

**USDA NRCS/Vermont State Funding Summary
January, 2015**

Lake Champlain Funding Sources	Lake Champlain Initiative Announced by Vilsack	RCPP National – Lake Champlain – Ag, Forestry, Conservation Easements and Wetlands Restoration	RCPP State – Nutrient Management Planning	CT River RCPP	Remainder of State
Lead Project Partner	Funded through NRCS Programs using typical process in consultation with State Technical Committee	Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Agency of Natural Resources	Vermont Association of Conservation Districts	CT Conservation Districts	NRCS & VAAFM
Total Funds Available	\$45 Million over five years all FA directly to farmers	\$16 Million (FA and TA) Note: 10% of the EQIP funds will be targeted to New York	\$710,980 - 800,000 (FA and TA)	\$10 M over five years – TBD how much in VT	Approx. \$2.4M/year NRCS \$1.9M/year VAAFM
Time Frame	FY 2015 - 2019	FY 2015 - 2019	FY 2015 - 2018	FY 2015-2019	Base Funding-Ongoing
Programs	EQIP only – \$9M/year solely for Lake Champlain Basin	EQIP – 1.5M/year ACEP-ALE – 750,000 - \$1M/year ACEP- WRE – 250,000/year	EQIP – about \$175,000/yr	EQIP and ACEP-ALE	EQIP, ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, BMP, FAP, NMP
Primary Practices	All water quality practices including waste management, infrastructure, field agronomic practices, forestry, and wetlands	Cropland – All Agronomic Practices, with limited focus on Farmsteads; Feed Management; Forestry – Forest Trails and Landings, Stream Crossings, Skidder Bridges	Collection of Data Needed to Develop Land Treatment and Nutrient Management Plans	TBD	All water quality and conservation practices
Restrictions		<i>Funds cannot be used for admin or outreach</i> Requires substantial match including: VHCB – \$840,000/year DEC - \$389,500/year (staff, lab, wetlands contractor) AAFM - \$1,998,294/year (staff, FAP, BMP \$)			
Priority Locations	FY 2015 – basin wide, but with priorities for Missisquoi, St. Albans Bay, and South Lake FY 2016 – basin wide, but will prioritize Rock River, Lake Carmi/Pike River, St. Albans Bay, and Mackenzie Brook Future will coordinate with DEC Tactical Basin Planning process	Small Farms in the Missisquoi Bay, St. Albans Bay, and South Lake watersheds (both VT and NY); Critical Source Areas will be prioritized in those three priority basins Feed Management, forestry and wetlands restoration – basin wide, Land Conservation - Lake Champlain basin	Lake Champlain, with an option to expand beyond the watershed Small farm nutrient management planning in coordination with UVM Extension NMP development class.	TBD	Statewide

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Estimated Number of Participants NOTE - RCPP Numbers Subject to Change due to reduced funding	On average – 300 participants/year in the Lake Champlain watershed	Total Estimated Small Farms – 120-140 Forestry – 100 Wetland Restoration – 20-30 Conservation Easements - 35	Small Farms - 40 per year for a total of 160	TBD	TBD
Priority Resource Concern	Water Quality	Water Quality, Land Conservation	Water Quality	Water Quality, Land Conservation	Water Quality, Land Conservation

Total Funds Available for Lake Champlain Agricultural Practices

Program	Total Commitment	Annual Allocation directly to farmers
NRCS	\$45,000,000	\$9,000,000
RCPP – State of Vermont – EQIP	\$6,356,000	\$1,589,000
RCPP – State of Vermont – ACEP-ALE	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000 first year, \$750,000 following years
RCPP – State of Vermont – ACEP-WRE	\$750,000	\$187,500
RCPP – VACD – Nutrient Management Plans	\$800,000	Approx. \$175,000
VT Agency of Agriculture – BMP funds		\$1,400,000
VT Agency of Agriculture – FAP/NMP funds		\$569,544
Total		\$13.9M/year average

Acronyms

RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program

EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Field practices, barnyard improvement, waste management

ACEP-ALE – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program/Ag land easement

FA – financial assistance – payments directly to farmers for projects

VACD – VT Association of Conservation District

FAP – Farm Agronomic Practices

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

ACEP – WRE – Wetlands Restoration Easements

TA – technical assistance – people to help design, implement projects for farmers

BMP – Best management practices

NMP – Nutrient Management Plans.