

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY14 Organic Transition

This is the FY 2014 Ranking Tool for Standard and Historically Underserved Pacific Islands Area participants addressing resource concerns on all landuses who are programmatically considered certified organic producers. This will be used for all 2014 EQIP applications assigned to the National "Organic Transition" fund code. Pacific Islands Area applications addressing priority resource concerns along with conservation practices to resolve those concerns will be considered for funding. Field Offices are required to follow all programmatic and technical policies when planning and implementation practices. Transitioning to Organic must self-certify that they agree to develop and implement an Organic System Plan (OSP) before an EQIP contract may be approved. EQIP Organic Initiative Self-Certification Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2014 must be completed for each applicant.

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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues 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 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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Quality Degradation: Answer all questions that apply for a maximum of 45 points.	
2. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter compaction, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one soil quality or enhancing practice that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points	
3. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points	
4. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes 595 Integrated Pest Management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degraded Plant Condition: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points	
5. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering farm?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Insufficient Water: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points	

6. a Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Livestock Production Limitation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points	
7. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing AND/OR 512 Pasture & Hayland Planting for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

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.