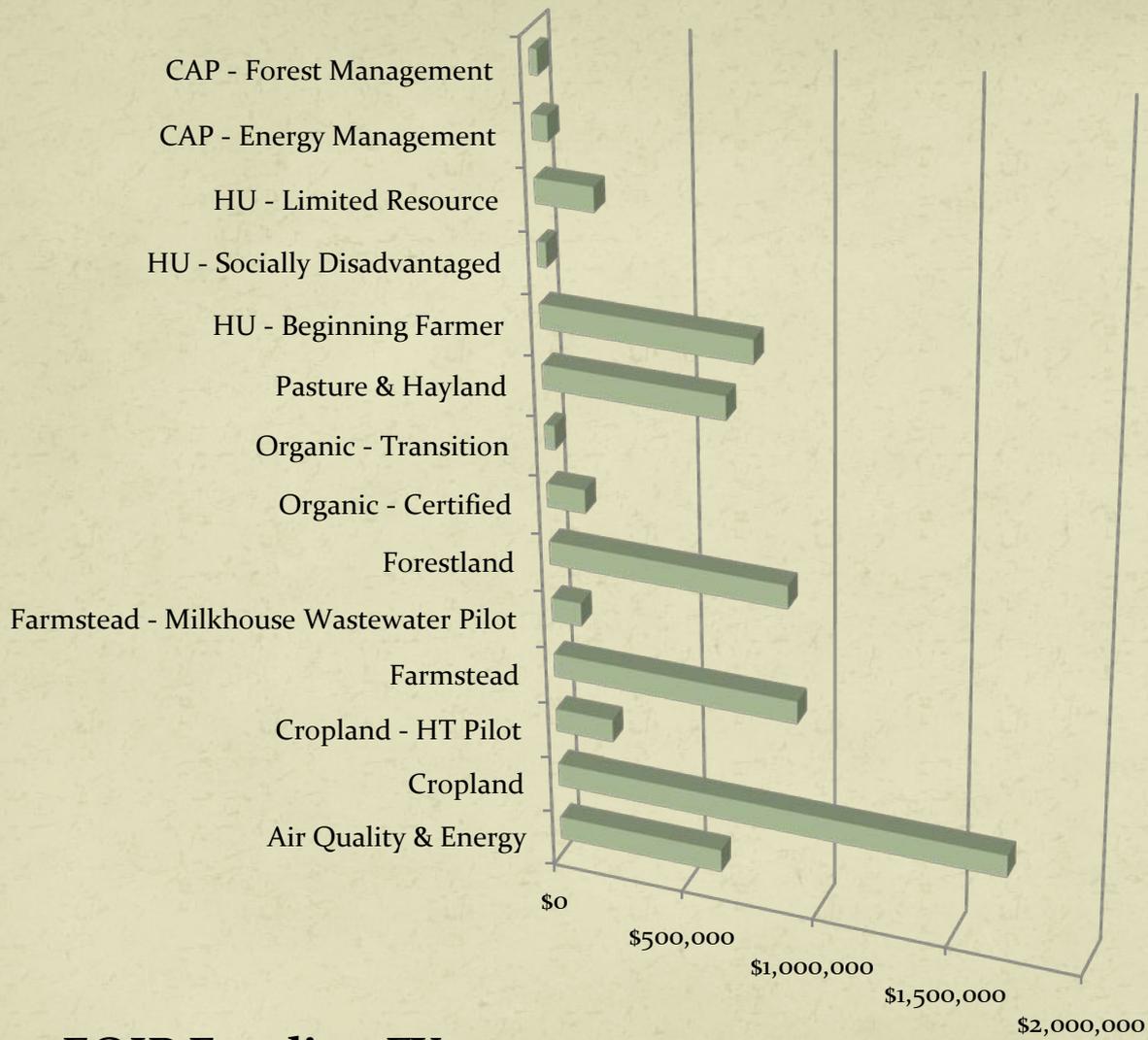


# Massachusetts State Technical Committee Meeting

December 7, 2011

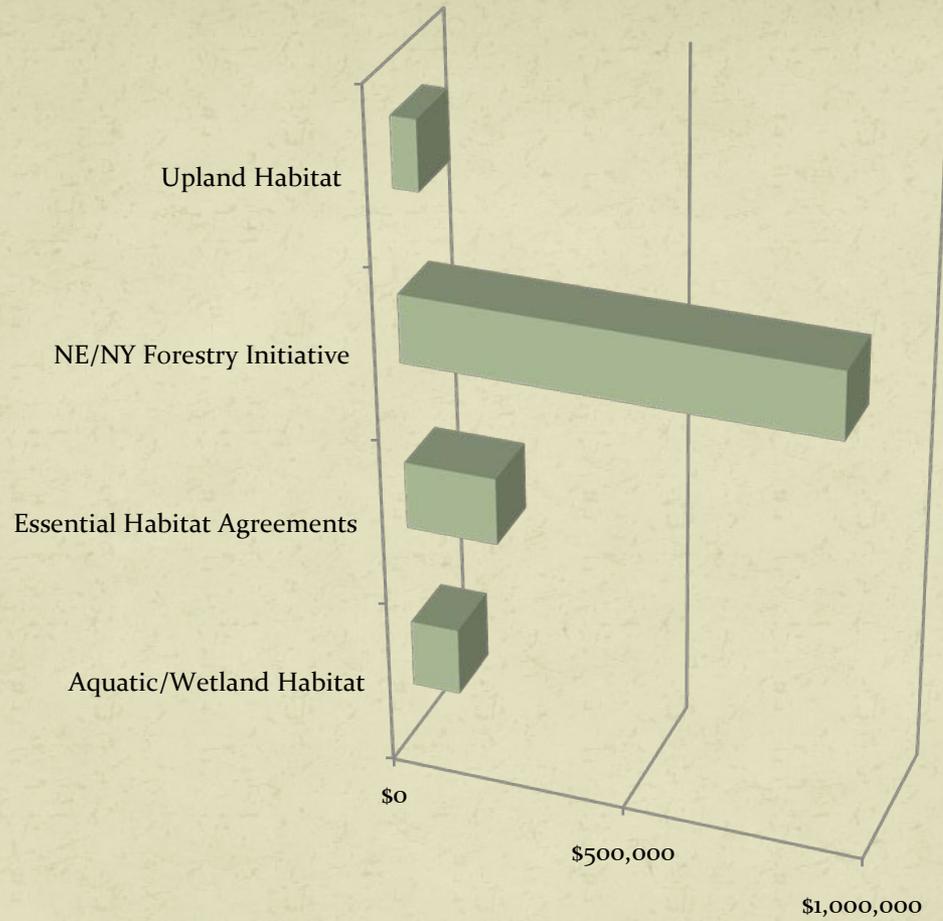
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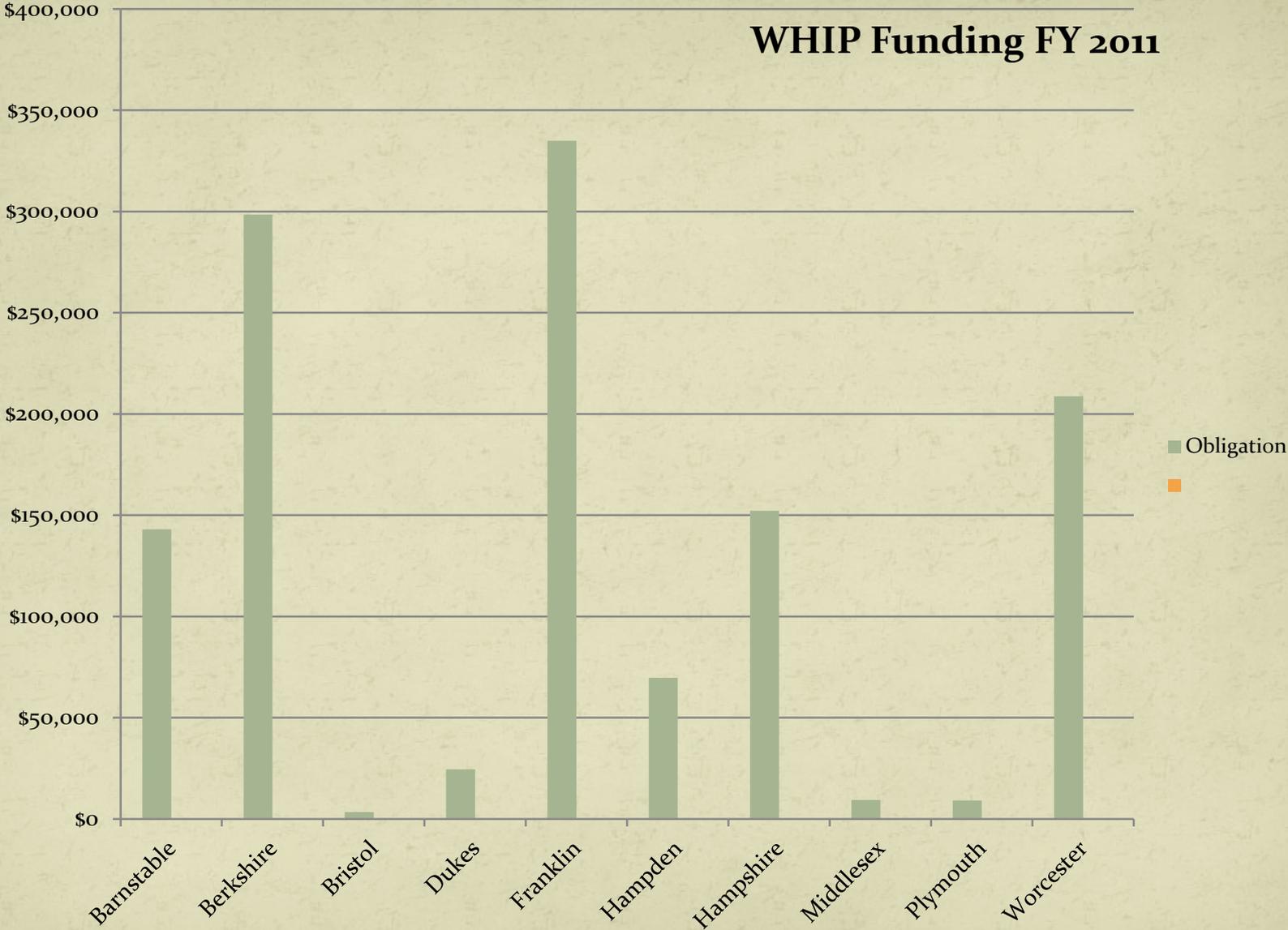
**EQIP Funding FY 2011**





## WHIP Funding FY 2011

# WHIP Funding FY 2011



# National Initiatives

- Organic
- Energy
- Seasonal High Tunnel



# Landscape Initiatives

- NE/NY Forestry Initiative
  - Funding in both WHIP and EQIP
  - Same Payment Rates
  - Additional Practice Scenarios



# State CIG – Conservation Innovation Grants

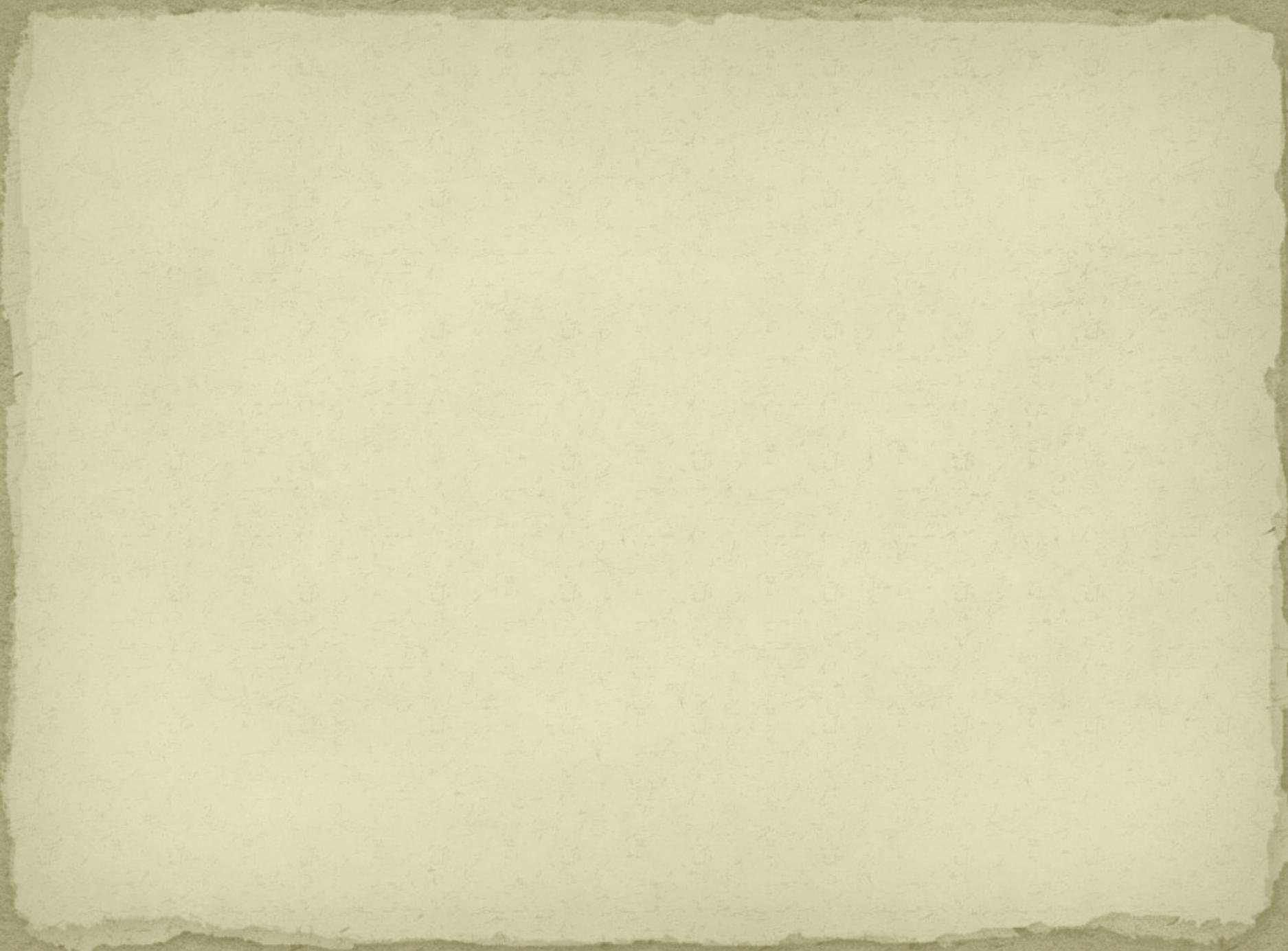
- Can be up to 5% of our EQIP funding (\$150,000-\$200,000)
- Limit of \$75,000 per grant
- NRCS objective is to incorporate innovative technologies and approaches
- Not for funding research projects

# State CIG – Conservation Innovation Grants

- Proposed innovative project or activity must address development, assessment, evaluation and implementation of either of the following:
  - Conservation adoption approaches or incentive systems, including market-based systems
  - Promising conservation technologies, practices, systems, procedures, or activities
- Studied enough to indicate probability of success
- Addresses a natural resource concern

# Hurricane Irene Cropland Damage

- Ranking questions in EQIP are being developed to address the soil quality resource concern on these fields
- Payment rates will mimic what FSA might be offering through ECP – Emergency Conservation Program, when that program is funded.



# WRP – Wetlands Reserve Program

- Made purchase offers on 6 easements, 5 were accepted. \$4,000,000
- Cranberry Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) was more closely analyzed for 2012 with several professionals from the industry.
- Proposed value for active cranberry bogs - GARC is \$9,300/acre
- Abandoned cranberry bogs and all other applications will be appraised and receive 85% of the fair market value.
- RANKING
- Changed from the version that was sent
- Added more wildlife points
- Allows for a local question under water quality
- Focus areas – cranberries and flood plain forest on the Connecticut River.