

Ranking Tool Summary
for FY2014 - FY14 IA PPWGRP
(Draft)

State Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	The program application to support the development of a conservation activity plan (CAP)? 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	Will the offered acres include expired (within the last 2 years) or expiring (this calendar year) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be maintained, enhanced, and or established as wetlands or grasslands?	100
	3	Will the offered acres include existing wetland and grassland that will be retained and have grazing and wildlife management practices scheduled on them?	50
	4	Will the offered acres include annually cropped acres that will be restored to wetlands, grasslands, and/or perennial forage?	50
	5	Will the offered acres include cropland on which the producer agrees to modify an existing crop rotation comprised of corn and soybeans to include any of the following: 1) pollinator friendly crops, 2) fall-seeded small grains to comprise a minimum of 50 percent of the crop rotation, or 3) changing the crop rotation to include perennial grass or legumes in the crop rotation?	20
	6	Will the offered acres include cropland acres that will be used as part of a prescribed grazing system that utilizes the grazing of crop stubble, cover crops, or both?	25
	7	Will the treatment you intend to implement result in wetlands being created, restored, or enhanced?	35
	8	Is the application located within a subregion based on "USFWS Waterfowl Breeding Pairs Maps" that has more than 25 breeding duck pairs per square mile and will provide benefits to priority migratory bird species of concern (waterfowl, grassland birds, or both)?	50
	9	Are the offered acres of land predominately of land capability class (LCC) I-IV that are currently in grassland and at risk of conversion to cropland?	20
	10	Will the offered cropland acres include implementing the 340 cover crop practice to address wildlife habitat - food?	20
	11	The application includes conservation practices that will have a positive effect on Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (i.e., 327 Conservation Cover, 512 Forage and Biomass Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing).	30
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	800

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.	250
2		Degraded Plant Condition	
	1	The application includes conservation practices that will convert rowcrop to perennial vegetation.	50
	2	Application includes implementation of a Prescribed Grazing System	50
3		Fish & Wildlife	
	1	The application includes 340 Cover Crops planned to support the quality criteria for 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management where the practice 645 is included in the conservation plan but not in the contract.	20
	2	The application includes practice 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.	20
	3	Is there an existing CRP wetland adjacent to the application area?	30
	4	The application provides connectivity between wetlands in a wetland complex (complex includes both the wetland and its associated upland habitat) of greater than 1,000 acres. (Can only answer Yes to one of question 4, 5, or 6.)	40
	5	The application provides connectivity between wetlands in a wetland complex (complex includes both the wetland and its associated upland habitat) of between 500 and 1,000 acres. (Can only answer Yes to one of question 4, 5, or 6.)	20
	6	The application provides connectivity between wetlands in a wetland complex (complex includes both the wetland and its associated upland habitat) of less than 500 acres. (Can only answer Yes to one of question 4, 5, or 6.)	10
	7	Will all of the Cover Crop (340) practice be planted on the same land at least 3 consecutive years?	10
4		Water Quality Degradation	
	1	Application includes implementing the Conservation Practice 590 Nutrient Management	20
	2	Application includes implementing practices that will reduce sediment delivery to surface waters, i.e. 410 Grade Stabilization Structure	10
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	530