

## 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.)

What type of distribution is associated with the majority of your produce/products (i.e. CSA-on-farm sales, Farmers Markets and other local markets within 25 miles, area wide markets within 50 miles, other markets beyond 50 miles such as Boston, New York, etc.) ?

**YES**      **NO**

Is your farm a certified SFO?

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

If so, 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)

Are there any existing plans to expand the land base? If yes, what are the plans?

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

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).

**YES**      **NO**

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)	
<b>Random</b> - targeted depressions/problem areas drained	<b>Pattern</b> - systematic, with regular spacing, with parallel field drains leading to main collector drain
<b>Tract/Fields</b> -	<b>Tract/Fields</b> -

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

<b>Cropland (Fruit and/or Vegetable Crops)</b>
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Please Indicate The Types Of Crops Being Grown And The Quantity Of Each:

Crop:				
Quantity:				

What tillage operations / implements are used on your cropland?

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

Do you use cover crops? If yes, what types of cover crops do you typically establish, on which fields and what is the management for the cover crop (establishment and termination dates, etc.)?

Do you use mulches? If yes, what types of mulch are used and on which fields or crops are they used?

Do you have an existing washwater disposal system in place? If yes, please describe the system.

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?

**YES**      **NO**

Do you apply compost, manure (or other organic soil additives)? If yes, please provide a synopsis regarding your compost or manure management (what kind, where and for how long do you store it, where do you obtain it, etc):

Where do you store commercial or approved organic fertilizers, if applicable?

Do you practice crop rotation for the purpose of managing pest problems? If yes, please explain.

Do you apply pesticides (synthetic and approved organic pesticides)?

List Pesticides currently used:			
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If pesticides are custom applied, who is the custom applicator and how is it applied?

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?  
Which fields have forested buffers?

What management is currently used on existing buffers?

**Wildlife**

*Note: If the customer has land other than fruit and vegetables cropland, ask the following:*

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 or 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.)