

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
 FISCAL YEAR 2017
 NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE RANKING QUESTIONS
 EAST BRANCH SOUTH FORK SUGAR CREEK - 050902021102**

State Issues:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "YES" to the following question. Answering "YES" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State Priority category.
	1	Is the program application for development of a TSP-Prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "YES", do not answer any other State-level questions. If the answer is "NO" proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
2		Water Quality - EPA Watersheds
	2	Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?
3		Geographical Impacts
	3	3a. Are more than 75 percent of the acres treated i. Located within a NWQI watershed AND ii. Do they have at least one core conservation practice planned on them?
4		Collaborative Efforts
	4	4a. Are core conservation practices planned for the applicant's treated acres within an existing non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?
5		Efforts to Address Watershed Impairments
	5	Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary NWQI primary resource concern?
6		High Risk Soils
	6	Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?

Local Issues:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question
	1	If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned. If you answer yes to this questions no other questions need to be answered for the local ranking questions.
	2	Will this application "NOT" address one of the primary resource concerns approved for the NWQI? i.e. application only includes secondary resource concerns approved for the NWQI?
	3	Will this application "NOT" include any Core Conservation Practice(s) identified for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)?
	4	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to convert the landuse from a more intensive management system to a less intensive management system? i.e. Converting from a cropland land use to a pastureland
	5	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install fence (382) to exclude livestock from "ALL" environmentally sensitive areas such as riparian area or wetland?
	6	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install any of the following practices: Tree/Shrub Establish (612), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) or Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)?
	7	Will a cover crop be utilized on at least 25 percent of the offered acres?
	8	Will the implementation of a Core or Supporting Conservation Practice on at least 25% percent of the offered acres result in the existence of a conservation system where at least one practice exist in each of the AVOID, TRAP, and CONTROL categories?
	9	Will this application utilized EQIP funds for the installation of permanent vegetative buffers with a minimum width of 20 ft. adjacent to all intermittent or perennial streams located with the contracted acres? (Must either be installing or have buffers on all waterways)
	10	Did the applicant have an approved Conservation Plan developed prior to the closing of the NWQI application deadline?
	11	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install Riparian Forest Buffers (391)?
	12	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install one or more of the following: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue and Tillage Management (329) and Cover Crops (340)?
	13	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install or implement one or more of the following: Access Control (420), Watering Facilities (614) or Nutrient Management (590)?

	14	Will this application utilize EQIP funds to install one or more of the following practices Water and Sediment Control Basin (638), and Blind Inlets (620)?
--	----	--