**Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program (CCPP)**

**Intake Form: \*U.S.-Held Easements\***

**SUBMIT BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023**

***Overview***

Thank you for your interest in the [Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program (CCPP)](https://ctconservation.org/programs/ccpp/). The purpose of CCPP is to enable land trusts that have submitted or intend to submit an [Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA)](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Open-Space/Open-Space-and-Watershed-Land-Acquisition-Grant-Program) grant application to the [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP) to apply through the [Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)](https://ctconservation.org/) for federal match funds.

**This form is for land trusts seeking U.S.-Held Easements (UHE)**. The information you provide will enable CLCC to determine your eligibility for this easement. CLCC will aid eligible land trusts in completing this form, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Form CPA 1200 (Conservation Program Application).

**This intake form must be submitted by email to Yaw at** **yodarko@ctconservation.org** **by Friday, October 6, 2023.**

**Instructions:**

* Please contact **Yaw, CCPP’s Administrator** at yodarko@ctconservation.org to set up a meeting before beginning this intake form.
* There is a definitions page at the end of this form and on our website for your reference. Each highlighted superscript appearing next to a word or phrase corresponds to a word on the definitions page.
* Before NRCS enters into an agreement with applicants (*if selected for funding*), applicants will need to establish records with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the appropriate USDA service center if they have never participated in NRCS or FSA programs. If they have, they may only need to update eligibility forms filed in the past.

**Applicant Information**

1. **Applicant (Decision Maker)1:** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.
3. **Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.
4. **Location of land (***may include county and state, farm and tract numbers, etc***.):**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Phone:** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. **What do you seek to accomplish through this process?** (*e.g., protect land that preserves high quality drinking water, protect habitat for a threatened species, etc.*).

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency?** Choose an item.

*(If ‘No’, applicants must establish entity records with the appropriate USDA service center agency. Contact Yaw at* *yodarko@ctconservation.org* *for assistance.)*

1. **Applicant Information:**

Select the business structure and enter the legal name and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Business Structure** | **Applicant Legal Name** | **Tax Number(last four digits** |
| **Individual** | **Entity** |  |  |
|[ ] [ ]  Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ] [ ]  Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
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|[ ] [ ]  Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

* 1. **If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity or joint operation?**

[ ]  Yes. [ ]  No. [ ]  N/A.

* 1. **Complete the table below for all applicants who meet the requirements for one or more of the historically underserved categories. Refer to the instructions to learn more about the requirements. If none, leave blank. (Optional)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant Legal Name** | **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher2** | **Beginning Farmer or Rancher3** | **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher4** | **Veteran Farmer or Rancher5** | **Veteran Discharge Date** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]   |

1. **Land Information.** The following questions apply to the land being offered for enrollment through this program. Some questions may not apply to your land.
	1. **Land Type (check all that apply):**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  Private Land  |   |   |   |   |
| [ ]  Pubic Land:  | [ ]  Federal Government | [ ]  State Government | [ ]  Local Government |   |
| [ ]  Indian Land: | [ ]  Allotted | [ ]  Tribal Trust Land  | [ ]  Tribal Non-Trust Land  | [ ]  Other  |

* 1. **Control of Land Documentation (check all that apply):**

[ ]  Deed or other evidence of land ownership

[ ]  Written lease agreement

[ ]  Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

* 1. **Is the land currently enrolled in other USDA conservation program(s)?**

[ ]  Yes [ ] No

**If yes, which program(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **Organic Certification:**

[ ]  Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)

[ ]  Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP

[ ]  Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP

[ ]  Not Applicable

* 1. **What is the primary crop type(s)?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

* 1. **What is the primary livestock type(s)?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Definitions**

\*\* **U.S.-Held Easements** are easements acquired and held by NRCS on behalf of the United States for the purposes of restoration, protection, enhancement, management, maintenance, and monitoring of the specified Conservation Values of the land, such as benefits to soil, water, wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources. NRCS enters into a producer contract directly with eligible landowners. Landowners are paid a percentage of the value of the easement depending on the easement’s level of restriction.

1 **Applicant (Decision Maker)** means the individual/entity authorized to make decisions pertaining to the application and whose name will be displayed on the NRCS contract or agreement documents if selected for funding.

2 **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** means either: (1)(i) A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two fiscal years (adjusted for inflation using Prices Paid by Farmer Index as compiled by National Agricultural Statistical Service), and (ii) Has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years (to be determined annually using Commerce Department Data);

or

(2) A legal entity or joint operation if all individual members independently qualify under paragraph (1). A legal entity or joint operation if all individual members independently qualify under paragraph (1) of this definition.

3 **Beginning Farmer or Rancher** means an individual, person, Indian Tribe, Tribal corporation, or legal entity who—

(1) Has not operated a farm or ranch, or non-industrialized private forest land (NIPF), or who has operated a farm or ranch or NIPF for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, ranch, or NIPF.

(2) In the case of an individual, individually, or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm, ranch, or NIPF consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

(3) In the case of a legal entity or joint operation, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm, ranch, or NIPF. Material and substantial participation requires that each of the members provide some amount of the management or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if each of the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm, ranch, or NIPF would be seriously impaired.

4 **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher** means an individual or an entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For a legal entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the legal entity must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

* American Indians or Alaska Natives
* Asians
* Blacks or African Americans
* Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
* Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

5 **Veteran Farmer or Rancher** means a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof; was released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable, and—

* Has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years; or
* Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.