

Environmental Quality Incentives Program FY-17
Certified Organic Ranking Questions

State Issues Addressed	Issue Questions
	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. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
	Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.
	2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?
	Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points
	3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?
	Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.
	4. a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?
	4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?
	Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points
	5. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?
	5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?
	5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?
	Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.
	6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?
	Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points
	7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?
	7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?
	7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?
Local Issues Addressed	Issue Questions
	Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)
	1. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
	Local Ranking Questions
	1. Will the application utilize EQIP funds to implement Cover Crop (340) and/or Residue and Tillage Management (Mulch Till/ No Till/Strip Till) (345,329) which will result in an increase of the Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II?
	2. Will the application utilize EQIP funds to implement Forage Harvest Management (511) to address NOP requirement for management of feed supplements and forage supplies?

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| 3. Will the application utilize EQIP funds to install Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation (441) that will efficiently apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for the plant growth? |
| 4. Will the application utilize EQIP funds to implement Nutrient Management (590)? |
| 5. Does the applicant have an approved Integrated Pest Management Plan? |