

## Connecticut ACEP-ALE Ranking 2019

NRCS completes ranking

County	Parcel Acres	Parcel Name
<b>National Subtotal</b>	<b>State Subtotal</b>	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>

### National Criteria

- Percent of Prime, Statewide Important and Local Important Farmland Soils in the parcel

Soils	Acres	%	Scale	Points
Prime			2	
Statewide			1	
Local			0.25	
<b>Total</b>				<b>*.325</b>

- Percent of cropland, pastureland or grassland in parcel

% in Parcel	Scale
100	10
80	8
33	3.3
<3.3%	0

- Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel offered to average farm size in county  
According to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (2017)

County	Avg Farm Size (acres)
Fairfield	130
Hartford	61
Litchfield	74
Middlesex	37
New Haven	39
New London	73
Tolland	69
Windham	80

4. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farmland in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (2017 – 2010)

<i>County</i>	<i>% Decrease</i>	<i>Points</i>
Fairfield	0	0
Hartford	0	0
Litchfield	0	0
Middlesex	2	0
New Haven	4	2
New London	0	0
Tolland	2	0
Windham	0	0

5. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the US Census (2012-2017): CT=.4%

<i>County</i>	<i>%Growth</i>	<i>Points</i>
Fairfield	3.6	5
Hartford	0	0
Litchfield	0	0
Middlesex	0	0
New Haven	0	0
New London	0	0
Tolland	0	0
Windham	0	0

6. Population density as documented by the US Census (2017). CT = 738

<i>County</i>	<i>Density</i>	<i>Points</i>
Fairfield	1516	5
Hartford	1221	5
Litchfield	200	0
Middlesex	420	0
New Haven	1426	5
New London	407	0
Tolland	372	0
Windham	231	0

7. Farm Succession Plan to Address Farm Viability

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Points</i>
Succession or similar plan exists	5
No Plan	0

8. Proximity of the Parcel to other Protected Land

<i>Protected Acres</i>	<i>Points</i>	
>400 ac	15	Acres
200-400 ac	10	
50-200 ac	5	
< 50 ac	0	

9. Proximity to Other Agriculture

<i>Farmland Acres</i>	<i>Points</i>	
>700 acres	15	Acres
401-700 acres	10	
101-400 acres	5	
<100 acres	0	

10. Parcel Expands Contiguous Acres of Protected Farmland

<i>Links protected areas</i>	<i>Points</i>
Links two noncontiguous parcels of protected ag.	10
Expands protected ag.	7
Does not increase protected area	0

11. Parcel currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to retire within a year.

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Points</i>
Currently enrolled	5
Not enrolled	0

12. Grassland Protection

<i>Grassland</i>	<i>Points</i>
Grassland benefits from protection	5
No grassland benefits	0

**National Subtotal**

## State Criteria

13. Landowner has a Current Conservation Plan

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Points</i>
Current Conservation Plan	10
No conservation plan	0

14. Parcel Contains Habitat for Species of Interest

<i>Species</i>	<i>Points</i>
Species list on NDDDB	10
No species listed	0

15. Parcel Provides Diversity of Natural Resources  
Protection, Concern or Environmental Value:

<i>Special Concern</i>	<i>Points</i>
Scenic road or Greenway	9
Public water supply watershed	7
Aquifer protection area	7
Flood storage	7

16. Locally identified Unique Agricultural Region

<i>Ag Community</i>	<i>Points</i>
Within Connecticut River Valley (MLRA 145)	20
Within a National Water Quality Initiative Watershed	15
Within a USDA ERS Food Desert Area (+1.5m)	15
Within 10 mi urban center (Census)	10
None of the above	0

17. Parcel is located in an area appropriate for agricultural use.

<i>% Compatible</i>	<i>Points</i>
>75%	20
25 to 74%	10
<25%	0

18. Parcel contains high value farmland soils

<i>Viable area</i>	<i>Points</i>
Parcel contains greater than 75% Prime and Statewide Important Farmland Soils	35
Parcel contains 65-75%	25

19. Parcel acres currently in land based agricultural production

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Points</i>
Parcel contains great than 75 ac	30
Parcel contains 50-75 ac	20
Parcel contains 10-25 ac	10
Parcel contains less than 10 ac	0

20. Parcel contains registered historical or archeological resources

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Points</i>
Registered historical or archaeological resources	5
No resources	0

**State Subtotal**

# Connecticut Ranking System for ACEP-ALE Proposals 2019

*(NRCS Completes Parcel Ranking)*

National criteria score (50 %) + State criteria score (50 %) = Total Score (400 points)

## National Criteria

**1. Percent of Parcel that Contains Prime, Statewide Important and Local Important Farmland Soils to be Protected**

*65 points maximum*

Those parcels that have the most productive soils will receive a higher score than those that do not. The percent of each type of farmland soils will be weighted. Prime soils are weighted by 2, statewide important by 1, and local important by .25.

**2. Percent of Cropland, Pastureland, or Grassland in Total Parcel to be Protected**

*55 points maximum*

Applications that are predominantly crop/hay/pasture land will receive a higher score than applications with components of forestland, wetland, and other land types. The sum of the percentages in the parcel is the factor scale used for ranking (e.g., if 84% of parcel is devoted to cropland, hay land, and pastureland = factor scale of 84). Parcels containing < 33% are not a good fit for ACEP-ALE funding and will receive a factor scale of 0.

**3. Ratio of the Total Acres of Land in the Parcel to be Protected to the Average Farm Size in the County**

*5 point maximum*

Average farm size in a county is based on the most recent (2012) USDA Census of Agriculture. The table provided displays the average farm size by county. A factor scale of 5 is given for ratios of 2 and greater; a factor scale of 2 is given for ratios between 1 and 2; a factor scale of 0 is given for ratios of 1 or less.

**4. Decrease in the Percentage of Acreage of Farmland in the County in Which the Parcel is Located Based on the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (2007-2012)**

*5 point maximum*

The table provided displays the percent decrease in farmland acreage by county. A factor scale of 5 is given for 7% or greater decrease; a factor scale of 2 is given for 3 to 7% decrease; and a factor scale of 0 is given for no decrease in county farmland acreage.

**5. Percent Population Growth in the County as Documented by the 2010 USCensus**

*5 point maximum*

The average population growth for Connecticut during this time was 4.9%. The table provided displays the percent population growth by county. 0 points for less than state growth, 3 points for between 1 and 2 times the state growth, 5 points for 2 times more than the state growth.

**6. Population Density as Documented by the 2010 USCensus**

*5 point maximum*

The average population density for Connecticut during this time was 738 persons per square mile. The table provided displays the population density by county. 0 points for less than state density, 5 for more than state density.

**7. Existence of Farm Succession Plan**

*10 point maximum*

The existence of a documented farm succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations as documented on CP-41A.

**8. Proximity of the Parcel to Other Protected Land**

*10 point maximum*

The amount of permanently protected land that is within 1 mile of the parcel. The parcel is benefited by other public and/or private efforts aimed at protecting farmland/open space and minimizing the potential for incompatible development in an agricultural area.

**9. Proximity to Other Agriculture**

*15 point maximum*

Farmland that is part of an agricultural community is more likely to be actively farmed. Amount of agriculture acres within 1 mile.

**10. Parcel Expands Contiguous Acres**

*5 point maximum*

The parcel's ability to maximize the protection of contiguous protected acres devoted to agricultural and/or protected open space use by expanding areas or joining non-contiguous areas.

**11. Parcel Enrolled in CRP**

*5 point maximum*

Currently enrolled in CRP in a contract that is set to expire within a year.

**12. Grassland Protection**

*5 point maximum*

The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.

**State Criteria Factors**

**13. Landowner has a Current Conservation Plan**

*10 point maximum*

The landowner has a conservation plan addressing soil, water, plant, animal, and other resource concerns. The conservation plan accurately reflects the current operation/management of the parcel (within 5 years).

**14. Parcel Contains Habitat for Species of Interest**

*10 point maximum*

Parcel contains Threatened, Endangered, or Species of Special Concern listed in the state Natural Diversity Database.

**15. Parcel Provides Diversity of Natural Resource Protection**

*30 point maximum*

Parcel contains, borders, or directly influences environmentally sensitive areas or has important ecological functions and values. Points are assigned based on various resources, state scenic road designation (9), public water supply watershed (7), ground water recharge zones (7), or flood storage areas greater than 5 ac. (7).

**16. Parcel is in a Locally Identified Unique Agricultural Region**

*60 point maximum*

Parcels within Connecticut River Valley (Major Land Resource Area 145) – 20 points

Parcels within a USGS urban center – 10 points

Parcel within a National Water Quality Initiative watershed – 15 points

Parcel is within USDA ERS Food Desert area (+1.5 miles) – 15 points

**17. Parcel is Located in an Area Appropriate for Agricultural Use**

*20 point maximum*

The percent compatible land uses adjacent to the parcel measured along the parcel boundary.

Adjacent uses can directly impact many aspects of the farming operation. 20 points >75%,

10 points 25- 75%, 0 points <25%. Incompatible land uses include urban, suburban, schools, and others.

**18. Parcel Contains High Value Farmland Soils**

*35 point maximum*

The parcel has greater than 75% Prime and Statewide Important Farmland Soils – 35 points

Parcel has 65-75 % – 25 points

**19. Parcel Acres Currently in Land Based Agricultural Production**

*30 point maximum*

*The parcel is currently in land based crop and/or pasture.*

> 75 ac – 30 points

50-75 ac – 20 points

10-25 ac – 10 points

< 10 ac – 0 points

**20. Parcel Contains Historical or Archaeological Resources**

*5 point maximum*

The parcel contains registered/documented national/state historic or cultural or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area.