

Ranking Tool Summary
for FY2014 - FY14 On-Farm Energy
(Released 01/09/2014)

Description:

Under the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Subtitle F – EQIP, Section 2501 provides authority for use of EQIP (as a national purpose) to specifically address energy conservation through practice implementation and for development of Energy Conservation Plans. During fiscal year (FY) 2014, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways: 1) Identify ways to conserve energy on farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) conservation activity plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit; and also 2) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative, such as the Farmstead Energy Improvement (374). Only National questions 1, 3, 4, 8, and 9 are applicable to this ranking. Do not answer any other National questions. Only through implementation of recommended measures and conservation practices will energy conservation, efficiency, and savings be achieved.

Land Uses:

Crop, Farmstead, Pasture, Range

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Optional Notes:

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 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: 1.130

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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.	
	1	a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan ? 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		Answer the following question regarding the producer's efforts to understand and improve existing energy conservation systems in their farming operation.	
	2	a Will the schedule of operation include practices that were recommendations made in an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) or an on-farm energy audit that meets the ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits Comprehensive Type 2 standards, which has been completed or updated in the last four years?	100
3		Select all categories of major energy efficiency activities that have been installed within the last four years by the applicant to address inefficient use of energy in their farming operation.	
	3	a LIGHTING components (lamps, timers, sensors)	10
	3	b VENTILATION components (fans, control systems, humidity control)	10
	3	c REFRIGERATION components (compressor, evaporator/chiller, motor, insulation)	10
	3	d MILK HARVESTING components (pumps, motors, controllers)	10
	3	e ELECTRONIC CONTROLLER components (master system automation)	10
	3	f OTHER MOTORS, VARIABLE FREQUENCY (SPEED) DRIVES components (compressors)	10
	3	g AIR HEATING/BUILDING ENVIRONMENT components (heater, insulation, recovery)	10
	3	h DRYING components (air flow, handling equipment)	10

	3	i WASTE HANDLING components (collection and dispersal equipment/methods)	10
	3	j AIR COOLING (airflow, control systems, evaporative)	10
	3	k WATER MANAGEMENT components (wells, reservoir, recycled)	10
	3	l IRRIGATION components (motors/engines, pumps)	10
	3	m AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES that use more energy efficient engine driven equipment (i.e., planting, tilling, harvesting, etc.)?	10
	3	n CROP/FEED STORAGE components?	10
	3	o MATERIAL HANDLING (equipment, motors, pumps) components?	10
4		If appropriate, answer one of the following questions regarding conservation practices offered in the EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative:	
	4	a Application includes three or more core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	50
	4	b Application includes two core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	25
5		If appropriate, answer one of the following questions for the conservation practices in the applicant's schedule of operation using the value calculated from Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet.	
	5	a Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 50%?	100
	5	b Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 30% but less than or equal to 50%?	50
	5	c Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency more than 20% but less than or equal to 30%?	25
	5	d Is the Estimated Energy Cost Efficiency less than or equal to 20%?	0
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	900

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.800

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 local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
	3	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).	19
	5	Has the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance ever been awarded a grant or loan from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP)	125

		for energy efficiency improvements in the last 3-5 years? If no, points are earned.	
	6	For the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance and has been awarded a grant from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP) for energy efficiency improvements, was the grant payment for any of the same activities being applied for in this application? If no, points are earned.	70
	7	For the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance and has been awarded a grant from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP) for energy efficiency improvements, was the grant payment for any of the same activities being applied for in this application? If yes, points are earned.	-25
	7	Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project being utilized for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	21
	8	Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource, Beginning Farmer/Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged status?	40
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	500