

Maine NRCS Program Delivery Schedule FY 2024

2024 AMA, CSP Classic, CSP-IRA, EQIP, EQIP-IRA and RCPP (Exception: EQIP Act Now)

Application batching cut off for first FY 2024 funding consideration	August 25, 2023
Assessment and Ranking Deadline (FO action)	No later than March 1, 2024
Select preapprovals in SAT and ProTracts (SO action)- FO sends Intent to Proceed letter if necessary*	No later than March 15, 2024
Participant response to intent to proceed letter, if applicable	No later than March 29, 2024
Approval Deadline and send required approval letters (FO action)	No later than April 12, 2024
Response to approval letter from applicant with signed documents	No later than April 26, 2024
Deadline to upload signed documents to DMS	No later than May 10, 2024
Obligation Deadline (SO action) target for first round applications	No later than June 7, 2024

2024 EQIP Act Now -ALL CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs

All eligible applications with a ranking score of 90 or above for any planning activity (CPA, DIA, CEMA) received by March 1, 2024 will be assessed and ranked unless funds are exhausted prior to this date.	See Maine Bulletin 300-24-3
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CStP annual payments for 2023 activities for existing active contracts (per National Bulletin 300-23-47):

Payment approval deadline for participants that opted for payment in tax year 2023. (FO action)	No later than December 15, 2023
Payment approval deadline for participants that opted for payment in tax year 2024. (FO action)	No later than February 23, 2024

2024 CSP-Renewal obligation: 2024-1 sign up (National Bulletin 300-23-XX)

Assessment and ranking deadline for FY 2024-1 Renewals of FY2019 CSP contracts	November 9, 2023
Deadline to upload signed documents to DMS	December 15, 2023
Obligation deadline for FY 2024-1 Renewals of FY2019 CSP contracts	December 22, 2023

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2024 EQIP TSP Set-aside TA:

First round TSP Set-aside request: 2024 request process to be determined due to national process changes.

Second round: TO BE DETERMINED

2024 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) -Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component

Application batching cut off for FY 2023 sign up funding consideration for ACEP-WRE

October 27, 2023

2024 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) -Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component:

Application batching cut off for FY 2023 sign up funding consideration for ACEP-ALE

November 30, 2023

Application assessment and ranking deadline

TBD

***Reference Title 440 Part 530, Subpart E, section 530.41 A (1) and C(2), which state:**

A. Preapproval of Applications.—When NRCS selects an application for funding as described in subpart D, “Application Processing,” of this manual, the State program manager, or others with delegated authority and appropriate business tool permissions, will—

(1) Set the application status to “preapproved” and use subpart O, exhibit 530.141C, “Intent to Proceed Letter,” of this manual, to notify the applicant. NRCS field staff uses this letter, along with subpart O, exhibit 530.142E, “Conservation Program Application Checklist” of this manual to—

- (i) notify an applicant that NRCS ranked their application high enough for funding consideration and determine their interest in moving forward with a contract; and
- (ii) provide the applicant an opportunity to finalize their eligibility and to request any other documentation needed for contract development.

Note: When a State has previously notified an applicant about preapproval and the applicant has provided all required contract-development documentation, the State does not need to send the “Intent to Proceed” letter. However, the State must have documentation to support this decision in the case file.

C. Approval of Applications

(2)_ NRCS field office staff **will use** subpart O, exhibit 530.141F, “Application Approval Letter,” of this manual to notify the applicant that NRCS approved their application and to provide the applicant an opportunity to review all contract documents prior to signing and returning the documents to NRCS.