

Fiscal Year 2019 Program allocations and obligation overview

The table below shows our FAPD program allocations and obligations as of the end of the fiscal year:

Program	Allocation	Obligation	% Obligated	Remaining
EQIP	\$4,003,750.00	\$3,594,617.09	89.78%	\$409,132.91
AMA	\$218,100.00	\$216,769.00	99.39%	\$1,331.00
CSP	\$71,000.00	\$9,702.00	13.66%	\$61,298.00
CSP-GCI	\$134,000.00	\$75,970.00	56.69%	\$58,030.00
RCPP-EQIP	---	\$10,567.00	---	---
Total	\$4,426,850.00	\$3,907,625.09	88.27%	\$519,224.91

2019 EQIP Funds		Applications Selected for Funding										Funding Balance	
State Accounts: MA	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1 Dec 4	Round #2 March 15	Round #3 April 19	Round #4 May 17	Round #5 June 21	Round #6 July 19	Round #7	Round #8	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
EQIP General FA	\$4,003,750	100.00%									\$3,622,014	90.47%	\$381,736
Conservation Activity Plans		0.00%	\$50,604	\$8,171	\$13,153	\$43,814					\$115,742	2.89%	
Cropland		0.00%		\$44,374	\$298,254	\$183,838					\$526,466	13.15%	
Drought Mitigation		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Forestland		0.00%	\$295,492	\$190,604	\$98,966						\$289,570	7.23%	
High Tunnel		0.00%		\$168,760	\$379,254						\$843,506	21.07%	
Livestock		0.00%		\$209,441	\$55,012	\$15,551					\$280,004	6.99%	
Soil Health & Buffers		0.00%		\$76,497	\$76,246	\$472,688					\$625,431	15.62%	
Wildlife Habitat		0.00%		\$282,476	\$217,937						\$500,413	12.50%	
HU - Beginning Farmer		0.00%		\$91,751	\$52,475	\$35,112					\$179,338	4.48%	
HU - Indian, Tribal		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
HU - Limited Resource		0.00%		\$13,534							\$13,534	0.34%	
HU - Socially Disadvantaged		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
FY 19 On Farm Energy-CAPS		0.00%	\$4,821	\$1,928	\$1,607						\$8,356	0.21%	
FY19 On-Farm Energy		0.00%	\$41,514.00	\$0							\$41,514	1.04%	
FY19 Organic Certified		0.00%			\$5,329						\$5,329	0.13%	
FY19 Organic Transition		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
New England Cottontail	\$50,000	1.25%		\$51,640	\$23,199						\$74,839	1.87%	
Northeast Turtles		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Palmer River Watershed	\$500,000	12.49%					\$117,972				\$117,972	2.95%	\$382,028
Totals		0.00%	\$392,431	\$1,139,176	\$1,221,432	\$751,003	\$117,972	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,622,014	90.47%	\$381,736
Livestock (>50% nat'l)	\$1,200,000	30.0%	\$0	\$209,441	\$55,012	\$15,551	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$280,004	7.0%	
HU (>10% state)	\$450,000	11.2%	\$0	\$91,751	\$52,475	\$35,112	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$179,338	4.5%	
Wildlife (>10% state)	\$450,000	11.2%	\$0	\$334,116	\$241,136	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$575,252	14.4%	

2019 EQIP Funds		Applications Selected for Funding										Funding Balance	
State Accounts: MA	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1	Round #2	Round #3	Round #4	Round #5	Round #6	Round #7	Round #8	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
EQIP General FA	\$4,003,750	100.00%									\$3,622,014	90.47%	\$381,736
Barnstable		4.33%	\$0	\$0	\$173,451	\$131,222					\$662,217	16.54%	
Berkshire		16.54%	\$21,749	\$331,201	\$199,794	\$28,393	\$117,972				\$258,347	6.45%	
Bristol		6.45%	\$24,383	\$91,751	\$90,233						\$116,134	2.90%	
Dukes		2.90%	\$12,212	\$21,721	\$20,392	\$58,821					\$113,146	2.83%	
Essex		2.83%	\$23,972	\$176,379	\$50,772	\$108,409					\$359,532	8.98%	
Franklin		8.98%	\$2,970	\$46,387	\$46,387	\$103,042					\$152,399	3.81%	
Hampden		3.81%	\$223,480	\$89,353	\$340,702	\$137,171					\$790,706	19.75%	
Hampshire		19.75%	\$10,196	\$40,045	\$44,558	\$6,740					\$101,539	2.54%	
Middlesex		2.54%	\$18,144	\$8,480		\$17,711					\$35,855	0.90%	
Nantucket		0.00%	\$12,212	\$49,618	\$133,830	\$58,121					\$8,480	0.21%	
Norfolk		0.90%	\$43,113	\$330,628	\$121,313	\$101,373					\$253,781	6.34%	
Suffolk		6.34%	\$392,431	\$1,139,176	\$1,221,432	\$751,003	\$117,972	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$596,427	14.90%	
Plymouth		14.90%									\$0	0.00%	
Worcester		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Totals		90.47%	\$392,431	\$1,139,176	\$1,221,432	\$751,003	\$117,972	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,622,014	90.47%	\$381,736

2019 AMA Funds		Applications Selected for Funding										Funding Balance	
State Accounts: MA	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1 May 17	Round #2 June 21	Round #3	Round #4	Round #5	Round #6	Round #7	Round #8	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
AMA General FA	\$218,100	100.00%	\$47,889	\$53,801	\$116,317						\$218,007	99.96%	\$93
Cropland-Drought Mitigation		0.00%									\$218,007	99.96%	
Totals		0.00%	\$47,889	\$53,801	\$116,317	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$218,007	99.96%	\$93
2019 AMA Funds		Applications Selected for Funding										Funding Balance	
State Accounts: MA	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1	Round #2	Round #3	Round #4	Round #5	Round #6	Round #7	Round #8	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
Countryside	\$218,100	100.00%	\$30,330	\$26,938	\$16,806	\$26,239					\$218,008	99.96%	\$92
Barnstable		13.91%									\$30,330	13.91%	
Berkshire		20.06%	\$10,057	\$5,128	\$16,806	\$26,239					\$43,744	20.06%	
Bristol		16.64%									\$36,296	16.64%	
Dukes		2.35%									\$5,128	2.35%	
Essex		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Franklin		3.44%	\$7,503								\$7,503	3.44%	
Hampden		16.80%			\$36,636						\$36,636	16.80%	
Hampshire		5.60%			\$12,212						\$12,212	5.60%	
Middlesex		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Nantucket		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Norfolk		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Suffolk		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Plymouth		21.16%		\$21,735	\$24,424						\$46,159	21.16%	
Worcester		0.00%									\$0	0.00%	
Totals	\$218,007	99.96%	\$47,890	\$53,801	\$116,317	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$218,008	99.96%	
2019 AMA Funds		Applications Selected for Funding										Funding Balance	
Area	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1	Round #2	Round #3	Round #4	Round #5	Round #6	Round #7	Round #8	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
West	\$218,100	100.00%	\$7,503	\$26,938	\$65,654						\$100,095	45.89%	\$92
Central		0.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0						\$0	0.00%	
Southeast		54.06%	\$40,387	\$26,863	\$50,663						\$117,913	54.06%	
Totals		99.96%	\$47,890	\$53,801	\$116,317						\$218,008	99.96%	

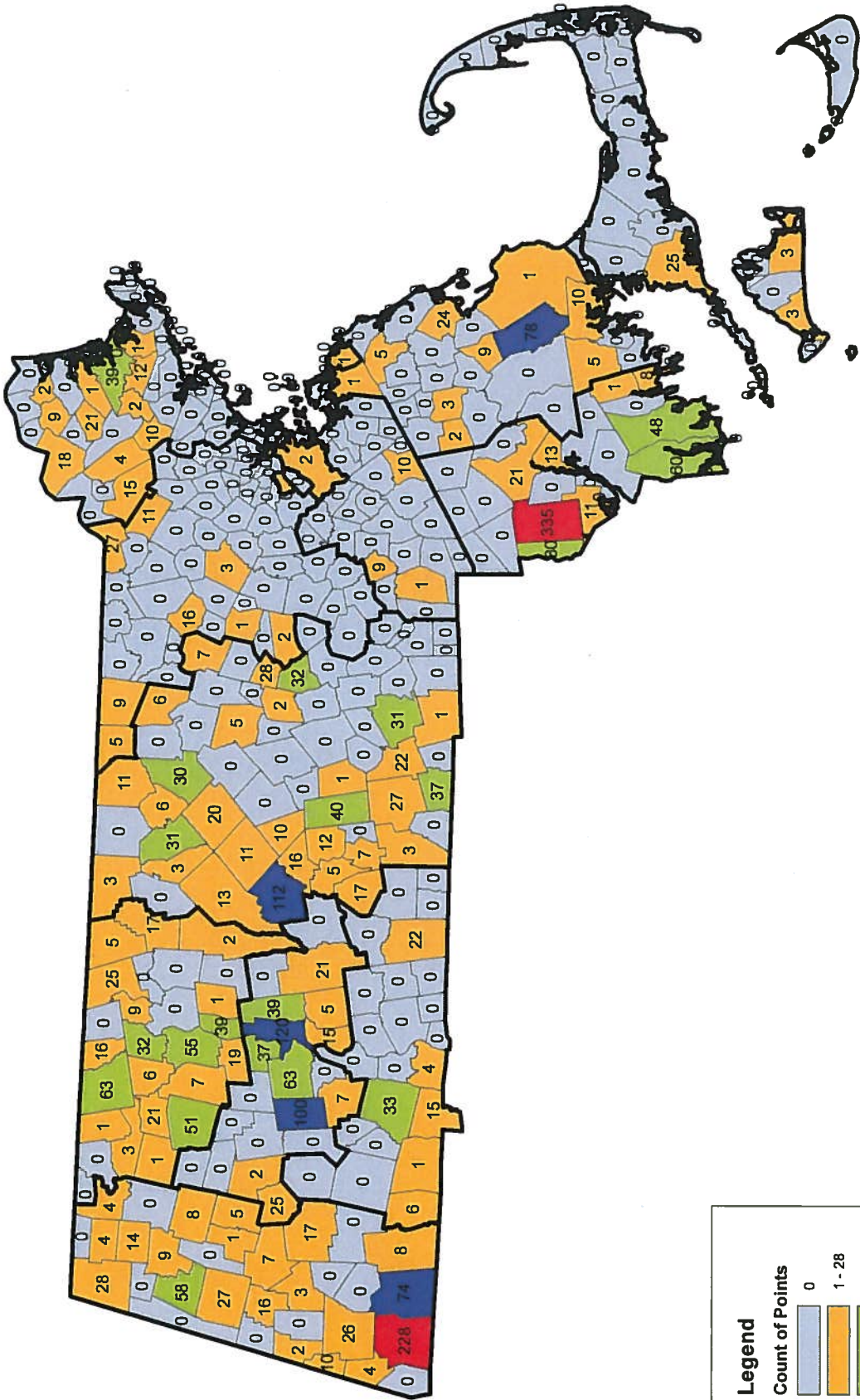
State Accounts: MA CSP - GCI General FA	2019 CSP - GCI Funds		Applications Selected for Funding		Funding Balance		
	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1 Aug 2	Round #2	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
	\$134,000	100.00%	\$77,409		\$77,409	57.77%	\$56,591
		0.00%			\$77,409	57.77%	
		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
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		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Totals		0.00%	\$77,409	\$0	\$77,409	57.77%	\$56,591

State Accounts: MA Counties	2019 CSP - GCI Funds		Applications Selected for Funding		Funding Balance		
	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1	Round #2	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
Barnstable		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Berkshire		16.59%	\$22,230		\$22,230	16.59%	
Bristol		4.08%	\$5,470		\$5,470	4.08%	
Dukes		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Essex		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Franklin		6.68%	\$8,950		\$8,950	6.68%	
Hampden		0.53%	\$705		\$705	0.53%	
Hampshire		1.75%	\$2,340		\$2,340	1.75%	
Middlesex		1.47%	\$1,965		\$1,965	1.47%	
Nantucket		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Norfolk		0.55%	\$740		\$740	0.55%	
Suffolk		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Plymouth		0.00%			\$0	0.00%	
Worcester		26.13%	\$35,009		\$35,009	26.13%	
Totals		57.77%	\$77,409	\$0	\$77,409	57.77%	\$56,591

State Accounts: MA Area	2019 CSP - GCI Funds		Applications Selected for Funding		Funding Balance		
	Current Allocation	% Total	Round #1	Round #2	Total Obligations	% Total	Balance Available
West		25.54%	\$34,225	\$0	\$34,225	25.54%	
Central		27.59%	\$36,974	\$0	\$36,974	27.59%	
Southeast		4.63%	\$6,210	\$0	\$6,210	4.63%	
Totals		57.77%	\$77,409	\$0	\$77,409	57.77%	\$56,591



Conservation Practices Obligated in Fiscal Year 2019



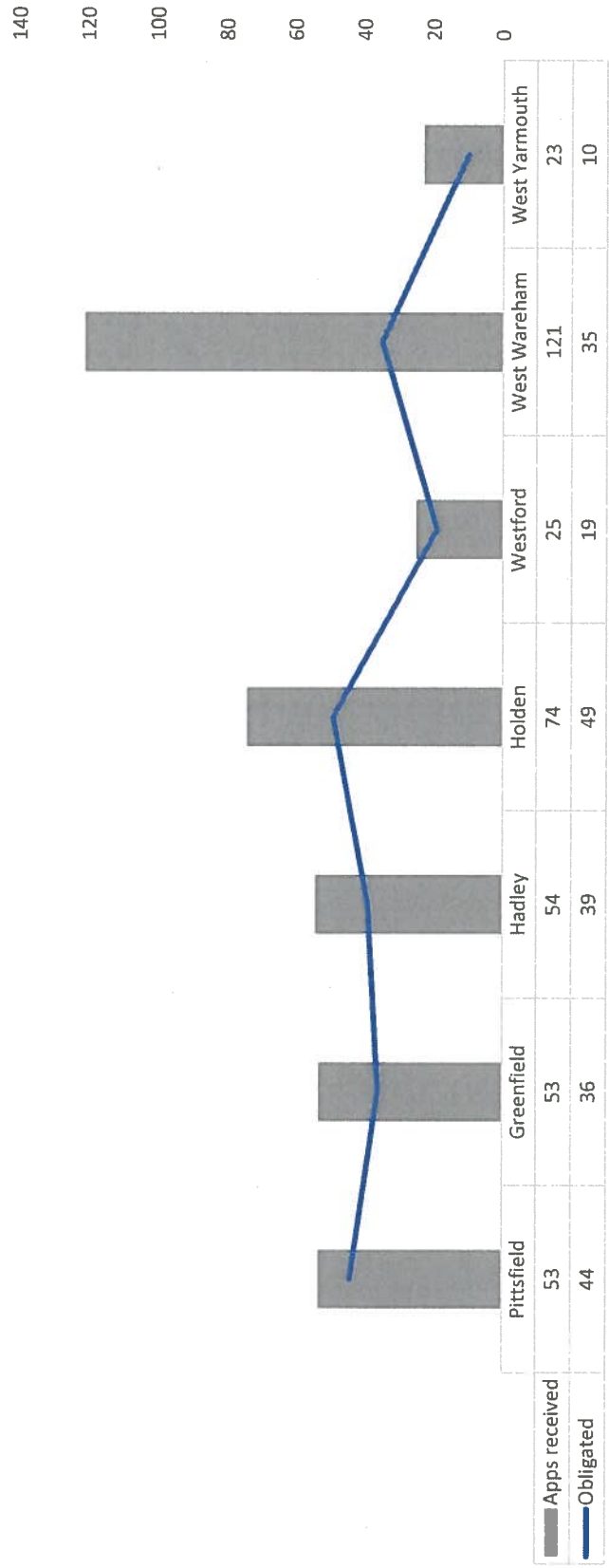
Legend

Count of Points

- 0
- 1 - 28
- 29 - 63
- 64 - 120
- 121 - 335

Developed by: Daniel Tighe, USDA-NRCS

FY 19 Applications Recieved Vs. Funded





PROGRAMS

NRCS OF THE FUTURE: IMPROVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Streamlining our Processes and Program Delivery to Better Serve Customers

Top 10 Highlights of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) interim rule and policy manual update

For nearly two years, NRCS employees have worked diligently to streamline workflows and improve customer service under the NRCS of the Future (NOTF) framework. In alignment with Chief Lohr's priority to increase field office effectiveness through integration of conservation planning and program delivery, the NOTF effort has created methods to streamline internal agency work processes.

As conservation program rules are released, the NOTF leaders are showcasing program streamlining efforts and other critical program changes through highlighting the "Top Ten" updates for each program.

Several weeks ago, NRCS released the Conservation Stewardship Program's interim final rule and policy updates' Top 10 improvements. This week, we'll take a look at the [recently released EQIP interim rule](#) and its associated changes.

EQIP Top 10 Updates:

1. Expanding EQIP's purposes to include new or expected resource concerns; adapting to, and mitigating against, increasing weather volatility; and addressing drought resiliency measures.
2. Allowing for progressive implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
3. Requiring NRCS to offer an advance payment option for historically underserved producers.
4. Raising the payment cap for producers participating in the Organic Initiative to \$140,000 and removing the annual payment limitation for contracts entered into between fiscal years 2019 through 2023.
5. Creating 5-10-year incentive contracts, which address up to three priority resource concerns within targeted watersheds and other State high-priority landscapes.
6. Enabling increased payments for priority practices, through which NRCS can designate up to 10 practices in each State to receive the higher rates.

7. Incorporating an EQIP pre-obligation checklist and significantly streamlining the checklist to only include critical items that are not automated.
8. Significantly streamlining the “EQIP Planning” section of EQIP policy, formerly called “Schedule of Operations”, to focus on establishing general criteria for eligible practices and activities instead of addressing individual practices.
9. Updating policy to reflect statutory changes to the veteran farmer or rancher (VFR) definition and developing new policy for providing veteran preference through awarding ranking points for VFRs who compete in the beginning farmer or rancher or socially disadvantaged producer ranking pools.
10. Expanding the Conservation Innovation Grant program, funded through EQIP, to include opportunities for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials and Soil Health Demonstration Trials.

NRCS adopted measures across EQIP and CSP to coordinate the two programs' operations, improving overall customer service and simplifying field operations.

Stay tuned as we will feature additional highlights on streamlining efforts that improve our program delivery by simplifying the way we implement the business of conservation.



PROGRAMS

Streamlining our Processes and Program Delivery to Better Serve Customers

Top Ten Highlights of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) interim final rule and policy manual update

Over the last year and half, NRCS employees have worked diligently to streamline workflows and improve customer service. In alignment with Chief Lohr's priority to integrate conservation planning and program delivery into a seamless business process to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of field office operations, the NRCS of the Future (NOTF) effort has led to the creation of methods to streamline internal work processes.

In the coming weeks, as conservation program rules are released, the leaders of NOTF will showcase some of the streamlining efforts of these programs, more specifically highlighting the "Top Ten" for each program.

First, we'll take a look at the [recently released interim final rule](#) for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Here's a Top Ten look at the CSP interim final rule and policy manual update:

1. Expands who may be an eligible participant to include the operator, owner, or other tenant as identified in FSA records, which eliminates the need for operator of record waivers.
2. Removes the need for producers to request in writing an exemption for the farmstead.
3. Removes the protocol to request new enhancements from policy. There will still be a process, just not defined in policy. This will allow NRCS to more easily refine and improve the process over time without having to update policy.
4. Removes required NRCS payment deadlines in December and March which reduces States having to submit waivers.
5. Removes the requirement to implement an enhancement by the third year of the contract. This allows more flexibility for our customers and reduces the number of waivers.
6. Removes the annual payment limitation which will eliminate the need for APL waivers when payments are delayed.

7. Expands the higher contract limit to include all business type 2 and 3 participants and not just those with an EIN.
8. Removes the CSP preapproval letter, simplifies the CSP pre-obligation checklist and incorporates the CSP-GCI pre-obligation checklist into policy. Incorporates an EQIP pre-obligation checklist and significantly streamlines the checklist to only include critical items of risk that are not automated.
9. Removes the need for a State bulletin for duplicative payments; however, States must still identify conservation activities that may be duplicative with other programs.
10. Removes the requirement for the annual 10% contract reviews.

In summary, NRCS has streamlined CSP by basing contracts on funds instead of acres, bringing it in line with EQIP. Additionally, NRCS is aligning CSP with EQIP through common applications, contracting operations, conservation planning, conservation practices and related administrative procedures.

As Chief Lohr stated, "These changes will result in greater efficiency in program delivery and reduced burden on producers."

Stay tuned as we will feature additional highlights on streamlining efforts that improve our program delivery by simplifying the way we implement the business of conservation. *This is your NRCS of the Future.*

EQIP—States May Select 10 Conservation Practices to Receive 95% Cost-Share Rate

- Waste Storage Facility
- Heavy Use Area
- Roofs & Cover
- Land Smoothing
- Fence
- Prescribed Grazing
- Cover Crop
- No-Till
- Reduced Till
- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Water Management
- Energy Practices
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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PROTOCOL FOR IDENTIFYING FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE IN MASSACHUSETTS 11/25/19

Additional farmland of local importance. In some local areas there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, these lands are to be identified by the local agency or agencies concerned. In places, additional farmlands of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance. - Code of Federal Regulations Title 7, part 657.5d as amended Sept. 25, 2000.

Farmland of local importance is not prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, but is additional farmland of local concern suited to the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Inventories of important farmland soils do not constitute a designation of any land area to a specific land use.

The designation of farmland of local importance does not negate applicable state, local, or federal environmental regulations or policies.

Steps to establish farmland of local importance:

Insure the USDA soil survey map units representing the land of concern are not currently classified as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance.

Soil survey information can be obtained at Web Soil Survey: <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Document empirical evidence that the land of concern is important for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and/or oilseed crops. This can include Farm Service Agency crop history records and/or aerial imagery that evidences multiple year use in crop production.

If the land of concern is represented by soil survey map units comprised predominantly of hydric soils (poorly drained and very poorly drained) document evidence of historical use and/or suitability to produce food, feed, fiber, forage, and/or oilseed crops. "Historical" is defined as prior to December 23, 1985 in accordance with the wetlands conservation provision of the Food Security Act of 1985. Typically, these are areas where soil saturation has been maintained at a depth that does not impede farm operations and crop productivity during the growing season in years of normal precipitation by drainage ditches and/or subsurface drainage.

Wetland areas manipulated after Dec. 23, 1985 to enable the production of a commodity crop may be out of compliance with the wetlands provision of the Food Security Act and will not be recognized as farmland of local importance.

In writing, formally petition the NRCS State Conservationist for Massachusetts to recognize the soil survey map units representing the land of concern as farmland of local importance. Submit evidence of importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and/or oilseed crops, and compliance with the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 if applicable, as described above.