

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <i>EQIP 2008, Fiscal Year 2012</i>	
Ranking Tool: <i>General</i>	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Assist in producing energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, biofuel, etc)?	10 Point(s)

Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10 Point(s)
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Implement practices to help meet state and local regulatory notices and issues related to ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS?	20 Point(s)
1. b. Improve the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone, up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPA's (within zone)?	30 Point(s)
1. c. Improve the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	10 Point(s)
2. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge or decrease water withdrawal in a state identified STRESSED BASIN, HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER?	20 Point(s)
4. High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW erosion?	10 Point(s)
5. Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Create or enhance habitat for box or wood TURTLES?	20 Point(s)
6. High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Implement sustainable BIVALVE AQUACULTURE practices?	30 Point(s)
6. b. Implement sustainable GRASS-FED ANIMAL practices?	20 Point(s)
8. Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Improvement of PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	10 Point(s)
9. Other Considerations – Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9.a. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-20 Point(s)
9.b. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50 Point(s)
9.c. NRCS has TERMINATED a conservation program contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-100 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>+/-170</i>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Address ANIMAL WASTE issues impacting designated Outstanding Resource Waters, Groundwater Zone II, or Surface Water Zone B?	30 Point(s)
2. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Improve irrigation systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of $\geq 15\%$?	15 Point(s)
4. High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Stabilize BANK EROSION from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Improve soil tilth, infiltration, organic matter, or compaction by implementing two or more SOIL BUILDING practices?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Restore cropland where natural disaster damage has rendered land unsuited for growing crops?	30 Point(s)
4. d. Create or enhance RIPARIAN BUFFERS to help prevent future natural disaster damage to agricultural land?	30 Point(s)
5. Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Improve declining wildlife habitat, including grassland, shrubland and young forest?	20 Point(s)
6. High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Enhance or improve LOCAL FOOD production (locally marketed)?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Conduct soil health assessment through Nutrient Management (590).	10 Point(s)
8. Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of practices within an ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern)?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Formation of partnerships among agencies (i.e. MDAR, DCR, NHESP, USFWS) to support financial and /or technical assistance?	10 Point(s)
9. Other Considerations – Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. The applicant has never before been selected for funding through EQIP.	10Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>200</i>