

**ST. JOHN VALLEY SWCD – NRCS LOCAL  
WORKING GROUP SURVEY  
FISCAL YEAR 2025 EQIP DELIVERY**

**NRCS Fort Kent Field Office**

**Participants:** Bruce Pelletier - Potato Farmer; Kirsten Thompson - Maine DEP; Laura Audibert - Consulting Forester; Larry Guimond Woodlot Owner, and Logger; Duane Theriault- Potato Farmer; Bill Sheehan- Maine DEP.

Maine NRCS has simplified and consolidated local Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for 2025 into Cropland, Livestock waste, Pasture and Hayland, and Forestry and Wildlife. NRCS is seeking guidance on funding percentages and ranking question points for these funding categories.

**Notes from Working Group:**

- The meeting started at 1:01PM on 12/08/23.
- District Conservationist Alex Zetterman exemplified the purpose of the meeting, FY 2023 and FY 2024 allocated funding, and FY 2024 Application categories.
- DC Zetterman explains FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024 EQUIP, NWGI, CSP and AMA obligations.
- Larry Guimond asked about any practices or if there could be a practice for pruning trees along fields or access roads and constructing stream crossings. He also mentioned stream crossing failing before its proposed life span.
- DC Zetterman begins to review Local ranking question and the points within each question.
- Duane Theriault comments about the multi species cover crop on question 2 for cropland. He learned that different species have different diseases that can transfer into the potato crop, and that some fields would benefit from a single species cover crop.
- After reviewing the pools and points for each category we opted to change the points for certain questions. See below for adjusted points.
- The group also came up with questions and points for the two new categories, Cropland and Pasture and Hayland.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:15

**FY 2025 Local Fund Pool Final Recommendations**

Category	Percentage	Priority
Cropland	62%	H
Livestock Waste	14%	H
Pasture & Hayland	10%	H
Forestry and Wildlife	14%	H

## **2025 Local Ranking Questions for Cropland**

**The 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)? 20 Points  
**Changed from 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? 35 Points

**Changed from 25 points.**

4. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 40 Points

**Changed from 25 points.**

## **2025 Local Ranking Questions for Livestock Waste**

**The 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

## **2025 Local Ranking Questions for Forestry and Wildlife**

**The 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? 10 Points

**Changed from 25 points.**

3. Does the application address resource concerns in a treatment area that includes softwood stands or sugar bush for maple syrup production? 30 Points

**“Plantation” changed to “Stands.”**

4. Does the application address soil erosion resource concerns associated with surface water quality degradation (i.e. Access roads, stream crossings, sediment deposition)? 55 Point

**Changed from 40 points.**

5. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 25 Points

**2025 Local Ranking Questions for Pasture & Hayland**

**The 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 these applications planned practices address an invasive species concern? 25 points
3. Will this application contain delayed mowing around crop fields to address a upland bird habitat concern? 45 points
4. Has applicant failed to be successfully funded for 2 consecutive fiscal years? 25 Points