

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary  
Div I - Grazingland**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2008	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Div I - Grazingland		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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 national priority category.	
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 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)

Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
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 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)

7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>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.</p>	
<p>1. a. Is the program application for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Grazing Management Plan (110), Prescribed Burning Plan (112) or Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	375 Point(s)
<p>Will the application include the installation of dependable water system(s) or an upgrade to an existing watering system(s)? Note: Dependable water defined as water that is available for the whole grazing season and meets livestock water requirements. (Select only 1 answer) Rough terrain is considered to have a slope of 20-25% or greater (NRPH 1997 - 5.2-39)</p>	
<p>2. a. Will there be dependable water source(s) spaced 0.5 mile apart on rough terrain or up to 1.0 mile apart on level terrain by end of the contract period? OR</p>	75 Point(s)
<p>2. b. Will there be dependable water source(s) spaced 0.75 miles apart on rough terrain or 1.0 to 1.5 miles apart on level terrain by end of the contract period? OR</p>	35 Point(s)
<p>2. c. Will there be dependable water source(s) spaced &gt; 1.0 miles apart on rough terrain or 1.5 to 2 miles apart on level terrain by end of the contract period? OR</p>	20 Point(s)
<p>2. d. Will there be dependable water source(s) spaced &gt; 2.0 miles apart any terrain by end of the contract period?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>Wildlife Concerns</p>	

<p>3. Where inadequate water for wildlife is identified as a resource concern, will contracted practices allow for livestock water to be managed so that dependable water is available in each pasture from "frost to frost" for wildlife access?</p>	<p>50 Point(s)</p>
<p>Facilitating Practices (Select all that apply)</p>	
<p>4. If fencing and or water development is installed will the new pastures (grazing units) be of near equal productivity (in AUM's) rather than of near equal acreage? (Fence and/or water development is required to take points)</p>	<p>75 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the installed practices allow consolidation of herds? Note: As a general rule two or more herds will need to be combined in order to achieve a functioning rotational grazing system that provide adequate rest and recovery of forage resources.</p>	<p>75 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will 528 - Prescribed Grazing be implemented on the grazing operation through EQIP (contracted)? Note: Prescribed Grazing will be applied on all contracted acres that are included in the Planned Grazing Schedule ECS-29. Prescribed Grazing will be implemented following the installation of planned facilitating practices (water development, fencing, seeding's etc.). A grazing operation is all the grazed range and pasture land that is grazed by livestock. This excludes special use pastures (calving and winter feeding), hayland/cropland acres that are aftermath grazed. The whole grazing operation is not required to be included in the grazing plan, however all grazed range and pastureland fields that are part of the planned grazing system must be identified and included in the plan and contract.</p>	<p>100 Point(s)</p>

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>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 local level questions.</p>	
<p>1. a. Is the program application for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Grazing Management Plan (110), Prescribed Burning Plan (112) or Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	275 Point(s)
<p>What is the percentage of grazed range and pasture land (non-federal) in the grazing operation that will be improved by planned practices or management? (Select only 1 answer)            Note: A grazing operation is all the grazed range and pasture land that is grazed by livestock. This excludes special use pastures (calving and winter feeding), hayland/cropland acres that are aftermath grazed. During the planning process determine at what level of management the applicant is ready willing and able to commit to.</p>	
<p>2. a. Greater than 61% OR</p>	35 Point(s)
<p>2. b. 41 - 60% OR</p>	20 Point(s)
<p>2. c. 10 - 40%</p>	5 Point(s)

<p>Will planned practices or management minimize livestock access to traditional natural water sources (streams, rivers, springs, reservoirs) when riparian areas are most vulnerable? (Select only 1 answer) Note: Avoid use when stream banks/shorelines are soft in spring of year, then vegetation is actively growing and stabilizing banks, and when tree and/or shrub seedlings vulnerable to browse damage. Practices may include: development of alternate dependable water sources, fencing, fabricated windbreaks, planned grazing system that provides early growing season deferment, rest rotation or dormant season use of riparian pastures.</p>	
<p>3. a. Control livestock access to live water sources or riparian areas through fencing OR</p>	<p>35 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. b. Reduce contact to live water sources or riparian areas through grazing management, off site water development and or winter shelter for livestock.</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>Facilitating Practices (Select all that apply)</p>	
<p>4. Will existing woven wire fence with known wildlife mortality or wildlife damage be replaced with wildlife friendly fence?</p>	<p>35 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. In lieu of cross fencing will planned practices or management allow for controlled movement of livestock? Note: Multiple water sources in one or more large pastures will be utilized to move livestock by controlling access to water sources. Controlled access may be achieved through turning tanks on and off or fencing off water sources. Each grazing area will have water source designed to met the water requirements of the whole herd while grazing any one grazing area.</p>	<p>50 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will pine and/or juniper encroachment on grazed range be treated through Brush Management to improve or maintain plant health and vigor? Note: Must contract a minimum of 5 acres with a minimum canopy cover of 6% or 75 stems/acre. Contract must include 314, Brush Management, (Woody Residue Treatment - 384 and Prescribed Burn - 383 may be required for treatment of slash piles).</p>	<p>25 Point(s)</p>

