Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Lower Arkansas WS - Water Q/Q General

Program: EQIP 2014	**Ranking Date:**
Ranking Tool: Lower Arkansas WS - Water Q/Q General	
Final Ranking Score:	
Planner:	
Farm Location:	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Irrigation Efficiency Improvement (Answer only ONE of the following, (questions 1-4), if applicable.)	
1. Will the contracted practice(s) result in a projected increased irrigation efficiency improvement of >40%?	160 Point(s)
2. Will the contracted practice(s) result in a projected increased irrigation efficiency improvement of >20 – 40%?	140 Point(s)
3. Will the contracted practice(s) result in a projected increased irrigation efficiency improvement of >15 – 20%?	110 Point(s)
4. Will the contracted practice(s) result in a projected increased irrigation efficiency improvement of 5 – 15%?	80 Point(s)
CRMP or Area-wide planning	
5. Are contracted acres involved with a formal Coordinated Resource Management Plan(CRMP) or Area-wide Plan?	20 Point(s)
Water Quality - Nutrients (Answer only ONE of the following, (questions 6-9), if applicable.)	

6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operation include practices that improve the timing and method of applying nutrients on > 75% of the contracted acres?	60 Point(s)
7. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operation include practices that improve the timing and method of applying nutrients on 50 - 75% of the contracted acres?	40 Point(s)
8. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operation include practices that improve the timing and method of applying nutrients on <15-49% of the contracted acres?	20 Point(s)
9. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operation include practices that improve the timing and method of applying nutrients on < 15% of the contracted acres?	0 Point(s)
Perennial Vegetation Filters for run-off	
10. Will the contracted practice(s) result in perennial vegetation establishment that acts as a filter for runoff from cropland or hayland?	10 Point(s)
Establishing perennial vegetation on annually cropped lands	
11. Will the contracted practice(s) result in perennial vegetation establishment on lands that were annually cropped?	10 Point(s)
Soil Tillage Intensity (Answer only ONE of the following (questions 12-14), if applicable.)	
12. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or strip till system (329) on 75% or more of the contracted acres?	50 Point(s)
13. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or strip till system (329) on 50-74% of the contracted acres?	40 Point(s)
14. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a no till or strip till system (329) on < 50% of the contracted acres?	30 Point(s)
Crop Rotation	
15. Will the contracted practice(s) result in diversification of the cropping system?	30 Point(s)
Other	
16. If selected for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP implementation contract?	20 Point(s)
Energy Conservation	

17. Will converting from pump to a gravity pressurized system enable the applicant to reduce on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
Irrigation Water Management	
18. Will the applicant implement or adopt a higher management level of Irrigation Water Management (IWM)?	30 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Energy	
1. Will the planned practices not increase fossil fuel use?	30 Point(s)
2. Will the project decommission a well(s) to convert irrigated acres to non-irrigated acres?	25 Point(s)
Water Quantity	
3. Will the project be implementing Irrigation Land Leveling or Land Smoothing?	15 Point(s)
4. Will Gated Pipe be installed?	15 Point(s)
5. Will a Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline be constructed to replace/improve an open ditch system with sandy, loamy sand, sandy loam, loam, or silty loam soil types (based on predominate soil type)?	30 Point(s)
6. Will a Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline be constructed to replace/improve an open ditch system with sandy clay loam, clay loam, silt, silty clay, silty, clay loam, or clay soil types (based on predominate soil type)?	20 Point(s)
7. Will the planned practices move the irrigation system from an un-improved surface irrigation system to an improved surface irrigation system? (Ex. From earth ditch and cutouts to an underground pipeline and gated pipe or concrete ditch)	25 Point(s)
Irrigation Water Management. Answer only ONE of the following questions, if applicable.	
8. Will Irrigation Water Management be applied to the basic level?	10 Point(s)
9. Will Irrigation Water Management be applied to the intermediate level?	15 Point(s)
10. Will Irrigation Water Management be applied to the advanced level?	25 Point(s)
Other	
11. Is this a local led group/pool project?	20 Point(s)

Conversion to perennial cover	
12. Will the project convert irrigated corners to non-irrigated corners with perennial species?	10 Point(s)
Cover Crops	
13. Will a multi-species Cover Crop (340) be planted on 75% or more of the contracted acres?	25 Point(s)
14. Will a multi-species Cover Crop (340) be planted on 50-74% of the contracted acres?	10 Point(s)
15. Will a multi-species Cover Crop (340) be planted on less than 50% of the contracted acres?	5 Point(s)
Drainage	
16. Will a surface/subsurface drainage system or renovation of a system be implemented?	10 Point(s)

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.