

**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
<b>Lead Project Partner</b>	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
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$45 Million over five years</b> Almost all FA directly to farmers	<b>\$16 Million</b> (FA and TA) Note: 10% of the EQIP funds will be targeted to New York	<b>\$710,980 - 800,000</b> (FA and TA)	<b>\$10 M</b> over five years – TBD how much in VT	Approx. <b>\$2.4M/year</b> NRCS \$1.9M/year VAAFM
<b>Time Frame</b>	FY 2015 - 2019	FY 2015 - 2019	FY 2015 - 2018	FY 2015-2019	Base Funding-Ongoing
<b>Programs</b>	EQIP only – ~\$8M/year solely for Lake Champlain Basin	EQIP – 1.8M/year (FA) ACEP-ALE – 750,000 - \$1M/year (FA) ACEP- WRE – 230,000/year	EQIP – about \$175,000/yr	EQIP and ACEP-ALE	EQIP, ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, BMP, FAP, NMP
<b>Primary Practices</b>	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
<b>Restrictions</b>		<b><i>Funds cannot be used for admin or outreach</i></b> Requires substantial match including: VHCB – \$840,000/year DEC - \$389,500/year (staff, lab, wetlands contractor) AAFM - \$1,998,294/year (staff, FAP, BMP \$)			
<b>Priority Locations</b>	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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<b>Estimated Number of Participants</b> 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
<b>Priority Resource Concern</b>	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	\$8-9,000,000
RCPP – State of Vermont – EQIP	\$7,170,000	\$1,792,500
RCPP – State of Vermont – ACEP-ALE	\$3,890,000	\$970,000 first year, \$730,000 following years
RCPP – State of Vermont – ACEP-WRE	\$924,000	\$230,000
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>~\$14M/year average</b>

**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.