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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - EQIP 2015 Cropland Beginning Farmer FA

(Draft)

Description:

EQIP 2015. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2015 Cropland Beginning Farmer applications.

Land Uses:

Crop

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 126.670
Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 70	Medium: 69 - 30	Low: 29 - 0
100-70	69-30	29-0

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
250-175	174-100	99-0

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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.	250
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2	c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10

4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
	Total Points	500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 300 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
300-200	199-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	An EQIP planned practice will be for the development of one of the following Conservation Activity Plans (CAP), to be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP): 104 – Nutrient Management Plan OR 114 – Integrated Pest Management Plan OR 118 – Irrigated Water Management Plan OR 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan OR 142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan OR 146 - Pollinator Habitat Management Plan OR 112 - Prescribed Burning Plan. NOTE: An EQIP applicant requesting financial assistance for BOTH a CAP AND CPS must be considered as separate applications and ranked accordingly.	300
	2	To address the resource concern: Soil Erosion, Sheet & Rill Erosion, Does the EQIP application include 329 - Residue & Tillage Management, No Till, on all eligible crop land[2]?	60
	3	To address the resource concern: Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters, Does the EQIP application include at least one EQIP planned practice (386 or 327) along and around all intermittent and perennial streams and water bodies on the offered tract(s)?	60
	4	To address the resource concern: Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion, Does the EQIP application include Conservation Crop Rotation (328) 'Add Small Grain to Rotation' option on all eligible crop land[1] (or at the 328 EQIP Policy Maximum Amount) on the offered tract	60

		(s)?	
	5	To address the resource concern: Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion, Does the EQIP application include the Cover Crops (340) on all eligible crop land[1] (or at the 340 EQIP Policy Maximum Amount) on the offered tract(s)?	60
	6	To address the resource concern: Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface & Ground Waters, Does the EQIP application include at least one of the Nutrient Management (590) 'Enhanced – split applications of Nitrogen' or 'Enhanced with Tissue Testing' options on all eligible crop land[1] (or at the 590 EQIP Policy Maximum Amount) on the offered tract (s)?	60
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	600

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 350 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
350-200	199-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	An EQIP planned practice will be for the development of one of the following Conservation Activity Plans (CAP), to be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP): 104 – Nutrient Management Plan OR 114 – Integrated Pest Management Plan OR 118 – Irrigated Water Management Plan OR 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan OR 142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan OR 146 - Pollinator Habitat Management Plan OR 112 - Prescribed Burning Plan. NOTE: An EQIP applicant requesting financial assistance for BOTH a CAP AND CPS must be considered as separate applications and ranked accordingly.	350
	2	To address the resource concern: Soil Erosion, Sheet & Rill Erosion, Does the EQIP application include 329 - Residue Management No-till/Strip-till, on all eligible crop land[1]?	88
	3	To address the resource concern: Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters, Does the EQIP application include at least one EQIP planned practice (386 or 327) along and around all intermittent and perennial streams and water bodies on the offered tract(s)?	86
	4	To address the resource concern: Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion, Does the EQIP application include the Cover Crops (340) on all eligible crop land[1] (or at the 340 EQIP Policy Maximum Amount) on the offered tract(s)?	88
	5	To address the resource concern: Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface & Ground Waters, Does the EQIP application include at least one of the Nutrient Management (590) 'Enhanced – split applications of Nitrogen' or 'Enhanced with Tissue Testing' options on all eligible crop land[1] (or at the 590 EQIP Policy Maximum Amount) on the offered tract (s)?	88
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	700

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality Impacts: Objectionable Odors

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Drainage Water Management (554)
Drainage Water Management Plan - Written (130)
Prescribed Burning (338)
Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
Firebreak (394)
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan - Written (142)
Pollinator Habitat Plan - Written (146)
Shallow Water Management (646)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443)
Sprinkler System (442)
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
Irrigation Pipeline (430)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
Diversion (362)
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
Grassed Waterway (412)
Underground Outlet (620)
Vertical Drain (630)
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
Critical Area Planting (342)
Mulching (484)
Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
Terrace (600)
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
Cover Crop (340)
Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
Conservation Cover (327)
Field Border (386)
Structure for Water Control (587)
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
Well Decommissioning (351)
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
Nutrient Management (590)
Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
Integrated Pest Management (595)
Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)

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