Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2014 - Wildlife

(Released 01/15/2014)

Description:

This ranking tool and fund code will be used for all 2014 EQIP Wildlife 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:

Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Designated Protected Area, Forest, 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	This application ran	ks in the Medium	This application ranks	in the Low
rang	e by meeting a significant	range for meeting a	a beneficial number	range for meeting onl	y a few or none
num	ber of the National EQIP prior	rities of the National EQI	P priorities	of the National EQIP p	oriorities

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

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7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?			
8	8 a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?			
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: 1.951 Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

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

Questions:

Sub-	Overtion		
heading Number	Question Number	Question	
1		Species Management	
	1	a. Will the practices in this contract DIRECTLY benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP NDDB (Natural Diversity Database)? A request for species information must have been submitted and recommendations returned. The recommendations for the species will be implemented in this contract.	50
	1	b. Does the contract include practices like 327 Conservation Cover, 393 Field Borders, 391 Riparian Forest Buffers, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Development, 612 Tree/Shrub Planting, 395 IPM or 647 Early Successional Habitat Management that are designed to benefit pollinators or other wildlife? (refer to New England Pollinator Handbook for design recommendations)	25
	1	c. Will the practices in this contract enhance or provide wildlife corridors by linking existing habitat patches across owned or adjacent forestland?	10
	1	d. Will the proposed project directly benefit anadramous or diadramous fish?	20
	1	e. Will the practice(s) include replacement or removal of culverts, stone fords, or other in-stream structures with bridges, open-bottom culverts spanning bankfull width, or other designs (Aquatic Organism Passage, Structure for Water Contol) to promote fisheries and wildlife passage?	25
2		Vegetation Managment	
	2	a. If invasives are being removed, is there a long term plan to prevent them from regrowth (e.g. planting something that can easily be maintained)?	30
	2	b. Will the intended practice(s) provide direct benefits to wildlife and habitats through implementation of practices such as mast release, tree and shrub plantings, or encouragement of early successional habitats?	25
3		Erosion and Water Quality	

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	a. Will the practices in the contract restore sensitive areas and/or improve an erosion resource concern by relocating poorly sited roads or stabilizing existing roads, trails, and landings?	10
	b. Will the contract result in the installation of Riparian Forest Buffer(s) which meet or exceed CT NRCS standards (minimum 35' width)? This could be the creation of new buffers, or extension of existing buffers.	10
	Maximum Points: 205 Total Points	205

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 2.381 Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 145	Medium: 144 - 75	Low: 74 - 0
This application ranks in the High	This application ranks in the Medium	This application ranks in the Low
	range for meeting a moderate number	
number of the Local criteria that	of the Local criteria that consider	of the Local criteria that consider
consider ecology and specific resource	ecology and specific resource	ecology and specific resource
concerns.	concerns.	concerns.

Questions:

Questions:			
Sub- heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Location	
		a. Is this an application that includes practices to address water quality at a site that is located in a twelve (12) digit Hydrologic Unit code (HUC) watershed of a 303(d) listed stream?	25
		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?	40
		c. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	15
2		Degree of Cooperation by Producer	
	2	a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	10
	2	b.If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	10
	2	c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5
	2	d. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5
		Maximum Points: 105 Total Points	110