Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2014 - FY14 On-Farm Energy

(Released 01/07/2014)

Description:

This ranking tool and fund code will be used for all 2014 EQIP On-Farm Energy Implementation applications statewide in Connecticut. The scores will be used for selecting applications for contract development in 2014. The scores this ranking tool calculates will be used to evaluate and rank applications

Land Uses:

Crop, Farmstead, Pasture

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 145	Medium: 144 - 75	Low: 74 - 0
This application ranks in the High range by meeting a significant number of the National EQIP priorities	This application ranks in the Medium range for meeting a beneficial number of the National EQIP priorities	This application ranks in the Low range for meeting only a few or none of the National EQIP priorities

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. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
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?	15
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10

7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	10
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
	Total Points	500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 400 - 250	Medium: 249 - 110	Low: 109 - 0
This application ranks in the High range for meeting a significant number of Connecticut state level EQIP priorities	This application ranks in the Medium range for meeting a beneficial number of Connecticut state level EQIP priorities	This application ranks in the Low range for meeting only a few of Connecticut state level EQIP priorities

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for the 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 level questions.	
	1	a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan ? 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.	400
2		Answer the following question regarding the producer’s efforts to understand and improve existing energy conservation systems in their farming operation.	
	2	a Will the schedule of operation include practices that were recommendations made in an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) or an on-farm energy audit that meets the ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits Comprehensive Type 2 standards, which has been completed or updated in the last four years?	100
3		Select all categories of major energy efficiency activities that have been installed within the last four years by the applicant to address inefficient use of energy in their farming operation.	
	3	a LIGHTING components (lamps, timers, sensors)	10
	3	b VENTILATION components (fans, control systems, humidity control)	10
	3	c REFRIGERATION components (compressor, evaporator/chiller, motor, insulation)	10
	3	d MILK HARVESTING components (pumps, motors, controllers)	10
	3	e ELECTRONIC CONTROLLER components (master system automation)	10

	3	f OTHER MOTORS, VARIABLE FREQUENCY (SPEED) DRIVES components (compressors)	10
	3	g AIR HEATING/BUILDING ENVIRONMENT components (heater, insulation, recovery)	10
	3	h DRYING components (air flow, handling equipment)	10
	3	i WASTE HANDLING components (collection and dispersal equipment/methods)	10
	3	j AIR COOLING (airflow, control systems, evaporative)	10
	3	k WATER MANAGEMENT components (wells, reservoir, recycled)	10
	3	l IRRIGATION components (motors/engines, pumps)	10
	3	m AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES that use more energy efficient engine driven equipment (i.e., planting, tilling, harvesting, etc.)?	10
	3	n CROP/FEED STORAGE components?	10
	3	o MATERIAL HANDLING (equipment, motors, pumps) components?	10
4		If appropriate, answer one of the following questions regarding conservation practices offered in the EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative:	
	4	a Application includes three or more core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	50
	4	b Application includes two core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	25
5		If appropriate, answer one of the following questions for the conservation practices in the applicant's schedule of operation using the value calculated from Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet.	
	5	a Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 50%?	100
	5	b Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 30% but less than or equal to 50%?	50
	5	c Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 20% but less than or equal to 30%?	25
	5	d Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency less than or equal to 20%?	0
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	900

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.923

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 145	Medium: 144 - 75	Low: 74 - 0
This application ranks in the High range for meeting a significant number of the Local criteria that consider ecology and specific resource concerns.	This application ranks in the Medium range for meeting a moderate number of the Local criteria that consider ecology and specific resource concerns.	This application ranks in the Low range for meeting only a few or none of the Local criteria that consider ecology and specific resource concerns.

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Location	
	1	a. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	5
	1	b. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed or designated Aquifer Protection Area AND does it contain practices that address water quality?	15
2		Degree of Cooperation by Producer	

	2	a.If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	20
	2	b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	10
	2	c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5
3		Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
	3	a. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	20
	3	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	20
4		Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
	4	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	20
	4	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	20
		Maximum Points: 130 Total Points	135