

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

New England Cottontail

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> New England Cottontail		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

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"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<b>1. SPECIES PRESENCE</b>	
1. 1.a. Is there credible verification of species occurrence (i.e. photos, Heritage Database, FWS, NRCS or Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife documentation)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. 1.b. Based upon available species occurrence data and information, can the target species reasonably be assumed to occur within the offered area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>2. DISTANCE TO KNOWN POPULATIONS (Note: NRCS will respect privacy of adjacent landowners.)</b>	
2. 2.a. The offered area shares a common border with an area with known populations of the target species.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.b. The offered area is proximal to an area with known populations of the target species. Proximal means within the accepted normal species dispersal ability.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>3. FOCAL AREA</b>	
3. 3.a. Will 75% or more of the practices be located within the "Focal Area"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>1. PATCH SIZE - (Answer only one of the following)</b>	
1. 1.a. Is the patch being created 12 contiguous acres or larger?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. 1.b. Is the patch being created 6 contiguous acres or larger?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. 1.c. Is the patch being created < 6 contiguous acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>2. PATCH LOCATION</b>	
2. 2.a. Is the patch being created/managed located adjacent to other New England Cottontail (NEC) habitat, within dispersal distance of other NEC habitat, or adjacent to NEC dispersal corridors such as shrubby power lines, train tracks, shrub wetlands, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>3. HABITAT PERSISTENCE - (Answer only one of the following)</b>	
3. 3.a. Is the proposed project area designated as open space in perpetuity?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.b. Is the proposed project area designated as open space for a limited time?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.c. The proposed project area is not designated as open space.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>4. BUSINESS LINES</b>	
4. 4.a. Leveraging other financial assistance through conservation partnerships?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.b. The applicant has failed to implement past AMA, EQIP or WHIP contracts: >= 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

4. 4.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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**Land Use:**

<b>Resource Concerns</b>	<b>Practices</b>
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**Ranking Score**

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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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:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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