

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) Parcel Eligibility and Ranking Form

Fiscal Year	
Landowner Name and Address	
Eligible entities names and addresses	
Parcel Location:	Locality (Town/Township):
County:	State:
Are all landowners of record AGI eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record HEL eligible? (Y/N)	
Are all landowners of record WC eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming landowner eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Is the entity eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming entity eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the eligible entity have a written pending offer for the parcel? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming written pending offer:	
Name:	Signature:
Does the land (enter a response for each):	
_____ Have 50-percent prime, unique, and important farmland? (Y/N)	
_____ Have historical or archeological resources? (Y/N)	
_____ Protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving land? (Y/N)	
_____ Have land that supports the policy of a State or local farm and ranch land protection program? (Y/N)	
Is the land eligible? (Y/N)	
NRCS employee confirming land eligibility:	
Name:	Signature:

Connecticut ACEP-ALE Ranking 2016

NRCS completes ranking.

County

Parcel Acres

Parcel Name

Offered Value:

NRCS Cost:

National Subtotal

State Subtotal

TOTAL SCORE

National Criteria

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

Soils	Acres	%	Scale	Points
Prime			2	2.00
Statewide			1	1.00
Local			0.25	0.25
Total				3.25

*.325

2. Percent of cropland, pastureland or grassland in parcel

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

Acres :

Scale 5.5

3. Landowner - Historically Underserved Group

Underserved Group	Points
Landowner is small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or veteran land owner.	5
None of the above	0

4. Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel offered to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (2012)

County	Avg Farm Size (acres)
Fairfield	0
Hartford	60
Litchfield	75
Middlesex	46
New Haven	61
New London	69
Tolland	83
Windham	84

5 Points for ratios of 2 and greater;

2 Points between 1 and 2,

0 Points for ratio of 1 or less

Parcel Acres =

Ave. size

Ratio:

5. 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(2012 - 2007)

County	% Decrease	Points
Fairfield	0	0
Hartford	0	0
Litchfield	0	0
Middlesex	0	0
New Haven	7	5
New London	0	0
Tolland	0	0
Windham	3	2

6. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the US Census (2010 - 2000): CT = 4.9%

County	% Growth	Points
Fairfield	3.9	0
Hartford	4.3	0
Litchfield	4.2	0
Middlesex	6.8	3
New Haven	4.7	3
New London	5.8	3
Tolland	12.0	5
Windham	8.6	3

0

7. Population density as documented by the US Census (2010). CT = 738

County	Density	Points
Fairfield	1467	5
Hartford	1216	5
Litchfield	206	0
Middlesex	449	0
New Haven	1427	5
New London	412	0
Tolland	372	0
Windham	231	0

0

8. Proximity of the Parcel to other Protected Land

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

Acres

0

9. Proximity to Other Agriculture

Farmland Acres	Points
> 700 acres	15
401 – 700 acres	10
201 – 400 acres	5
< 100 acres	0

Acres

0

10. Parcel Expands Contiguous Acres of Protected Farmland

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

0

11. Parcel Contains Registered Historical or Archeological Resources.

Resources	Points
Registered Historic or Archeological Resource	5
None	0

0

12. Grassland Protection

Grassland	Points
Grassland benefits from protection	5
No grassland benefits	0

0

13. Farm Succession Plan to Address Farm Viability

Plan	Points
Succession or similar plan exists	5
No plan	0

0

National Subtotal

-

State Criteria

14. Entity Demonstrated Performance in Closing Efficiency

<i>Easements have closed within</i>	<i>Points</i>
0 - 12 months	25
13 - 18 months	15
18 +	0

15. Entity Demonstrated Performance in Monitoring Easements*

<i>Percent Monitored</i>	<i>Points</i>
80 % or more monitored	25
50% to <80%	15
25% to <50%	7
< 25%	0

16. Landowner has a Current Conservation Plan

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

17. Parcel Contains Habitat for Species of Interest

<i>Species</i>	<i>Points</i>
Species list on NDDB	15
No species listed	0

18. Parcel Provides Diversity of Natural Resource Protection

<i>Special Concern</i>	<i>Points</i>
Scenic road or Greenway	10
Public water supply watershed/ Aquifer Protection Area	10

19. Parcel is in a Locally Identified Unique Agricultural Region

<i>Ag Community</i>	<i>Points</i>
Connecticut River Valley (MLRA 145)	25
Within 10 mi urban center	10
None of the above	0

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

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

21. 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 less than 75 %	0

22. Parcel contains Grasslands of Special Significance.

	<i>Points</i>
Grasslands of significance	15
No significant grasslands	0

State Subtotal

Connecticut Ranking System for ACEP-ALE Proposals 2016

(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. Landowner is in a historically underserved group.

5 points maximum

Are landowners a historically underserved group, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or veteran landowner. Documented on NRCS-CPA-41A.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Percent population growth in the county as documented by the 2010 US Census.

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.

7. Population density as documented by the 2010 US Census

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.

8. Proximity of the parcel to other protected land

15 point maximum

The amount 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 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 with 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 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.

12. Grassland protection

5 point maximum

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

13. 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.

State Criteria Factors

14. Entity performance in closing efficiency.

25 point maximum

Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in closing easements with 18 months. New entities receive 15 points.

15. Entity performance in monitoring.

25 point maximum

Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80 percent or more of its easements each year. New entities receive 15 points.

16. 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).

17. Parcel contains habitat for species of interest.

15 points maximum

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

18. Parcel provides diversity of natural resource protection.

30 points 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 (10), public water supply watershed (10) or ground water recharge zones (10).

19. Parcel is in a Locally Identified Unique Agricultural Region.

25 points maximum

The Connecticut River Valley (Major Land Resource Area 145) is a Special Focus Area receiving 25 points. Parcels within 10 miles of an USGS urban center receive 10 points.

20. Parcel is located in an area appropriate for agriculture use.

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

21. Parcel contains high value farmland soils.

35 points maximum

The parcel has greater than 75% Prime and Statewide Important Farmland Soils.

22. Viable grasslands.

15 points maximum

Land evaluation and site assessment system or equivalent for grassland enrollments indicates a viable agricultural area for parcel.