



Conservation Planning Interview

Client Name:

Client Telephone:

Property or Farm Name:

Client Email:

Client Mail Address:

Land Location County:

Town:

General Information

Please provide a short description of the farm enterprise.

If possible, please provide some history regarding past ownership of this farm or of any of the tracts you manage.

What are the objectives or goals for the farm enterprise?

If applicable, list other decision makers for the land and their involvement. (Include contact information.)

Is your farm a certified SFO?

YES **NO**

Has your farm been inspected by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture?

If yes, who was the inspector and can we get a copy of the inspection report?

Are you working with any other agencies or non-profits (UVM Extension, Conservation District, Vermont Land Trust, etc.)

Are you currently enrolled in any conservation programs, including easement programs? If yes, which?

Are there any conservation practices which have been installed on your farm recently?

Are there USDA Programs or conservation practices that you have heard about and/or are interested in?
If yes, please explain.

Are there existing resource concerns on your farm that you are aware of? (Examples: soil erosion, fields with small gullies that form annually, streambank erosion, water quality, invasive plants, poor habitat, etc. If yes, what are they and which of these concerns do you plan to address? Please locate areas of concern on a map)

Is your operation certified organic for land, or are you considering transition to organic production?

YES **NO**

Are wells/springs, either active or abandoned, located on the farm? If yes, please locate them on a map. Also, if applicable, provide information such as yield gallons per minute and who drilled well(s).

Do any wells or springs on or near the farm have documented water quality problems?

If yes, please explain. If well tests have been taken, what are the results?

Are you aware of any archeological or historic sites on or near your property? If yes, what sites and where are they located?

Do you know of any threatened, endangered or rare plant or animal species on or near your farm? If yes, what species and where are they located?

| | |
|--|---|
| Which fields have been subsurface drained? List under type below (refer to a farm map, locate major outlets and culvert locations) | |
| Random - targeted depressions/problem areas drained | Pattern - systematic, with regular spacing, with parallel field drains leading to main collector drain |
| Tract/Fields - | Tract/Fields - |

Does your property have utilities passing through it? If yes, what utilities and where are they located?

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|--|
| Cropland (Annual Crops and Hayland) |
|--|

How many acres are typically planted to (or needed) in the following crops:

| Corn (Silage): | Corn (Grain): | Hay / Legume (In crop rotations): | Hay / Legume (Permanent): | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | |

What are the average typical yields for these crops?

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
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Describe the typical cropping system you use including continuous annual crops, crop rotations and permanent hay/legume fields and identify the fields where they are used on a separate form or map as necessary.

How many hay cuttings are typical?

What tillage operations / implements are used on cropland?

YES **NO**

Do the average crop yields meet your goals? If no, please explain.

Do you suspect any fields may have a compaction problem (if yes, explain why, and which fields)?

Do you irrigate? If yes, identify fields receiving irrigation, and water source(s).

Are you following an approved nutrient management plan (meeting the NRCS standard)?

Do you use soil testing to determine nutrient application rates?

If yes, how often do you typically take soil samples? What laboratory do you use?

Do any fields receive manure? If yes, please answer the following questions regarding manure management:

Which fields receive manure, and explain where you get the manure and how manure is handled or stored on your farm, if applicable.

Do you have manure samples taken to determine nutrient content? If yes, how often?

Is manure applied in split applications? If yes, when?

What is the manure application rate on cropland (per acre/year)?

How soon is manure incorporated on cropland after spreading?

What is the manure application rate on hayland (per acre/year)?

Do you use off-farm soil amendments (Biosolids, Septage, Compost, Other)?

If yes, are you applying according to an approved current permit / plan from DEC?

What **commercial fertilizer(s)** do you typically use:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Formulation: | | | |
| Pounds purchased annually: | | | |

Where do you store commercial fertilizers, if applicable?

Do you apply **pesticides**?

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| List Pesticides currently used: | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|

If pesticides are custom applied, who is the custom applicator?

YES NO

Have you ever had complaints from neighbors or other problems associated with chemical drift?

If yes, please explain.

Do you maintain grassed buffers between cropland and streams/ditches? If yes, how wide?

Which fields have grassed buffers?

Do you maintain forested buffers between cropland and streams/ditches? If yes, how wide?

What management is currently used on existing buffers?

Do you have any fields which typically flood or pond water that limit land use and management?

If yes, which fields have problems?

Where are upright or bunker silos located on your farm, if applicable?

What happens to silage leachate? Describe any planned changes.

Have you ever had complaints from neighbors or other problems associated with farm related odors?

If yes, please explain.

Are stored or concentrated animal wastes or waste runoff entering streams, ditches or other water bodies?

If yes, where and when?

Wildlife

Do you have any goals or objectives for managing fish, wildlife or natural areas on your land?

If yes, what are your objectives, and where would you propose to do management? Locate areas on a map.

Do you have an existing wildlife management plan?

Are your wildlife management objectives, if any, currently being met? Describe:

Do you have any unused or idle fields, old orchards, low productivity forest stands, etc. on your land?

If yes, what management takes place on these areas (time and schedule of cuttings, release or pruning, etc.?)

Do you know of any rare natural communities or unique or important habitats on or near your land? Describe:

(Examples: clayplain forest, vernal pools or seeps, mast stands, cliffs or ledges, large cavity trees, softwood stands, thickets.)