Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

EQIP Forest

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: EQIP Forest		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
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.	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes O or No O
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes O or No O
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of drinking water supply reservoir, surface water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity")	Yes O or No O
2. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a groundwater area mapped GAA or community wellhead and ground water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes O or No O
3. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed affecting class SA waters impacted by agriculture and water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes O or No O
4. Based upon the 2008 303d list is the operation located within 300 feet of the impaired waterbody or tributary thereto or is hydrogically connected that is directly impaired by nutrients (dissolved oxygen or excessive algal growth), pesticides, turbidity or other agricultural pollutants such as bacteria/pathogens and the particular water quality issue(s)) is being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook -Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes O or No O
5. Is the site located within 1000 feet of cold water fishery or Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPW) where water quality and/or water conservation practices are needed to improve and/or protect one of the identified SRPW categories listed. The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	Yes O or No O
6. Will soil erosion or soil conservation practices have a positive effect on prime farmland soils or a soil of statewide importance as listed by Rhode Island NRCS?	Yes O or No O
7. Are public areas (public roads, school, etc.) or non-farm residences contiguous to cropland where air quality practices will be implemented? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effet on Air Quality.)	Yes O or No O
8. Will planned practices enhance protection and are within 1000 feet of T & E species or State listed species?	Yes O or No O
9. Will planned practices address control of noxious and invasive species?	Yes O or No O
10. Is the land permanently protected through a conservation easement, purchase of development rights or other mechanism?	Yes O or No O
11. Has the applicant previously successfully addressed a resource concern?	Yes O or No O

12. Will planned practices address water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns that are within 300 feet of a private well or other surface waters/wetlands? The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	Yes O or No O
13. Has the applicant previously deveoped a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and is going to implement it under this contract?	Yes O or No O
14. Will the project enhance or contribue to habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation through this EQIP Contract?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Forest	
1. Is the practice going to improve water quality with regard to excessive sediment in surface water?	Yes O or No O
2. Is the land unit designated in a RIGIS drinking water supply area?	Yes O or No O
3. Does this application include Early Successional Habitat development?	Yes O or No O
4. Is the applicant installing forestry wildlife structures such as bird boxes, bat baxes or will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
5. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes O or No O
6. Are adjacent lands implementing forest management practices that are benefitting wildlife and forest health?	Yes O or No O
7. Has the applicant participated in the Coverts program?	Yes O or No O
8. Will the applicant implement a 35 foot riparian buffer (herbacious or woody) on all water bodies through the EQIP contract?	Yes O or No O
9. Is the applicant currently compliant with any existing NRCS contracts including O&M and record keeping?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

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.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**