Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

2014 Maine Water Conservation

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: 2014 Maine Water Conservation		**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? **OTHER than for bringing new land under irrigation.**	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 an Irrigation Water Management 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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. 1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? Ifanswer is “Yes”, Award 400 points and 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
For this application:	
2. Is the irrigation water source subject to State of Maine low flow rules and does the applicant have a MDEP determination in hand? If yes, award 100 pts.	Yes O or No O
Proposed action's compliance with State of Maine's 587 rule will be determined by MDEP. Answer only ONE of ranking elements 3a, 3b, 3c or 3d as applicable:	
3. a. The proposed action is not limited by compliance with the State of Maine low flow rule? If yes, SUBTRACT 100 pts.	Yes O or No O
3. b. The proposed action is subject to the State of Maine low flow rule and the irrigation water source is still the direct source water body? If yes, award 75 pts.	Yes O or No O
3. c.The proposed action is subject to the State of Maine low flow rule and an alternative water source that is augmented by the direct source water body is planned? If yes, award 100 pts.	Yes O or No O
3. d. The proposed action is subject to the State of Maine low flow rule and an alternate water source independent of the direct source water body is planned? If yes, award 150 pts.	Yes O or No O
Answer as applicable for this application:	
4. Federal Threatened and Endangered species: fish and wildlife species listed, or candidates for listing under FEDERAL ESA will be benefitted with proposed action? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes O or No O
5. State Threatened and Endangered species: declining species, species of concern, and/or STATE ESA species will be benefitted with proposed action? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes O or No O
6. Are surface water withdrawals coming from within a watershed listed as Essential Fish Habitat? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of an Irrigation Water Management 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 1 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", award 250 points and 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
AWARD POINTS FOR ONLY ONE OF 2a - 2g: What is the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool for the benchmark system/condition?	
2. a. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool <35? If yes, award 40 pts	Yes O or No O
2. b. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 35-39? If yes, award 30 pts	Yes O or No O
2. c. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 40-44? If yes, award 20 pts	Yes O or No O
2. d. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 45-49? If yes, award 10 pts	Yes O or No O
2. e. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 50-54? If yes, award 5 pts	Yes O or No O
2. f. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 55-60? If yes, award 1 pts	Yes O or No O
2. g. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool greater than 60? If yes, SUBTRACT 1 pt.	Yes O or No O
Answer ranking elements 3 - 10 as applicable:	
3. Soil Quality Degradation – Organic matter depletion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes O or No O
4. Insufficient flows in source water body will be addressed with proposed action? If yes, award 20 pts.	Yes O or No O
5. Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Degradation: food - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 20 pts.	Yes O or No O
6. Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Degradation: cover/shelter - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 20 pts.	Yes O or No O
7. Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Degradation: water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 20 pts	Yes O or No O
8. Soil Organic Matter and Carbon Sequestration. If Cropland, will soil condition index change from less than 0.5 to 0.5 or greater when contract is implemented? If yes, award 20 pts.	Yes O or No O
9. Does the producer agree not to use any associated water savings realized for the water source to bring new land, other than incidental land needed for efficient operations, under irrigated production? If yes, award 60 pts.	Yes O or No O
10. Will this be the first irrigation system funded through EQIP for this applicant? If yes, award 30 points	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:**