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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2014 - FY12 NWQI Lower Little Medicine Creek

(Draft)

Description:

EQIP 2014. This ranking tools is to be used when ranking EQIP 2012 NWQI Lower Medicine Creek applications.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Pasture

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 80.000
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. 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 - 300	Medium: 299 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
400-300	299-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	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.	400
	2	Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	80
	3	Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application	80
	4	Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	80
	5	Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the NWQI primary resoruce concerns?	80

	6	Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	80
		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 TSP prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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	Has the applicant completed a Soil and Water Conservation District or NRCS EQIP conservation project within the last 5 years?	84
	3	Will sheet/rill or gulley erosion be addressed on cropland by installing an MRBI core practice to reduce erosion from the existing condition AND have a life span greater than 1 year?	83
	4	Has more than one MRBI practice been applied for, to be installed as a conservation system (not just a single practice)?	83
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	500

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
- Access Control (472)
- Animal Mortality Facility (316)
- Composting Facility (317)
- Fence (382)
- Livestock Pipeline (516)
- Roofs and Covers (367)
- Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632)
- Spring Development (574)
- Waste Facility Closure (360)
- Waste Storage Facility (313)
- Waste Transfer (634)
- Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - (102)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Grassed Waterway (412)

- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)
- Pond (378)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Residue Management, Seasonal (344)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt, Ridge Till (346)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Subsurface Drain (606)
- Terrace (600)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water

- Alley Cropping (311)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Drainage Water Management (554)
- Drainage Water Management Plan - Written (130)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)
- Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)

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