

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application State Ranking Questions  
General EQIP - Cropland**

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application convert active cropland or hayland to a riparian forest buffer at least 35 ft in width and length (0.028 ac)? Value = 70	70 Point(s)
2. Does the application include cover crops on all owned and rented cropland? Do NOT answer YES to State 2 and State 3. Value = 70	70 Point(s)
3. Does the application include cover crops on at least 50% of all owned and rented cropland? Do NOT answer YES to State 2 and State 3. Value = 40	40 Point(s)
4. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 25% of all owned and rented cropland? It is acceptable to answer YES to this question even if State 2 or State 3 is answered YES. It is possible to answer YES to this question if both State 2 and State 3 are answered NO. Value = 30	30 Point(s)
5. Does the application include vegetative and/or management practices that will control erosion or reduce sediment/nutrients on a field adjacent to surface waters or wetlands? Value = 40	40 Point(s)
6. Does the application include Nutrient Management implementation as prescribed in an existing CNMP or Nutrient Management Plan (includes CAPs) to address an existing water quality or soil (erosion or quality) resource concern? Value = 30	30 Point(s)
7. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on hayland) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 40	40 Point(s)
8. Does the application include conservation cover or tree and shrub planting to improve native pollinator habitat? Value = 20	20 Point(s)
9. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 20	20 Point(s)
10. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Value = 20	20 Point(s)
11. Does the application include IPM as prescribed in an existing IPM plan (includes IPM CAP) to address an existing water quality or plant pest resource concern? Value = 20	20 Point(s)

12. Does the application include Irrigation Water Management as prescribed in an existing IWM plan (includes IWM CAP) to address an existing water quality resource concern? Value = 20	20 Point(s)
13. Are there practices in this application that will reduce sediment or nutrients from entering surface water in one of the rivers in the Rivers Initiative? Value = 20	20 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed (for state-wide funding pools only)**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., surface water and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times (except flash grazing as identified in an existing prescribed grazing plan)? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Value = 35 pts	35 Point(s)
2. Is the majority of the treatment area within a state listed impaired watershed and will it address the particular impairment? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
3. Will direct discharge of sediment/nutrients into surface waters be controlled by practices in this application? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
4. Will 50% or more of the ag products (meat, fruit, veggies, eggs, maple, wood, dairy etc) produced be consumed or marketed within 100 miles of the farm? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
5. Will practices in this application control non-native invasive species? Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on pasture or hayland) and/or grazing land mechanical treatment to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
7. Does the application include at least one practice that offers soil quality benefits on cropland or grazing land? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
8. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 50% of the cropland acres? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
9. Does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife (delayed mowing/grazing, control of invasive species, pollinator plantings, snag creation)? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)

10. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
11. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application State Ranking Questions**

**General EQIP - Farmstead**

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application convert active agricultural land (cropland, hayland, pasture or HQ) to a riparian forest buffer at least 35 ft in width and length (0.028 ac)? Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
2. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Do NOT answer yes to State 2 and State 3. Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
3. Are practices included in the application that will move animals from within 20 feet of all surface water or wetlands? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Do NOT answer yes to State 2 and State 3. Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
4. Does the application include vegetative and/or management practices that will control erosion or reduce sediment/nutrients on active agricultural land adjacent to surface waters or wetlands? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
5. Does this application include all practices needed to complete the implementation of an existing CNMP? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
6. Are at least 50% of the fields/pasture a high P or N leaching index and the practices in the application address the nutrient management issue? Do NOT answer yes to State 6 and State 7. Value = 40 pts	40 Point(s)
7. Are at least 25% of the fields/pasture a high P or N leaching index and the practices in the application address the nutrient management issue? Do NOT answer yes to State 6 and State 7. Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
8. Does this application fully address manure management (storage or composting) using the least cost alternative? Value = 35 pts	35 Point(s)
9. Does this application fully address silage leachate or milkhouse waste treatment? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
10. Does this application include diversion or roof runoff practices to "keep clean water clean"? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)

11. Are there practices in this application that will reduce sediment or nutrients from entering surface water in one of the rivers in the Rivers Initiative? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
12. Does the application include conservation cover or tree and shrub planting to improve native pollinator habitat? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed (for state-wide funding pools only)**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., surface water and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times (except flash grazing as identified in an existing prescribed grazing plan)? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Value = 35 pts	35 Point(s)
2. Is the majority of the treatment area within a state listed impaired watershed and will it address the particular impairment? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
3. Will direct discharge of sediment/nutrients into surface waters be controlled by practices in this application? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
4. Will 50% or more of the ag products (meat, fruit, veggies, eggs, maple, wood, dairy etc) produced be consumed or marketed within 100 miles of the farm? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
5. Will practices in this application control non-native invasive species? Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on pasture or hayland) and/or grazing land mechanical treatment to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
7. Does the application include at least one practice that offers soil quality benefits on cropland or grazing land? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
8. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 50% of the cropland acres? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
9. Does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife (delayed mowing/grazing, control of invasive species, pollinator plantings, snag creation)? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)
10. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)

11. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts

15 Point(s)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application State Ranking Questions**

**General EQIP - Forestry**

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Are the practices planned in this application located in one of the 2013 Forest Priority Areas: Quabbin to Cardigan or Upper Ammonoosuc/Israel River? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
2. Will at least 10 acres of Timber Stand Improvement be planned as outlined in a forest management plan? Value = 100 pts	100 Point(s)
3. Early Successional Habitat Management - Will the planned practices maintain or create 5 continuous acres of young forest? Value = 100 pts	100 Point(s)
4. Will riparian buffers be installed at least 35 feet wide? Value = 100 pts	100 Point(s)
5. Will coarse woody material be added to first and second order streams to retain sediment and re-engage floodplains? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed (for state-wide funding pools only)**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will at least 1 ac of riparian forest buffer be installed through this contract? Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
2. Will stream crossings be resized, repaired or removed? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
3. Will uneven age management techniques such as group selections, and regeneration harvests be planned to encourage a diversity of species and age classes? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
4. Will state listed invasive species be controlled by chemical and/or mechanical techniques? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
5. Is the land under contract protected by a perpetual conservation easement? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
6. Is the land under contract directly adjacent (must share a direct border) to land protected by a conservation easement or state/county/town owned conservation land? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)
7. This contract does not include wildlife habitat management practices for which the applicant has previously received payments from NRCS. Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application State Ranking Questions**

**General EQIP - Grazing**

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application convert active cropland or hayland to a riparian forest buffer at least 35 ft in width and length (0.028 ac)? Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
2. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times? Do not answer yes to both State 2 and State 3. Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
3. Are practices included in the application that will move animals from within 20 feet of all surface water or wetlands? Do not answer yes to both State 2 and State 3. Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
4. Does the application include vegetative and/or management practices that will control erosion or reduce sediment/nutrients on a pasture or sacrifice area adjacent to surface waters or wetlands? Value = 45 pts	45 Point(s)
5. Does the application include one or more conservation practices identified in an EXISTING Grazing Conservation Activity Plan or Prescribed Grazing Plan to address an existing water or soil quality resource concern? Value = 40 pts	40 Point(s)
6. If an existing Prescribed Grazing Plan is to be implemented, does the application include prescribed grazing with a daily or twice weekly rotation? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)
7. Does the application include Nutrient Management implementation as prescribed in an existing CNMP or Nutrient Management Plan (includes CAPs) to address an existing water quality or soil (erosion or quality) resource concern? Value = 40 pts	40 Point(s)
8. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
9. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)

10. Does the application include forage and biomass planting and/or grazing land mechanical treatment to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
11. Will the applicant incorporate legumes or native grasses into the forage base? Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
12. Are there practices in this application that will reduce sediment or nutrients from entering surface water in one of the rivers in the Rivers Initiative? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed (for state-wide funding pools only)**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., surface water and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times (except flash grazing as identified in an existing prescribed grazing plan)? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Value = 35 pts	35 Point(s)
2. Is the majority of the treatment area within a state listed impaired watershed and will it address the particular impairment? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
3. Will direct discharge of sediment/nutrients into surface waters be controlled by practices in this application? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
4. Will 50% or more of the ag products (meat, fruit, veggies, eggs, maple, wood, dairy etc) produced be consumed or marketed within 100 miles of the farm? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
5. Will practices in this application control non-native invasive species? Value = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
6. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on pasture or hayland) and/or grazing land mechanical treatment to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
7. Does the application include at least one practice that offers soil quality benefits on cropland or grazing land? Value = 25 pts	25 Point(s)
8. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 50% of the cropland acres? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)

9. Does the application include at least one practice to benefit wildlife (delayed mowing/grazing, control of invasive species, pollinator plantings, snag creation)? Value = 10 pts	10 Point(s)
10. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
11. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Value = 15 pts	15 Point(s)