

**Connecticut Ranking Criteria Worksheet for EASEMENTS –
Grassland Reserve Program
Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System (LESA)
(LE=35%, SA=65%)**

Land Evaluation (LE)

1. Size of Parcel (*total acres to be enrolled*)

Acres	Factor Scale
> 40 acres	100
20-40 acres	50
10-19 acres	25
5-9 acres	10
< 5 acres	0

_____ X .2 = _____

2. Percent of Grassland in Total Parcel Offered:

Percent	Factor Scale
98 to 100%	100
96 to < 98%	80
94 to < 96%	60
92 to < 94%	40
90 to < 92%	20
< 90%	0

_____ X .05 = _____

Use 3A or 3B for ranking, not both.

3A. Percent Parcel that Contains Prime, Statewide or Locally Important Farmland Soils:*

Percent	Factor Scale
100%	100
90%	90
80%	80
20%	20
< 20%	0

(Use actual acreage, i.e. if 71%, the Factor Scale would be 71)

_____ X .1 = _____

3B. Does the parcel contain a registered national or state historic/cultural resource?

Present	Factor Scale
Yes	100
No	0

_____ X .1 = _____

LE Subtotal = _____

Site Assessment (SA)

4. How is the Grassland Currently Managed?

Levels of Management	Factor Scale
Managed for both Grassland Agriculture and Habitat	100
Managed for Grassland Agriculture Only	50
Managed for Habitat Only	10

_____ X .1 = _____

5. Is the Site in Need of Restoration?

Restoration Needs	Factor Scale
No restoration needed (100% grassland)	100
10% needs restoration	90
75% needs restoration	50
50% needs restoration	25
>50% needs restoration (cropland and shrubs)	0

_____ X .03 = _____

6. Active Farmland/Grasslands within 2 Mile Radius:*

Acres	Factor Scale
>700 acres	100
401-700 acres	80
201-400 acres	60
101-200 acres	40
<100 acres	20

_____ X .07 = _____

7. Percent Land in Compatible Land Use Adjacent to the Parcel:*

Percent **Factor Scale**

> 75%	100
50% - 74%	75
25% - 49%	50
< 25%	25

_____ X .07 = _____

Use 8A or 8B for ranking, not both

8A Entities — Degree of Fund Leveraging and Contributions:

Percent NRCS Pays **Factor Scale**

< 35	100
35 to < 40	75
40 to < 45	50
45 to < 50	25
50%	0

_____ X .16 = _____

8B. Landowners — Degree of Fund Leveraging and Contributions:

Percent NRCS Pays **Factor Scale**

< 10%	100
10 to < 20	90
20 to < 30	80
30 to < 40	70
40 to < 50	60
50 to < 60	50
60 to < 70	40
70 to < 80	30
80 to < 90	20
90 < 100	10
100%	0

_____ X .16 = _____

9. Is the Parcel Part of a Threatened Agricultural or Grassland Habitat Community?*

Agricultural/Habitat Community **Factor Scale**

Connecticut River Corridor and Connecticut Valley (MLRA 145)	100
Within 10 Miles of Coast	50
Rest of State	0

_____ X .17 = _____

10. Is the Parcel Part of an Area Recognized as Special Concern or Environmental Value (*all that apply*)?

Special concerns	Factor Scale
Habitat for Threatened/Endangered (known species)	25
Designated or Proposed Greenway	25
Other Locally Important (i.e. cultural resources, public water supplies, scenic vista) Must Identify	25
Municipal support	25

Local Concern: _____ x _____ .05 = _____

_____ x _____ = _____

SA Subtotal = _____

GRAND TOTAL = _____

**Indicates factors that represent threat of conversion.*