

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
2013 Maine Water Conservation (Irrigation)**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: 2013 Maine Water Conservation (Irrigation)	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. (NOTE: Currently no TSP available)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

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. (NOTE: Currently no TSP available)	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer 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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only ONE of ranking elements 3a, 3b, 3c or 3d as applicable:	
3. a. STATE PRIORITY ISSUE: The proposed action is not limited by compliance with the State of Maine low flow rule (i.e., the Maine DEP has established an aquatic base flow for a river or stream providing the irrigation water AND are benchmark and planned pumping rates less than 1%7Q10, OR is the total volume of planned water withdrawal from a lake or pond less than 1 foot of surface water volume before July 31 of each year and less than 2 feet of surface water volume in annual total)? If yes, SUBTRACT 100 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 (i.e., the Maine DEP has established an aquatic base flow or water level for the water body providing the irrigation water AND are benchmark pumping rates greater than those described in 3a, above, AND will the application assist the producer to comply with the established aquatic base flow or water level)? If yes, award 75 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 (i.e., the Maine DEP has established an aquatic base flow for the water body providing the irrigation water AND are benchmark pumping rates greater than those described in 3a, above, AND does the application include an alternate water source to replace the regulated water source as a direct supply, BUT the alternate water source is augmented by the direct supply source)? If yes, award 100 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 (i.e., the Maine DEP has established an aquatic	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

base flow for the water body providing the irrigation water AND do benchmark pumping rates exceed those described in 3a, above, AND does the application include an alternate water source to replace the regulated water source as a direct supply that is not dependent on the direct source water body)? If yes, award 150 pts.	
Answer as applicable for this application:	
4. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife - T and E species: fish and wildlife species listed, or candidates for listing under FEDERAL ESA - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife - State T and E species: declining species, species of concern, and/or STATE ESA species - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife: Are surface water withdrawals coming from within a watershed listed as Essential Fish Habitat? If yes, award 50 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

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. (NOTE: Currently no TSP available)	
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 35-39? If yes, award 30 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 40-44? If yes, award 20 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 45-49? If yes, award 10 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 50-54? If yes, award 5 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. f. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool 55-60? If yes, award 1 pts	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. g. Was the score from the Irrigation Management Assessment tool greater than 60? If yes, SUBTRACT 1 pt.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer ranking elements 3 - 9 as applicable for Water Use/Water Conservation category applications ONLY:	
3. SOIL CONDITION – Organic matter depletion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. WATER QUANTITY – Insufficient flows - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate food - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate cover/shelter - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. ANIMALS – Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? If yes, award 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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 10 pts.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does the producer agree not to use any associated water savings to bring new land, other than incidental land needed for efficient operations, under irrigated production? If yes, award 150 pts. See next page	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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From current NRCS EQIP Manual (dated March 2012):

In regards to 2013 Irrigation Ranking Tool Local question 9:

515.72 Application Ranking Process

B. Application-Ranking Minimum Requirements

(3) For application ranking pools that include water conservation or irrigation-efficiency practices, the State Conservationist will give priority to applications in which—

(i) Consistent with the State law in which the producer's eligible land is located, there is a reduction in water use in the agricultural operation, or where the producer agrees not to use any associated water savings to bring new land under irrigation production, other than incidental land needed for efficient operations.

So no real restriction, but priority ranking points for those that agree to not use water savings to bring new land under irrigation.

STTC REVIEW
DRAFT-11/15/2012

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:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

STTC REVIEW
DRAFT-11/15/2012

