

ST. JOHN VALLEY SWCD – NRCS
LOCAL WORKING GROUP SURVEY
FISCAL YEAR 2024 EQIP DELIVERY

NRCS Field Office Fort Kent

Participants: Larry Guimond Woodlot Owner, Beef Cattle Producer and Logger; James Caron - Woodlot Owner; Cheryl St. Peter - Camp Owner on Cross Lake; Kirk St. Peter - Camp Owner on Cross Lake; Kathy Hoppe - Maine DEP; Laura Audibert - Consulting Forester; Kirsten Thompson Maine DEP

Maine NRCS has simplified and consolidated local Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for 2024 into Maine Cropland, Maine Forestry and Maine Livestock Waste. NRCS is seeking guidance on funding percentages and ranking question points for these funding categories.

Notes from Working Group:

- Meeting started at 12:01 AM, 1/27/2023.
- DC Alex Zetterman reviewed the FY 22 allocated funding and FY 23 Projected Funding Allocation in corroboration with SWCD representative Jim Ridzon.
- DC informed those present about the incoming funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Laura Audibert suggested potential training for new High Tunnels owners.
- Kathy proposed using 319 money to clean out WASCBS
- Kathy mentioned using 319 money to clean out old sediment basins.
- Kirsten mentioned a potential for a UMFK greenhouse field day.
- Larry Guimond mentioned some issues with his stream crossing failing before their proposed end of life.
- After reviewing the Pools and Points, we elected to insert a provision that provides additional points to applicants who have failed to be funded after two applications. Those points were deducted from the existing pool items. See adjusted point totals.
- Percentage allocations remained the same as previous years.

FY 2024 Recommendations by Local Work Group Survey Participants:

Category	Percentage	Priority
Maine Livestock Waste	10	H
Maine Cropland	52	H
Maine Forestry	38	H
Total Percentage	100.00%	

2024 Local Ranking Questions for Cropland**Sum of questions for each category must add up to 190 points**

1. Will planned practices have a direct positive impact on documented water quality degradation by eliminating or reducing sediment entering a water body from a field or fields adjacent to the water body? 95 Points
2. Will multi-species cover crops be utilized in the conservation plan to address overall soil health issues (soil organic matter depletion, soil structure, water holding capacity)? 45 Points
3. Will planned practices substantially reduce sheet and rill erosion on the land unit as measured by RUSLE II or the Integrated Erosion Tool? 25 Points
4. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 25 Points

2024 Local Ranking Questions for Livestock Waste**Sum of questions for each category must add up to 190 points**

1. Does the application address water quality resource concerns from a livestock operation that has a direct connection through surface water flow to waters of the state (i.e. Perennial or intermittent water body)? 95 Points
2. Does the application assist the participant with managing nutrients from livestock waste on cropland, hay land or pastureland by extending the days of available manure storage as documented in the CNMP? 17 Points
3. Do planned practices in the application substantially reduce or eliminate contaminated surface water from leaving the farmstead area, as documented in the CNMP? 53 Points
4. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 25 Points

2024 Local Ranking Questions for Forestry**Sum of questions for each category must add up to 190 points**

1. Is Pct. 666 (Forest Stand Improvement) being utilized in the application to address structure AND composition in the stand as recommended by a licensed forester? 70 Points
2. Does the forestry prescription include a treatment to address forest health or reduce the risk of invasive insects, plants or pathogens? 25 Points

3. Does the application address resource concerns in a treatment area that includes softwood plantations, or sugar bush for maple syrup production? 30 Points
4. Does the application address soil erosion resource concerns associated with surface water quality degradation (i.e. Access roads, stream crossings, sediment deposition)? 40 Point
5. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 25 Points