



State Technical Team

Programs Update

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ASTC-Programs/Field Operations

Helping People Help the Land

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501.21 Responsibilities of State Technical Committees

- It is the responsibility of the State Technical Committee to –
 - 1) Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
 - 2) Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
 - 3) Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.
 - 4) Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data.
 - 5) Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally.
 - 6) Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups.
 - 7) Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.

501.25 F. Conducting Business

1. The meetings will be conducted as an open discussion among members. Discussion will focus on the programs and activities identified in 440-CPM, Part 501, Subpart A, Section 501.0C. All recommendations will be considered.
2. The following guidelines will govern meeting discussions:
 - i. The State Conservationist or his or her designee will lead the discussion.
 - ii. Only one person may speak at a time. Every participant should have an opportunity to speak.
 - iii. The State Conservationist or his or her designee is responsible for recognizing speakers.
 - iv. State Technical Committees are advisory in nature and all recommendations are considered.
 - v. Members may be polled, but voting on issues is not appropriate.
 - vi. The State Conservationist, in consultation with those members present, may establish time limits for discussion on individual agenda items.
 - vii. The State Conservationist will defer those agenda items not covered because of time limits to the next meeting

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

- USDA considers PII to be information that can be *used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity*, such as your social security number or medical records, or information that when combined or used with other identifying information is linked or linkable to a specific individual. Some examples are:
 - Conservation plans
 - Wetland determinations including inventory maps, official maps, and certified maps and the following related to wetland determinations:
 - Site visit reports and documentation of site conditions
 - Wetland delineation data sheets
 - Technical determinations (e.g., functional assessments, scope and effect determinations)
 - Highly erodible land determinations
 - Land acreage amounts and crop code
 - Producer assistance notes
 - National Resource Inventory point data
 - Flood damage surveys
 - Program contract information
 - Geospatial Information o Maps (Surveys, Charts and Aerial photography only if it contains attributes of the land such as common land unit (CLU) boundaries)
 - Producer/landowner and business entity name, full address, phone number, e-mail address, employee identification number or taxpayer identification number, and social security numbers
 - Farm, tract, and field numbers

Easement Program Update

Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP)

- There were eight parcels by five entities that were submitted to NRCS
- Two parcels have been submitted to the National Office for review prior to obligation.
- We are developing a Contribution Agreement for FRPP Technical Assistance funds to assist NRCS with the delivery of the FRPP. Finalized documents being completed for review and signature.
- We are waiting for the remaining entities' paperwork to submit those for National Office review. The deadline for these entities to submit these documents is this Friday August 30, 2013. All of them were contacted and reminded of this deadline on 8/7 and 8/26.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

- Survey is complete for 1 of the 3 WRP obligations for 2012 but waiting for complete documentation in order to process payment for survey.
- Received bid for one of the other surveys but client is quite concerned with what appears to be a very high estimate (more than 4 times than was anticipated by client and NRCS). Waiting on survey bid for other parcel in order to begin obligation of survey funds process and start survey.
- Materials have been submitted to contracting official in MA for title and closing work for 3 WRP parcels.

To Do: The FY2014 Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) is due on October 30, 2013 and will need to be reviewed today.

Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)

- Survey of one of the easements is completed and once the extension document for his existing agreement has been signed, the payment will be processed.
- Survey bid for the other GRP easement was received and reviewed with the client. Once the funds have been obligated, they will be able to notify the survey company that the survey may begin.
- Materials have been submitted to contracting official in MA for title and closing work for 2 GRP parcels.
- The 2 existing agreements were extended to allow for the continuation of the process of acquisition of the conservation easement.

To Do: The FY2014 Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) is due on October 30, 2013 and will need to be reviewed today.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

STT GARC Review/Approval

Geographic Area	Program	Appraisal Value	RI GARC Value	MA GARC Value	CT GARC Value	Date Process Reviewed with State Technical Committee	Date Certified by STC
	WRP or GRP	\$/ac	\$/ac	Neighbor 1	Neighbor 2	xx/xx/xxxx	xx/xx/xxxx
		80% of Market Value for WRP and 73% of Market Value for GRP					
Bristol	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Kent	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Newport	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Providence	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Washington	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
New Shoreham Developable Land	GRP	80% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
New Shoreham Developable Land	WRP	73% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Shoreline Recreational and Second Home Development	WRP	73% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
High Residential Development	WRP	73% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
High Quality Farmland	WRP	73% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Average Quality Developable Land Inland	WRP	73% of FMV	\$5,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Low Quality Developable Land Inland	WRP	73% of FMV	\$4,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	
Non-Developable Land	WRP	73% of FMV	\$2,000.00	TBD	TBD	8/29/2013	

Evaluation Criteria

Participation in the GRP and WRP is limited in RI, therefore appraisals are utilized along with the GARC and landowner offer.

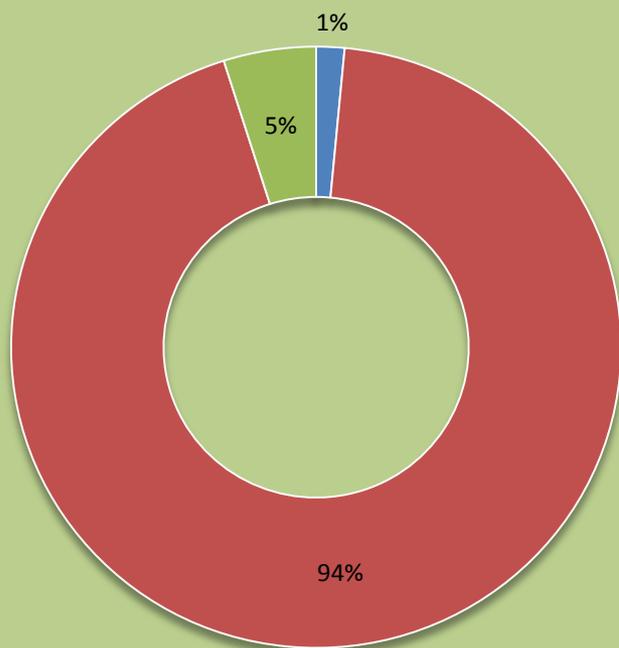
Neighboring State Information: - WRP - MA value set at % of USPAP FMV - CT value set at % of USPAP FMV
 GRP - MA GARC at \$ per acre - CT GARC at \$ per acre

Financial Assistance Programs Update



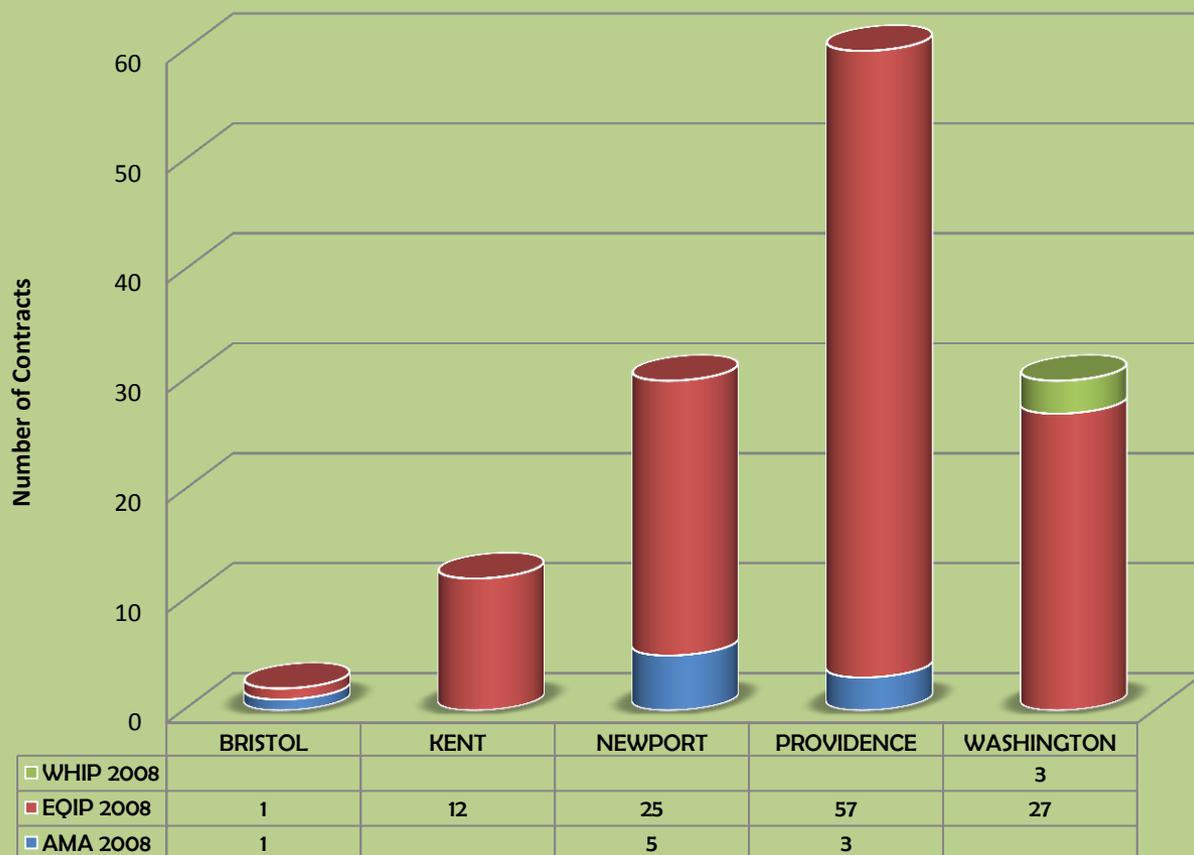
2013 Funds Obligated by Programs

AMA 2008 EQIP 2008 WHIP 2008



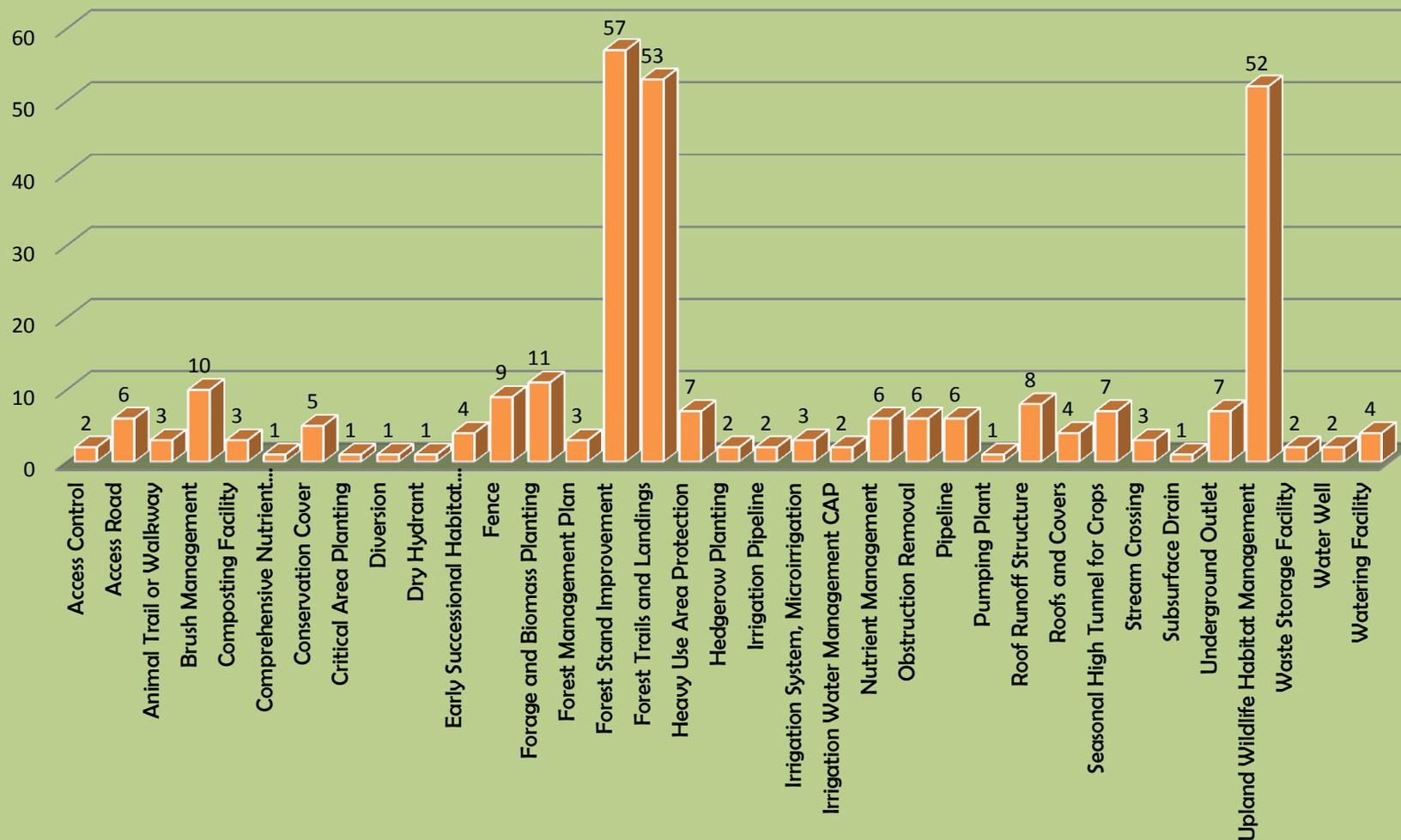
Program	Total Obligation
AMA 2008	\$ 37,068.00
EQIP 2008	\$ 2,322,323.14
WHIP 2008	\$ 121,490.00
Total	\$ 2,480,881.14

FY 2013 Contracts Obligated by Program and County

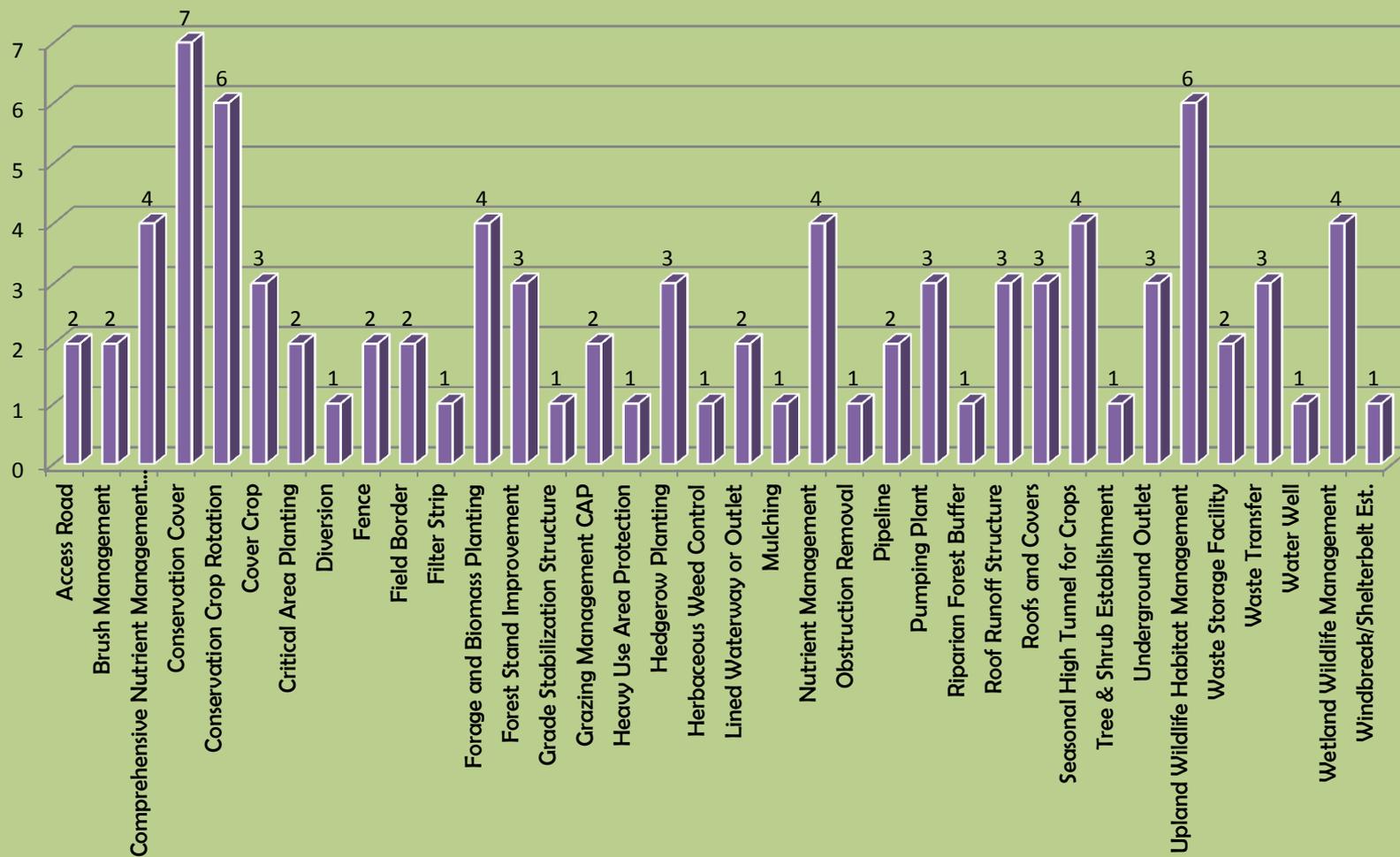


AMA 2008	EQIP 2008	WHIP 2008	Grand Total
9	122	3	134

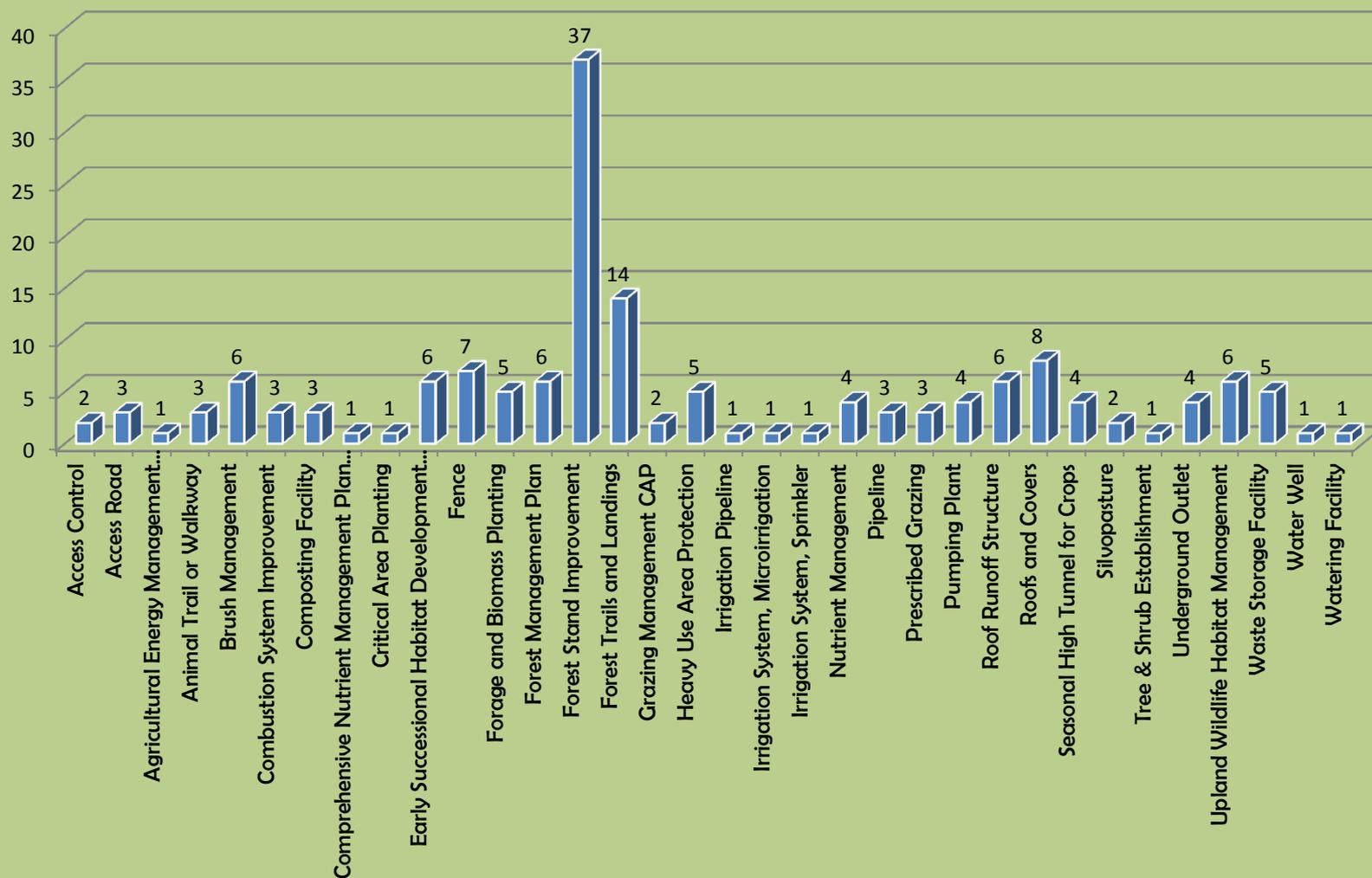
Providence County Practices Obligated FY2013



Bristol-Newport Counties Practices Obligated FY 2013



Kent-Washington Counties Practices Obligated FY 2013



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Update

- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.
- For 2013 we had two applications. We approved one new CIG project for a Commercial Scale Aquaponic Filtration System

Project Highlights

- Aquaponic is an innovative practice where aquaculture (fish) and hydroponic vegetables are grown in a close loop system. It is a system that allows nitrifying bacteria to convert fish wastes into soluble nutrients for plants to feed. The plants, therefore, clarifies the water that returns to the fish tank.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Update

Project Highlights Continued

- The goal of this Conservation Innovation Grant is to manage fish wastes created by a fish aquaculture production through two filtration systems for purification of the water.
- The grantee proposes to incorporate a swirl filter with a growbed as the first aquaponic filtration system and then test it against a biological filter.
- Systems will run together in stages to determine the difference in clarity and cleanliness of the water between them.
- The goal of this grant is to create a practice that can be used by aquacultural fish producers to treat fish waste and reduce water use.
- Resource concerns that will be addressed with these technologies include water quality and water quantity.

Local Workgroup Update



Results Local Work Group Meeting 8/27/2013

Application Period:

- Applications may be taken at any time. Ranking cut-off will be set by the State Office refer to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ri/programs> for more information

Funding Pools

State Fund Pools

Cropland
Forestry
Livestock
Pasture
Beginning Farmer
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer
Air Quality

EQIP

National Initiative Fund Pools

Conservation Activity Plans
Organic
Transition to Organic
Energy
Water Quality
High Tunnel
NY-NE Forest

AMA

**State Fund Pools; National
Cropland**

WHIP

National Initiative Fund Pools

NE Cottontail

Application Process

- Applications will be placed in a funding pool based upon the land use where the identified resource concern(s) will be treated. If the application contains multiple land uses, the application will be placed in the funding pool that covers the predominant cost of the application. Applicants may choose to apply in more than one funding pool (if applicable) if the practices in the applications can operate independently of each other. Applications in the Beginning Farmer or Socially Disadvantaged funding pools will contain all the practices being applied for.

Ranking:

- Scoring of all eligible applications will be done after the application ranking period has ended. Scoring of the applications will be done according to the scoring system posted on this webpage for the appropriate funding pool(s). Applications will be selected for plan development and contracting in ranked order according to the score as funds allow. In the event of a tie score, the assign tracking code feature in ProTracts (the NRCS) will assign random numbers to applications to be used as a tiebreaker.

Application Process

Priority Resource Concerns:

- The Rhode Island Local Working Group (LWG) determined the primary resource concern to be: Water Quality (EQIP ONLY)

Ranking Questions (Local Work Group)

- Review ranking questions from LWG (Distribute Questions)

What's Next?

The State Technical Committee should complete the following tasks:

- Discuss NB 300-13-24 Assisting Producers on Agricultural Operations under Marijuana Cultivation
- Are we offering any new State Initiatives? Example: Air Quality
- Select the State Priority Resource Concerns
- Develop or approve the State Ranking Questions

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a green field with several large, round hay bales scattered across it. In the middle ground, there are some trees and a body of water. The sky is blue with white, fluffy clouds.

Questions?

USDA Equal Opportunity Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).