

## Ranking Tool Summary

**for FY2014 - EQIP Beginning Farmer/Rancher  
for FY2014 - EQIP Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher  
for FY2014 - EQIP Socially Disadvantaged  
for FY2014 - EQIP Tribal  
(Draft)**

### State Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.	300
2		NON-POINT REDUCTION/EMISSIONS REDUCTION	
	1	NON-POINT REDUCTION/EMISSIONS REDUCTION: Will practice(s) in application treat livestock waste for an existing livestock operation with a resource concern problem identified? (Can only answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	40
	2	NON-POINT REDUCTION/EMISSIONS REDUCTION: Will practice(s) in application treat livestock waste for an existing livestock operation with a resource concern problem identified, where the entire facility is relocated to a new less environmentally sensitive location? (Can only answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	40
	3	NON-POINT REDUCTION/EMISSIONS REDUCTION: Will practice(s) in the application treat livestock waste for an existing livestock operation with resource concern problem identified where expansion of the livestock operation is planned? (Can only answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	10
3		DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION	
	1	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Does the application address Degraded Plant Condition for a livestock grazing management operation.	40
4		NON-POINT REDUCTION	
	1	NON-POINT REDUCTION: Is the application within a watershed listed in "Iowa Section 303(d) Impaired Waters Listings" or one of the following water quality approved projects: Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF), Water Protection Fund (WPF), EPA 319 Project, or Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (IWIRB) Fund, or Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Priority Watersheds?	14

	2	NON-POINT REDUCTION: Do the practice(s) in the application address the identified Ag related nonpoint source impairment within a TMDL, a watershed listed in "Iowa Section 303(d) Impaired Waters Listings" or one of the following water quality approved projects: Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF), Water Protection Fund (WPF), EPA 319 Project, or Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (IWIRB) Fund, or Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Priority Watersheds?	50
5		INVASIVE SPECIES	
	1	INVASIVE SPECIES: Does the application address an invasive species problem with pasture management or forest management?	14
6		SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION	
	1	SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION: Will the implementation of practices in this application convert row crop acres to hayland, pastureland, forestland or wildlife acres on at least 5% of the application acres? (Must be new acres converted, not part of normal rotation.)	14
	2	SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION: Are all expiring CRP acres and/or all pasture and hayland acres within all tracts included in this EQIP application maintained as hayland, pastureland, forestland or wildlife acres? (Maintenance of these acres as hayland, pastureland, forestland or wildlife acres must be covered in the EQIP contract.)	28
	3	SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION: Is Soil Conditioning Index improved at least 0.3 points by applying the practices in this application? (Use predominant soil map unit.)	20
	4	SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION REDUCTION: Is STIR rating improved at least 30 points by applying the practices in this application? (Use predominant soil map unit.)	22
7		AT-RISK SPECIES HABITAT PROMOTION	
	1	AT-RISK SPECIES HABITAT PROMOTION: Does the application of practice(s) in this EQIP application result in land being converted to wildlife habitat on at least 3 acres?	14
8		MEETS CSP RESOURCE CONCERN CATEGORY CRITERIA	
	1	MEETS CSP RESOURCE CONCERN CATEGORY CRITERIA: Will the practice(s) in this application meet FOTG Quality Criteria for all resource concerns within a CSP resource concern category not presently met?	44
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	650

## Local Issues:

### Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.	350
2		WATER QUALITY	
	1	WATER QUALITY: Will the application result in installation of practice(s) that will exclude livestock from perennial or intermittent streams, and other water bodies, or environmentally sensitive areas such as timber or remnant prairie? (Can only answer yes to either question 2.1 or 2.2)	30
	2	WATER QUALITY: Will the application result in installation of practice(s) that will control access of livestock to perennial or intermittent streams and other water bodies? (Can only answer yes to either question 2.1 or 2.2)	18
	3	WATER QUALITY: Will a plan to manage organic or commercial nutrients be a part of this EQIP application?	30
	4	WATER QUALITY: Is the existing feedlot that will be treated within 500 feet of a stream?	30
	5	WATER QUALITY: Is the application area predominantly located in a locally identified priority watershed and practices treat the specific resource concerns of that priority area? These are listed on the county website information page	46
	6	WATER QUALITY: Will the application result in the implementation of a CNMP involving an animal waste storage/treatment facility that the applicant has the CNMP in hand at time of sign-up.	30
3		SOIL EROSION	
	1	SOIL EROSION: Is the application for practices that, when combined with other conservation practices in the applicant's conservation plan, treat the soil resource concern to the quality criteria (erosion to "T")?	30
	2	SOIL EROSION: Does the application include structural practices that control ephemeral and actively eroding classic gullies on the entire tract? (Can only answer yes to either question 3.2 or 3.3)	46
	3	SOIL EROSION: Does the application include structural practices that control ephemeral and actively eroding classic gullies on only the application area? (Can only answer yes to either question 3.2 or 3.3)	30
	4	SOIL EROSION: Will the application include cover crops on 20% or more of their soybean or silage ground for at least two years?	30
4		DOMESTIC ANIMALS	
	1	DOMESTIC ANIMALS: Is the application for the development of a prescribed grazing system that will be applied with EQIP funds and at least 10% of the total pasture area will be converted from cropland.	30
5		PLANT CONDITION	
	1	PLANT CONDITION: Will the application implement a pasture management system that includes 2 - 4 paddocks? (Can only answer yes to either question 5.1 or 5.2)	18

	2	PLANT CONDITION: Will the application implement a pasture management system that includes 5 or more paddocks? (Can only answer yes to either question 5.1 or 5.2)	30
	3	PLANT CONDITION: Does the application include adding legumes or native grasses to a pasture to improve forage quality?	18
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	766