

Oklahoma Model Resource Concern Ranking Criteria

These model ranking criteria are provided for use in the development of local ranking criteria worksheets for evaluating EQIP applications. Designated conservationists, in consultation with the local work group, should select from the following criteria to develop worksheets applicable to the local resource issues and concerns. Suggested changes to the following criteria will be submitted to the ASTC(P) for concurrence of the State Conservationist before adoption and use in locally developed worksheets.

Resource: Soil **Concern:** Erosion (Cropland)

1) Offer includes planned treatment of the following erosion type(s) on cropland to the quality criteria level on the entire operating unit (check and score all that apply).			Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Sheet & rill erosion (>T only)	0.1 x tons/yr. saved		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wind erosion (>T only)	0.01 x tons/yr. saved		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ephemeral erosion (refer to county ephemeral tables)	0.2 x tons/yr. saved		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gully erosion	0.1 x tons/yr. saved		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scour erosion	5 x acres stabilized		

Resource: Soil **Concern:** Condition - Tilth (Cropland)

1) Planned treatment will result in an improving soil condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System planned will provide for an index of ≥ 0.0 on the offered acres in order to receive points .			Score
Improvement calculated from comparison of the before and after Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System to be applied and maintained during the contract period.	Operating Unit Treatment	Partial Treatment	
Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement >0.5	50 Points	15 Points	
Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.25 to 0.49	30 Points	10 Points	
Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.01 to 0.24	20 Points	5 Points	
SCI improvement from negative factor to ≥ 0.0	Points x 2		

Resource: Soil **Concern:** Condition - Compaction (Cropland)

Offer includes planned treatment to improve soil compaction on cropland to the quality criteria level on the offered acres (includes conversion to grass).			Score
Treatment to reduce soil compaction must be applied within the contract period.	Operating Unit Treatment	Partial Treatment	
Treatment planned to reduce soil compaction.	20 Points	10 Points	

Resource: Soil **Concern:** Erosion (Grazingland)

1) Offer includes planned treatment of gully erosion on grazingland to the quality criteria level on the entire operating unit.	0.1 x tons/yr. saved	Score
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Resource: Water **Concern:** Quantity – Restricted Flow Capacity from Sediment Deposition

1) Offer includes planned treatment to reduce sediment deposition to acceptable levels in streams and lakes (ponds not included) from contributing areas. Streams are defined as at a minimum a dotted blue line on the USGS topographic maps. Practices providing sediment reduction are Grade Stabilization Structures (410), Sediment Basin (359), Buffers, Pasture and Hay Planting (512), and Range Planting (550). Measure from nearest edge of field to eligible stream &/or lake.			Score
Immediately adjacent to eligible stream &/or lake	50 points		
Less than 1/2 mile to an eligible stream &/or lake	30 points		
Greater than 1/2 mile to 1 mile to an eligible stream &/or lake	20 points		
Greater than 1 mile to an eligible stream &/or lake	0 points		

Resource: Water **Concern:** Quality – Surface Water Contaminates (Nutrients & Organics)

Offer includes planned treatment involving the production, storage, and application of animal wastes. The following criteria must be met before environmental points can be assigned:

- All nitrogen and phosphorous (elemental P, not P₂O₅) are measured based on the amounts of nutrients present in the animal waste, as excreted, using the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Manual.
- A current soil analysis must be provided for each field being offered or no points will be awarded for Item 1d.
- Application rates and quantities of animal waste are based on the NRCS Agriculture Waste Management Field Manual or annual litter analysis. Resulting treatment must meet NRCS standards.
- All fields in the operating unit in which animal waste applications are being applied or will be applied must be evaluated and treated to quality criteria level for water quality during the EQIP contract period.

1) Animal Waste Management		Score
Evaluate fields in which animal waste is currently being applied or planned to be applied.		
a)	1 point per 10 acres where nitrogen from animal waste is currently applied in excess of plant needs. (0.1 x ac.)	
b)	1 point per ton/year of animal waste nitrogen, which will be properly applied or managed. (1 x each ton)	
c)	1 point per ton/year of animal waste phosphorus (elemental P), which will be properly applied or managed. (1 x each ton)	
d)	Phosphorus index rating (severity of loading). Based on current soil analysis – OSU Fact Sheet No. 2207. (Completed within 12 months previous to EQIP application).	Score
	Soil P Index	Allowable Points
i)	< 65	1 point per 20 acres (0.05 x ac.)
ii)	65 -250	2 points per 20 acres (0.10 x ac.)
iii)	250 -400	3 points per 20 acres (0.15 x ac.)
iv)	≥ 400	5 points per 20 acres (0.25 x ac.)
2) Stream Water Quality		Score
Allow points for <u>each</u> field evaluated above based on the proximity of the field to the stream or intermittent stream channel as defined in the approved soil survey. Measure from the edge of the field(s) closest to the stream.		
a)	5 points if ≤ 200 feet to the stream	(5 x no. of fields)
b)	3 points if > 200 feet but ≤ 500 feet to the stream	(3 x no. of fields)
c)	1 point if > 500 feet but ≤ 1000 feet to the stream	(1 x no. of fields)
d)	0 points if > 1000 feet to the stream	
3) Designated Nutrient Limited Watershed (see map in Section II, FOTG)		Score
Offer includes the planned treatment of all land located within an area designated as a nutrient limited watershed (all land in the operating unit will be treated to the quality criteria for the primary concern to receive these points). 1000 points		

Resource: Water **Concern:** Quality – Ground Water Contaminates (Nutrients & Organics)

Offer includes planned treatment involving the production, storage, and application of animal wastes. The following criteria must be met before environmental points can be assigned:

- All nitrogen and phosphorous (elemental P, not P₂O₅) are measured based on the amounts of nutrients present in the animal waste, as excreted, using the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Manual.
- A current soil analysis must be provided for each field being offered or no points will be awarded for Item 1d.
- Application rates and quantities of animal waste are based on the NRCS Agriculture Waste Management Field Manual or annual litter analysis. Resulting treatment must meet NRCS standards.
- All fields in the operating unit in which animal waste applications are being applied or will be applied must be evaluated and treated to quality criteria level for water quality during the EQIP contract period.

1) Animal Waste Management		Score
Evaluate fields in which animal waste is currently being applied or planned to be applied.		
a)	1 point per 10 acres where nitrogen from animal waste is currently applied in excess of plant needs. (0.1 x ac.)	
b)	1 point per ton/year of animal waste nitrogen, which will be properly applied or managed. (1 x each ton)	
c)	1 point per ton/year of animal waste phosphorus (elemental P), which will be properly applied or managed. (1 x each ton)	
d)	Phosphorus index rating (severity of loading). Based on current soil analysis – OSU Fact Sheet No. 2207. (Completed within 12 months previous to EQIP application).	Score
	Soil P Index	Allowable Points
i)	< 65	1 point per 20 acres (0.05 x ac.)
ii)	65 -250	2 points per 20 acres (0.10 x ac.)
iii)	250 -400	3 points per 20 acres (0.15 x ac.)
iv)	≥ 400	5 points per 20 acres (0.25 x ac.)
2) Stream Water Quality		Score
Allow points for <u>each</u> field evaluated above based on the proximity of the field to the stream or intermittent stream channel as defined in the approved soil survey. Measure from the edge of the field(s) closest to the stream.		
a)	5 points if ≤ 200 feet to the stream	(5 x no. of fields)
b)	3 points if > 200 feet but ≤ 500 feet to the stream	(3 x no. of fields)
c)	1 point if > 500 feet but ≤ 1000 feet to the stream	(1 x no. of fields)
d)	0 points if > 1000 feet to the stream	
3) Designated Nutrient Vulnerable Groundwater Area (see map in Section II, FOTG)		Score
Offer Includes the planned treatment of all land located within an area designated as a high and/or very high nutrient-vulnerable groundwater area (all land in the operating unit will be treated to the quality criteria for the primary concern to receive these points).		1000 points

Resource: Water **Concern:** Quantity – Water Management for Irrigated Land

Offer includes land under an existing irrigation system (furrow or sprinkler irrigated within the last 12 months). The operating unit must currently, or be planned to meet the NRCS Irrigation Water Management standard and specification (449) during the contract period. Water conservation benefits are evaluated based on the last irrigation system used on the land. Conversion and/or efficiency improvement may be obtained by one or more of the following (check and score all that apply):

1) Offer includes conversion of the existing surface irrigation to one or more of the following:	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler w/ lower elevation, spray nozzles (36 to 60 " nozzle height) 1 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPIC Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (18 to 36" nozzle height) 4 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEPA or LESA Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (18" or less nozzle height) 8 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-surface Drip Irrigation (SDI) 6 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
2) Offer includes conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to one or more of the following:	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler w/ lower elevation, spray nozzles (36 to 60 " nozzle height) 1 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPIC Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (18 to 36" nozzle height) 2 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEPA or LESA Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (18" or less nozzle height) 6 x Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-surface Drip Irrigation (SDI) 6 x Total Annual Water Conserved(Ac.Ft.)	
3) Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan includes the following (select and score all that apply):	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Flow Measurement & Monitoring 200 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Scheduling & Record Keeping 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Soil Moisture Monitoring (minimum once/week) 50 points	
4) Plan includes one or more of the following measures to increase the efficiency of an existing system or protect the groundwater supply (select and score all that apply):	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Furrow Diking 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Row pattern planting under sprinkler 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-row Chiseling 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Well Decommissioning 1000 points per well	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Condition - Plant Health and Vigor

1) Offer includes implementation of a Prescribed Grazing (528A) system that balances forage production with livestock numbers for the period of the contract.	Score
100% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	50 points
50-99% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	20 points
25-49% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	10 points
<25% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	0 points

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Management – Nutrient Management

1) Offer includes implementation of a nutrient management system balancing forage/crop production requirements with nutrient application (inorganic and/or organic) based on a current soil analysis.			Score
Score points only for new implementation to be applied within the contract period.	Operating Unit Treatment	Partial Treatment	
Planned implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan on land located within a nutrient limited watershed and/or nutrient vulnerable groundwater area	100 Points	30 Points	
Planned implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	50 Points	20 Points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Productivity (Forestry)

Offer includes planned forestry related treatment subject to all of the following eligibility criteria:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant is a non-industrial private land owner, group, small corporation, or part-time forest product manufacturer • Must be rural forest land, physically capable of being treated, and capable of producing at least 50 cubic feet of wood per acre per year • Planned treatment includes Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Forest Stand Improvement (666) , Forest Site Preparation (490), &/or Prescribed Burning (338) 			
1) Site Productivity: Potential production capability of the site		Points	Score
120+ cubic feet per acre per year		20	
86-119 cubic feet per acre per year		15	
50-85 cubic feet per acre per year		10	
Enter Factor 1) Score			
2) Likelihood of Conversion: Proximity to urban or heavy build-up areas			
6 miles or greater		10	
3-5 miles (enter "0" if less than 3 miles)		5	
Enter Factor 3) Score			
3) Cost-share Per Acre: Amount of cost-share per acre requested to install practice(s)			
Pine: <\$65 per acre	Hardwood: <\$99 per acre	50	
\$65-82 per acre	\$99-114 per acre	40	
\$83-100 per acre	\$115-147 per acre	30	
\$101-150 per acre	\$148-200 per acre (enter "0" if >\$200/ac.)	20	
\$151-200 per acre (enter "0" if >\$200/ac.)		10	
Enter Factor 4) Score			

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Weeds (Scotch Thistle)

Offer includes treatment of scotch thistle and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit. Treatment applied in an organized Targeted Pest Management Area or Weed Control/Eradication District where larger areas of contiguous operating units can be treated will receive higher credit.			
A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.	Targeted Area/District	Partial Treatment	Score
Treatment of > 15% cover infestation	100 points	20 points	
Treatment of <15% cover infestation	50 points	10 points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Weeds (Musk Thistle)

Offer includes treatment of **musk thistle** and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit. Treatment applied in an organized Targeted Pest Management Area or Weed Control/Eradication District where larger areas of contiguous operating units can be treated will receive higher credit.

A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.	Targeted Area/District	Partial Treatment	Score
Treatment of > 15% cover infestation	100 points	20 points	
Treatment of ≤ 15% cover infestation	50 points	10 points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Weeds (Sericea Lespedeza)

Offer includes treatment of **sericea lespedeza** and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit. Treatment applied in an organized Targeted Pest Management Area or Weed Control/Eradication District where larger areas of contiguous operating units can be treated will receive higher credit.

A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.	Targeted Area/District	Partial Treatment	Score
Treatment of > 15% cover infestation	100 points	20 points	
Treatment of ≤ 15% cover infestation	50 points	10 points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Brush (Eastern Redcedar)

1) Offer includes treatment of eastern redcedar and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit with the primary concern. Economic criteria includes all costs associated with treatment [Prescribed Burning (338), Brush Management (314), &/or Firebreak (394)] divided by the acres treated. A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.			Score
High Priority		50 points	
Medium Priority		40 points	
Low Priority		20 points	
2) Economic Criteria (combined cost of treatment per acre)			Score
\$10 or less per acre		50 points	
\$11 to \$40 per acre		40 points	
\$41 to \$60 per acre		30 points	
\$61 to \$90 per acre		20 points	
More than \$90 per acre		10 points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Brush (Mesquite)

1) Offer includes treatment of mesquite and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit. Economic criteria includes all costs associated with treatment [Brush Management (314), Mechanical &/or Chemical] divided by the acres treated. A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.			Score
High Priority		50 points	
Medium Priority		40 points	
Low Priority		20 points	
2) Economic Criteria (combined cost of treatment per acre)			Score
\$25 or less per acre		50 points	
\$24 to \$50 per acre		40 points	
\$51 to \$70 per acre		30 points	
\$71 to \$90 per acre		20 points	
More than \$90 per acre		10 points	

Resource: Plants **Concern:** Pest – Brush (Mixed Brush)

1) Offer includes treatment of mixed brush and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A) on the entire operating unit with the primary concern. Brush levels will be managed to no less than that outlined in the ecological site description. Economic criteria includes all costs associated with treatment [Prescribed Burning (338), Brush Management (314), &/or Firebreak (394)] divided by the acres treated. A majority (51%) of the planned treatment acres must occur in the scored category.	Score
High Priority	50 points
Medium Priority	40 points
Low Priority	20 points
2) Economic Criteria (combined cost of treatment per acre)	Score
\$10 or less per acre	50 points
\$11 to \$40 per acre	40 points
\$41 to \$60 per acre	30 points
\$61 to \$90 per acre	20 points
More than \$90 per acre	10 points

Resource: Animals **Concern:** Habitat – Water (Domestic)

1) Offer includes treatment planned to provide a permanent source of water for domestic livestock and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A). All ponds constructed will be fenced to exclude livestock and an alternate water source or limited access provided. Applicable practices include Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614), Well (642), and Animal Trails and Walkways (575).	Score
A permanent water source planned for each 160 acres	50 points
A permanent water source planned for each 80 acres	30 points
A permanent water source planned for each 40 acres	20 points
A permanent water source planned for each 20 acres or less	10 points

Resource: Animals **Concern:** Habitat – Cover/Shelter (Wildlife)

1) Offer includes treatment planned to provide adequate cover/shelter for the species identified in the wildlife habitat plan according to the Wildlife Upland Habitat Management (645) and/or Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management (644) standard and specification (check and score all species that apply):	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobwhite Quail	5 x acres
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Prairie Chicken	4 x acres
<input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl	3 x acres
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	2 x acres
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitetail Deer	1 x acres

Resource: Animals **Concern:** Management – Population and Resource Balance

1) Offer includes implementation of a Prescribed Grazing (528A) system that balances forage production with livestock numbers for the period of the contract.	Score
100% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	50 points
50-99% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	20 points
25-49% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	10 points
<25% of grazingland in operating unit planned for implementation during contract period	0 points

Criteria Applicable to All Resource Concerns and Land Uses

1) Offer includes planned treatment for all resource concerns to the quality criteria level, in addition to the primary concern, for all land uses on the entire operating unit (score an additional 500 points only when all resource issues for the entire operating unit are addressed in the conservation plan and will be implemented within the contract period).	500 points	Score
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1) Planned treatment includes protection of existing perennial &/or intermittent streams from degradation by establishment of new and/or protection of existing conservation buffer practices. Both may be scored in this category. Buffer practices include Contour Buffer Strips (332), Filter Strip (393), Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Herbaceous Wind Barriers (422A), Field Border (386), and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380). Existing buffers must meet one of the listed practice standards before points may be awarded.			
Establishment &/or protection will be provided within the contract period. Score all that apply.	Native Species	Introduced Species	Score
Establishing new buffer practices (includes regeneration)	50 x acres	10 x acres	
Protection of existing buffers	25 x acres	5 x acres	

1) Planned treatment includes adoption of conservation tillage practices in lieu of or in addition to structural and /or vegetative erosion control practices. Score points only if applicant plans to adopt a level of treatment above current implementation (not intended to reward those currently implementing conservation tillage practices).			Score
One or more of the following conservation tillage practices must be scheduled for implementation within the contract period:	Operating Unit Treatment	Partial Treatment	
Residue Management, No-till and Strip Till (329A)	50 Points	20 Points	
Residue Management, Ridge Till (329C)	40 Points	15 Points	
Residue Management, Mulch Till (328B)	30 Points	10 Points	
Residue Management, Seasonal (344)	0 Points	0 Points	

1) Planned treatment includes conversion of cropland (dryland or irrigated, including pivot corners) to permanent vegetation.	Score
Cropland to Range Planting (550)	10 x acres
Cropland to Pasture and Hay Planting (512)	5 x acres

1) Economic Criteria (combined cost of treatment per acre). Includes the total estimated cost share required to implement ALL planned practices divided by the offered acres.	Score
\$25 or less per acre	60 points
\$26 to \$50 per acre	50 points
\$51 to \$75 per acre	40 points
\$76 to \$100 per acre	30 points
\$101 to \$150 per acre	20 points
\$151 to \$200 per acre	10 points
More than \$200 per acre	0 points