Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY14 Certified Organic

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: FY14 Certified Organic		**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
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 Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (126)? 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 O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points	
3. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
4. b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?	Yes O or No O
4. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	Yes O or No O
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 contaminates from entering farm?	Yes O or No O
5. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	Yes O or No O
5. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management?	Yes O or No O

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 O or No O
6. b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	Yes O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O
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 O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
2. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes O or No O
3. Will practices be applied to reduce erosion? (Practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook)	Yes O or No O
4. Does the applicant currently have and implement an approved Irrigation Water Management Plan including record keeping?	Yes O or No O
5. Does the applicant currently use no-till or reduced tillage methods resulting in improved soil quality?	Yes O or No O
6. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement nutrient and pest management throughthe EQIP contract. (Record keeping is required for applicants currently implementing nutrient and pest management to answer yes.)?	Yes O or No O
7. 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
8. Will practiced be installed to exclude livestock from riparian areas and wetlands or vernal pools?	Yes O or No O
9. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is ?Yes?, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is No?	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:**