IPM system, will this EQIP application result in reduced pesticide use?	Yes O or No O
56. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 50 miles)?	Yes O or No O
Lamoille LWG	
57. Does this application adhere to a 35 foot buffer along waterways?	Yes O or No O
58. Does this application make a change in management to increase organic matter or reduce erosion through the adoption of seldom used practices such as cross slope tillage, reduced tillage, strip cropping or the incorporation of grass waterways?	Yes O or No O
59. Does this application reduce soil erosion by the installation of agronomic practices?	Yes O or No O
60. Does this application address sheet, rill and/or gully erosion?	Yes O or No O
61. Does this application include converting continuous corn (10 years or more) to long term pasture or grazing (512)?	Yes O or No O
White River LWG	
62. Will this application include practices that install grass filter strips or riparian Forested buffers to address erosion or nutrient runoff?	Yes O or No O
63. Will this application include practices that address soil compaction or related agricultural runoff issues?	Yes O or No O
64. Will this application include practices where nutrients are distributed according to the nutrient management plan?	Yes O or No O
65. Does this application include practices that will enhance soil quality?	Yes O or No O

66. Will this application include practices that manage nitrogen and other ag runoff related nutrients into the Conn. River?	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:**