

CONNECTICUT NRCS  
FY 2020 RANKING POOL  
EQIP: BEGINNING FARMER

Land Use
Crop
Forest
Pasture
Farmstead
Associated
Ag land

Ranking Weights	
Factors	Weight in Ranking Pool
Vulnerability	30%
Planned Practice Effects	20%
Resource Priorities	20%
Program Priorities	20%
Efficiencies	10%

Practices
All CT FY20 EQIP Practices

Resource Concerns Categories and Weighted Vulnerability Consideration	
Resource Concern Category	%
Air quality emissions	5
Aquatic habitat	5
Concentrated erosion	10
Degraded plant condition	5
Field pesticide loss	5
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	5
Fire management	5
Inefficient energy use	5
Livestock production limitation	5
Pest pressure	5
Salt losses to water	5
Soil quality limitations	5
Source water depletion	10
Storage and handling of pollutants	5
Terrestrial habitat	5
Weather resilience	5
Wind and water erosion	10

**SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Question Type	Section	Question Text	Choices	Points	Total Possible Points	Condition	Land Uses
Applicability	n/a	Did the applicant self-certify as a Beginning Farmer on the NRCS-CPA-1200, "Conservation Program Application"?	Yes No	N/A	N/A		All
Category	n/a	Is the application in Connecticut?	Yes No	N/A	N/A		All
Program Questions	n/a	Does the applicant meet the NRCS definition of a veteran farmer or rancher?	Yes No	20 0	20		All
	n/a	Is the applicant currently in compliance with all existing contracts or will this be the first contract for the applicant?	Yes No - participant has current CPA-153	50 -50	50		All
	n/a	Has the applicant had any contract terminations within their control?	Yes No - no terminations for cause N/A -- no prior contracts completed	-50 25 0	25		All
	n/a	Is the applicant following all Operation and Maintenance for all practices that are still within their lifespan on any existing contract?	Yes No N/A --1st contract, or all practices are beyond their lifespan	25 -25 0	25		All
	n/a	Will the application address Wildlife Habitat by implementing Core wildlife practices?	Yes No	40 0	40		All
	n/a	Will other Federal, State or Local financial resources be leveraged to assist with the implementation of this project?	Yes No	40 0	40		All
	n/a	Is this application located in a Source Water Protection Area	Yes No	NA	0		All
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE PROGRAM POINTS (20% of Total Score)</b>					<b>200</b>		
Resource Questions	Cropland	Will the practices in the application include one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc. as part of a Soil Health System?	More than 2 practices 2 practices 1 or 0 practice N/A - soil health not a resource concern	25 10 0 0	25		Crop

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Resource Questions (continued)	Cropland	Does practice schedule include practices necessary to support a new OR existing High Tunnel System (325), in order to manage concentrated flow from the High Tunnel(s). Practices could include 342, Critical Area Planting; 412, Grassed Waterway; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet; or 362 Diversion.	Yes No	5 0	5		Crop
	Cropland	Are the practices in the application part of an Irrigation Water Management Plan that results in a minimum reduction of water use of 35%?	Yes No	5 0	5		Crop
	Cropland	Will the practices in the application assist the producer to implement a Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS specifications for applying fertilizer according to June Nitrate testing?	Yes No	5 0	5		Crop
	Cropland	Are there currently direct point-source discharges from the planned land units to surface water, and will planned practices eliminate all of these discharges?	Yes - The planned practices will eliminate all direct point-source discharges from the planned land units No - there will still be direct point-source discharges N/A - there are no direct point-source discharges	25 -10 0	25		Crop Farmstead
	Forest	Will the practices in the application address Forest Health through thinning (666) to meet objectives identified in FMP?	Yes No N/A -- stand not overstocked or no forestland in assessment	10 0 0	10		Forest AAL
	Forest	Will the practices in the application address ALL invasive species identified in the participant's forest management plan where the plan identifies the potential for successful control and/or containment?	Yes No N/A --no invasive plants identified, control not feasible or no forestland in assessment	10 0 0	10		Forest AAL
	Forest	Will the practices in the application restore sensitive areas by relocating poorly sited roads or trails using 655 Forest Trails and Landings AND 654 Road, Trail, Landing Closure?	Yes No N/A -- no poorly sited roads/trails identified in FMP or no forestland in assessment	10 0 0	10		Forest AAL
	Pasture	Will the practices in the application result in an overall improvement in the Pasture Condition Score when comparing current condition to planned condition with installed practices.	PCS improve by >25 Pts PCS improve by 10-24 Pts PCS improve < 10 Pts N/A	25 5 0 0	25		Pasture
	Pasture	What percent of the grazing needs (as determined in a grazing management plan) will be met by the land in the application?	100% of livestock needs 75 -99.9% of livestock needs 50-74.9% of livestock needs <50% of livestock needs N/A	40 20 10 0 0	40		Pasture
	All Land Uses	Will the practices in this contract directly benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP Natural Diversity Database?	Yes No	10 0	10		All
	All Land Uses	Does the Schedule of Operations include planting practices that will add native wildlife beneficial plant species?	Yes No	5 0	5		All
	All Land Uses	Is this application located in a Source Water Protection Area and does the schedule of operations contain practices that address Water Quality or Water Quantity?	Yes No N/A - land is not in SWP area	25 0 0	25	program question re. Source Water	All
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE RESOURCE POINTS (20% of Total Score)</b>					<b>200</b>		