

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Lake Champlain Monitoring

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Lake Champlain Monitoring		<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"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet 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. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If there is monitoring equipment onsite previously installed using funding for conservation practice 799 that meets the criteria of the 202 conservation activity r can be retrofitted, answer one of the following.	
1. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support two or more existing monitoring systems that meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) conservation activity?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support both of the following? - One existing monitoring system that meets the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) conservation activity. - At least one new Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) must be installed.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support two or more existing monitoring systems that can be retrofitted to meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support both of the following? - one existing monitoring systems that can be retrofitted to meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202). - At least one new Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) must be installed.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer all of the following criteria that apply regarding the location of the project.	
5. Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of existing in-stream (tier II) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of existing 12-digit mouth/pour point (tier III) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will the monitoring effort be located along or upstream of an impaired stream segment or water body (as defined by the 303d list or an identified TMDL) and contribute to the knowledge base to assist in the water quality improvement efforts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer all of the following criteria regarding the participants ability to expedite implementation of monitoring.	
8. Does the applicant have a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) on hand that conforms to the 202 Conservation Activity?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

9. Has an evaluation survey already been completed to establish the size and drainage outlet point of the catchment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. At the time of application, has the level of uncertainty for any existing or proposed edge-of-field monitoring system been estimated from past monitoring activities?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
In the application enables one "control" station to serve as a comparison for multiple "variable" stations, then answer one of the following related to the monitoring plan.	
11. Does the application include three edge-of-field monitoring stations (one "control" station and two "variable" stations)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Does the application include four or more edge-of-field monitoring stations (one "control" station and three or more "variable" stations)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer all of the following criteria, which apply to the application's ability to evaluate systems or practices identified for the targeted watershed for FY 2013.	
13. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits from a conservation system with at least one practice in the Avoid, Control, and Trap categories simultaneously	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits from a system of practices installed over tile drainage production.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits to surface-water runoff from a system of practices installed on row crop fields with an average slope of 1 percent or less.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the effects of timing of commercial and manure nutrients, the use of amendments/inhibitors, or both on production and nitrogen and phosphorus losses.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, soil health, or some combination of these).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of drainage water management systems, bioreactors, or both.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems, rice production systems, or both.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. Edge-of-field monitoring systems that investigate matching buffer or filter width needs with slopes, erodibility, tillage, and crop rotations	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer all of the following criteria that apply to the past performance of the applicant.	
21. Does the applicant currently have any active USDA-NRCS contracts that are behind schedule, or have they had any USDA-NRCS contracts terminated?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Priority practices as follows	
1. Does the application include implementing and evaluating a system of practices over tile drainage including: reduced tillage, waste recycling (manure injection) and cover crops? OR, Does the application include a practice to treat/manage tile drainage water including constructed wetland, bioreactors, sediment basin or water and sediment control basin? OR, Does the application include implementing and evaluating multispecies cover crop?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the application include implementing and evaluating a grassed waterway? OR, Does the application include implementing and evaluating a nutrient management plan that considers the amount, timing and method of nutrient application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the application include implementing and evaluating conservation crop rotations or conservation cover (permanent seeding)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Number of areas to be monitored	
4. Can the proposed study area(s) be divided into two areas, or are two separate nearby areas available that have similar soils, slope, aspect and other similar characteristics?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Direction of drainage	

5. Can the drainage direction be clearly identified in the proposed study area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Surface runoff	
6. Can the surface water runoff from the study areas be concentrated in one location to enable flow measurement and sample collection?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Location of potential monitoring station(s)	
7. Are potential monitoring station locations removed from roads, structures, or other areas of activity that might affect water quality or sample collection?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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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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