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## Ranking Tool Summary for FY2015 - FY15 Certified Organic (Draft)

### Description:

EQIP 2015. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2015 Certified Organic applications.

### Land Uses:

Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Pasture, Range

### 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,	10

	PM10)?	
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: 400 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
400-200	199-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 Transition to Organic Plan (138)? 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		Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
	2	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	60
3		Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
	3	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	60
4		Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
	4	a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage?	35

	4	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	35
5		Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points	
	5	a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?	20
	5	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	50
	5	c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	20
6		Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
	6	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?	50
7		Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	
	7	a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40
	7	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20
	7	c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10
		Maximum Points: 400    Total Points	800

**Local Issues:**

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:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
	2	Does the participant/entity qualify for HU status (includes BF, LRF or SDF)?	75
	3	Does the participant/entity qualify for Veterans preference status?	175
		Maximum Points: 250    Total Points	500

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Air Quality Impacts: Objectionable Odors

Animal Mortality Facility (316)

Roofs and Covers (367)

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

- Alley Cropping (311)
- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Tra (138)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Pumping Plant (533)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

## Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

- Access Control (472)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

## Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water

- Drainage Water Management (554)

## Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management

- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)

## Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Sprinkler System (442)

## 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)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Mulching (484)
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

## Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion

- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Terrace (600)

## Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)

## Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Field Border (386)
- Stream Crossing (578)

## Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater

- Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant (521B)
- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Waste Transfer (634)

## Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water

Composting Facility (317)  
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - (102)  
Filter Strip (393)  
Nutrient Management (590)  
Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)  
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water  
Integrated Pest Management (595)

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