

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Maine Beginning Farmer

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Maine Beginning Farmer		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
[NOTE: Abbreviation Legend: ESA=Endangered Species Act; F= Forestry; P= Pasture; PC=Planning Criteria; T and E= Threatened and Endangered; W=Wildlife.] Answer EITHER 1a OR 1b, but NOT both, as applicable for this application.	
1. a SOIL – EROSION - Sheet and rill erosion (not F, W) is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b SOIL – EROSION - Sheet and rill erosion (not F, W) is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be reduced with proposed action? 3 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer ranking elements 2-21 as applicable for this application:	
2. SOIL – EROSION - Ephemeral gully erosion is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. SOIL – EROSION - Classic gully erosion is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. SOIL – EROSION - Streambank or Shoreline erosion is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Road or roadside erosion will be addressed with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION – Organic matter depletion is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION – Compaction (not W) is not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION– Concentration of chemicals (residual pesticides) are not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Inadequate outlets will be addressed with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Reduced storage of water bodies by sediment accumulation will be addressed with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. WATER QUALITY – Excessive nutrients in groundwater (not F, W) - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. WATER QUALITY – Excessive nutrients in surface water (not F) - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pathogens in groundwater (not F, W) - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pathogens in surface water (not F) - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pesticides in ground water - not at the PC at the benchmark	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	
16. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pesticides in surface water - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. WATER QUALITY – Excessive suspended sediment in surface water - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. WATER QUALITY – Harmful temperatures of surface water - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. AIR QUALITY – Objectionable odors (not F, W) - not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. AIR QUALITY – Emissions of Particulate Matter (reduced visibility)- not at the PC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. Fish and Wildlife - T and E species: Habitat for fish and wildlife species listed or proposed for listing under FEDERAL or STATE ESA will be improved/enhanced with proposed action? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Will the proposed project assist the producer in promoting diversity of tree age classes on the treated acres? (314-Increase except for Brush Hog scenario-Decrease; 394-Decrease; 391-Increase; 612-Increase; 666-Increase except for Crop/Mast scenario-Maintain and except for Patch Cut scenario-Decrease; 647-Decrease) Answer ONLY ONE of 22a, 22b, or 22c:	
22. a. Increase diversity by one or more distinct age classes. 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. b. Maintain diversity. 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. c. Decrease diversity. 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Answer ONLY ONE of 1a or 1b:	
1. a. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less. 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within three years. 5 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer ranking elements 2 - 8 as applicable for this application:	
2. Soil Condition: EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 590-Nutrient Management to FOTG planning criteria for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments. 40 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Soil Erosion: EQIP plan includes practices which will result in measurable reduction of erosion from ALL sources OR participant has already addressed all erosion problems to FOTG planning criteria standards. 40 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Water Quality: EQIP plan includes practices that will result in reduction of non-point source pollution (e.g., nutrients, pesticides, sediment) leaving the treatment unit to FOTG planning criteria standards. 40 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Water Quality: EQIP plan includes practices that will manage excess surface water discharge from the treatment unit to an impaired water body (e.g. EPA 303d list, etc.) to FOTG planning criteria standards. 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Plant Condition: EQIP plan includes practices which will result in management of vegetation and surface residues to FOTG planning criteria standards. 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Domestic Animals: EQIP plan includes implementation of practices to assure adequate clean off-stream domestic livestock drinking water sources are available in the treatment unit and meets FOTG planning criteria standards. 40 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Are the land units being offered in the application included in a verifiable third-party forest certification system, such as the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or a Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: