

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2014 - Water Quality Degradation Excess Path/Manure

(Released 12/23/2013)

Description:

2014 WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION EXCESS PATH/MANURE RANKING TOOL. This is an updated version of 2013 EXCESS PATHOGENS AND CHEMICALS FROM MANURE, BIO-SOLIDS OR COMPOST RANKING TOOL. Applications with any of the following situations will be classified as low priority. AFOs that do not have an EQIP-ready CNMP developed. AFOs that do not include Nutrient Mangt (590) as a c/s item for all applicable acres. AFOs applications where ground is not owned or operated. AFO applications for new livestock operations. AFO expansions of existing operations beyond 125% of current capacity. Operations where operators do not own or lease adequate ground for nutrient management of the manure and wastewater or operators that do not have control in day to day operations or ownership of livestock. This ranking tool is not to be used to rank application for CNMP CAP plans.

Land Uses:

Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Farmstead, Pasture

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Optional Notes:

Ranking points will only be allowed for new conservation treatment that will be applied to the offered land, and only practices requested to be part of the contract will be considered in the ranking process. Ranking points are not

eligible for conservation treatment planned on any adjacent land or that is already applied on the offered land. Qualifying Beginning Farmers/Ranchers must materially and substantially participate in the operation (provide substantial day-to-day labor and management) of the farm or ranch unit applying for EQIP. Note that existing or expanding AFO's refer to current active livestock operations and not new operations

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

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 CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (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	10

	approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	
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: 1.130

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Is the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located within 0.5 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	60
	2	Is the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located: 0.6 to 1.0 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? If taken do not answer 1& 3. (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	25
	3	Is the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located: Greater than 1.0 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	25
	4	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in an increased ground water protection? Example: upgrading to flexible member liner for proposed earthen storage facility; removing the potential for runoff by moving all livestock into confinement, bedded pack or slatted flow facilities; or closure of existing waste control structure.	40
	5	Is the existing livestock operation considered a small or medium AFO?	38
	6	Is the existing livestock operation or manure storage structure(s) in an NRD	27

		determined Ground Water Management Phase II or III areas?	
	7	For the AFO portion of the operation, is the entire existing livestock operation (maximum operating capacity) in total confinement 100% throughout the 12 month period?	15
	8	Will the producer be utilizing a Vegetative Treatment Area (VTA) ?	21
	9	Is the replacement of existing livestock operation, building, or storage structures for the construction of new building or structures due to a resource concern.	33
	10	Is there a planned animal compost facility for mortality in this EQIP project?	13
	11	Is there a animal compost facility for mortality (that meets compost standards for 316) already being utilized at the existing livestock operation?	5
	12	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in site-specific nutrient management for better nitrogen utilization (i.e. application timing and placement closer to crop uptake, grid sampling, variable rate applicators, GPS based) for all the cropland under ownership and/or operational controlled (leased/easement) ground as outlined in the CNMP following 590 standard?	25
	13	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in site-specific nutrient management for phosphorus (i.e. P-based application rates of manure, field rotation of manure application, manure transfers/exports) far all the cropland under ownership and/or operational control (lease/rented) as outlined in the CNMP following 590 standards?	64
	14	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in the installation of additional and/or new land treatment practices)i.e. 328, 329, 345, 330, 332, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 447, 600, or 638) being applied to 24-50% of the owned (controlled) land applicatiion sites?	16
	15	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in the installation of additional and/or new land treatment practices)i.e. 328, 329, 345, 330, 332, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 447, 600, or 638) being applied to 51-100% of the owned (controlled) land applicatiion sites?	25
	16	Will the applied effluent, wastewater, washwater and/or runoff water from the manure storage structures via irrigation equipment be applied on land application sites that are or will be IWM compliant?	13
	17	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation minimize air quality issues (dust from the operation/buildings or gases from the waste storage facility) using the appropriate practice(s)? (i.e. waste facility cover, methane recovery, bio-filters, shelterbelt)	10
	18	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in complete abandonment or relocation of the operation due to a resource concern? If yes do not answer the next question.	10
	19	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in a partial abandonment or relocation of the operation due to a resource concern?	5
	20	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in no abandonment of the existing livestock operation and/or manure storage structure?	-24
	21	Does the application ground listed in the CNMP include pastureland? If no pastureland, points are taken.	10
	22	Does the application ground listed in the CNMP include pastureland and the total percent of pastureland equate to 1-33%?	-15
	23	Does the application ground listed in the CNMP include pastureland and the total percent of pastureland equate to 34-66%?	-20
	24	Does the application ground listed in the CNMP include pastureland and the total percent of pastureland equates to 67-100%?	-35

	25	If the applicant has a CNMP with pastureland for manure application, is the pastureland accessible for land application equipment?	14
		Maximum Points: Total Points	400

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.800

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	24
	2	If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-44
	3	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	7
	4	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	13
	5	Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project available for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	20
	6	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in 50% of the cropland under ownership and leased (as outlined in the CNMP) being certified organic?	15
	7	Does the applicant who is applying for the EQIP have a completed certified CNMP.	125
	8	Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP have a Nebraska NRCS Ranking-Ready CNMP but not a certified CNMP?	90
		Maximum Points: Total Points	250

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