

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
CO-High Tunnel**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> CO-High Tunnel	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>	

**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
Answer one of the questions (1-3).	
1. Will the contracted practice(s) include Conservation Crop Rotation (328) that includes different crop types (cool season grass, cool season broadleaf, warm season grass, and warm season broadleaf), and Cover Crop (340) that includes a multi-species crop to increase soil health and organic matter content?	120 Point(s)
2. Will the contracted practice(s) include Cover Crop (340) that includes a multi-species crop to increase soil health and organic matter content?"	80 Point(s)
3. Will the contracted practice(s) include Conservation Crop Rotation (328) that includes different crop types (cool season grass, cool season broadleaf, warm season grass, and warm season broadleaf) to increase soil health?	60 Point(s)
Answer one of the following questions (4-6).	
4. Is the tunnel being placed on highly erosive soils that have a weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) > 134 (according to the 1/1/90 frozen HEL lists)?	120 Point(s)

5. Is the tunnel being placed on highly erosive soils that have a weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) = 86 and < 134? (according to the 1/1/90 frozen HEL lists)?	60 Point(s)
6. Is the tunnel being placed on highly erosive soils that have a weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/acre) < 86 (according to the 1/1/90 frozen HEL lists)?	30 Point(s)
<b>Erosion Control</b>	
7. Will the contracted practice(s) include buffer practices, such as Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484) and/or Conservation Cover (327) along the sides of the tunnel to control erosion from roof runoff?	110 Point(s)
8. Is the high tunnel being placed on land that was previously full-width tilled?	50 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>Diversity of cropping system. Answer only ONE of the questions (1-5), if applicable.</b>	
1. Diversity of crops grown in high tunnel system, 8 or more species.	120 Point(s)
2. Diversity of crops grown in high tunnel system, 6-7 species.	90 Point(s)
3. Diversity of crops grown in high tunnel system, 4-5 species.	60 Point(s)
4. Diversity of crops grown in high tunnel system, 2-3 species.	40 Point(s)
5. Diversity of crops grown in high tunnel system, 1 specie.	20 Point(s)
<b>Soil health</b>	
6. Will the contracted practice(s) include Deep Tillage (324) on the tunnel site prior to construction, to Fracture restrictive soil layers?	20 Point(s)
7. Will the contracted Practice(s) include Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (610) to Improve soil health by reducing salt concentrations in the root zone?	20 Point(s)
8. Will the contracted Practice(s) include Waste Recycling (633) to Protect or improve the quality of natural resources and the environment?	20 Point(s)

9. Will the contracted practice(s) include Irrigation Water Management (449) to Minimize Irrigation-induced Soil Erosion and Decrease Non-Point Source Pollution of Surface and Groundwater Resources?	20 Point(s)
Slope Value. Choose only one answer from questions (10-12). Note: the maximum allowable slope is 5% according to 325 Practice Standard.	
10. Is the slope at the tunnel site 0 - 1%?	20 Point(s)
11. Is the slope at the tunnel site > 1% and = 3%?	15 Point(s)
12. Is the slope at the tunnel site > 3% and = 5%?	10 Point(s)
Other	
13. Is the High Tunnel site Highly Erodible for Rill and Interrill erosion based on the 1/1//90 Frozen List $[(R \times K \times LS)/T > 8]$ ?	10 Point(s)
14. If selected for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP implementation contract?	20 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.