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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - EQIP 2015 Pasture/Hayland Area 4 FA

(Draft)

Description:

EQIP 2015. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2015 Pasture/Hayland Area 4 applications.

Land Uses:

Farmstead, Pasture, Water

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 105.000
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	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): 110 – Grazing Management Plan, 104 - Nutrient Management Plan, 114 - Integrated Pest Management Plan,142 - Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, 146 - Pollinatore 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 concerns: Degraded Plant Condition - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health, Does the EQIP application include practices to install a new, minimum 4-permanent paddocks per herd grazing system that will meet the Prescribed Grazing (528) CPS?	60
	3	To address the resource concerns: Degraded Plant Condition - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health, Does the EQIP application include practices to (a) expand an existing, properly-managed grazing system by at least 3 permanent paddocks per herd OR (b) installing a new, minimum 8-permanent paddocks per herd grazing system, that (for applicable a or b) will meet the Prescribed Grazing (528) CPS?	60
	4	To address the resource concerns: Degraded Plant Condition - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health, Does the EQIP application include structural	60

		practices that will meet the Prescribed Grazing (528 CPS AND provide at least 300 days of grazing pasture forage to the herd, as documented by the inventory & planning within the Graze4)?	
	5	To address the resource concerns: Degraded Plant Condition - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health, Does the EQIP application include Access Control (472) to exclude all livestock from any streams, wetlands, or sink holes?	60
	6	To address the resource concerns: Livestock Production Limitation - Inadequate Feed and Forage, does the EQIP application include Forage & Biomass Planting (512) to convert at least fifty percent (50%) of the annually-tilled/annually-planted commodity cropped land use acres [present on the tract(s) being offered in EQIP] to permanent herbaceous vegetation?	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	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): 110 – Grazing Management Plan, 104 - Nutrient Management Plan, 114 - Integrated Pest Management Plan,142 - Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, 146 - Pollinatore 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	Will undesirable plant productivity and health be improved by expanding an existing, properly managed grazing system by 3 or more paddocks OR installing a new grazing system of 8 or more paddocks per herd- through implementation of EQIP planned practices?	95
	3	Will undesirable plant productivity and health be improved by expanding an existing, properly managed grazing system by 3 or more paddocks to make 12 or more paddocks per herd- through implementation of EQIP planned practices?	34
	4	Applicant (or active manager of offered acres) has completed an approved regional grazing school (by October 31, 2014- end of regional grazing school year, and completion must be certified and documented by field staff).	65
	5	Access control (472) is included in the application to protect water quality and address undesirable plant productivity and health- by excluding any streams, water bodies, or sink holes. Livestock (at time of application) must currently be present and have access (to be eligible for the points and 472 payment).	44
	6	Access control (472) is included in the application to protect Plant Condition-productivity, health, and vigor and Soil Health by excluding livestock from forestland- on at least 20% of the forested contiguous blocks that are within the tract(s) acres being offered in this application. Livestock (at time of application) must currently be present and have	44

		access (to be eligible for the points, 472 payments, and to be considered in the calculations).	
	7	Undesirable plant productivity and health will be improved by installing a new minimum five (5) paddock per herd grazing system (through practices included in this application) that meets 528 specifications.	44
	8	Undesirable plant productivity and health will be improved by the conversion (using 512) of at least 20% of the existing endophyte infected fescue pasture acres (on the tract(s) being offered) to either acres of endophyte friendly (novel) fescue OR warm season grasses OR a different non-endophyte CSG/legume mix. A combination of all options can be used to come up to the 20%. The acres of existing endophyte infected fescue pasture within the boundaries of the tract being offered for EQIP will be considered in the calculations for the conversion.	24
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	700

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality Impacts: Objectionable Odors
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
- Brush Management (314)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
- Access Control (472)
- Grazing Management Plan - Written (110)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Pumping Plant (533)
- 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)

Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
- Fence (382)
- Forage & Biomass Planting (512)

Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water
- Livestock Pipeline (516)
- Pond (378)
- Spring Development (574)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)

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)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Mulching (484)

Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
- Cover Crop (340)

Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Field Border (386)
- Stream Crossing (578)

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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