**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

# Application Ranking Summary

## State Priority Monitoring

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| **Program:** | **Ranking Date:** | **Application Number:** |
| **Ranking Tool:** State Priority Monitoring | | **Applicant:** |
| **Final Ranking Score:** | | **Address:** |
| **Planner:** | | **Telephone:** |
| **Farm Location:** | | |

**National Priorities Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| 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. | Yes O or No O |
| 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? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"? | Yes O or No O |
| Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which: | |
| 3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft? | Yes O or No O |
| 3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses? | Yes O or No O |
| 3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project? | Yes O or No O |
| 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? | Yes O or No O |
| 4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)? | Yes O or No O |
| 4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration? | Yes O or No O |
| Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which: | |
| 5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")? | Yes O or No O |
| 5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.? | Yes O or No O |
| 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? | Yes O or No O |
| 6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)? | Yes O or No O |
| High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which: | |

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| 7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management? | Yes O or No O |
| Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which: | |
| 8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation? | Yes O or No O |
| 8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP? | Yes O or No O |
| 8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants? | Yes O or No O |
| 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? | Yes O or No O |
| 9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted? | Yes O or No O |
| 9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices? | Yes O or No O |

**State Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| If there is monitoring equipment onsite previously installed using funding for conservation practice 799 that meets the criteria of the 202 conservation activity or can be retrofitted, answer one of the following. (125 total) | |
| 1. a. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support two or more existing monitoring systems which meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) conservation activity? | Yes O or No O |
| 1. b. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support both of the following: One existing monitoring system that meets the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) conservation activity and at least one new Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) must be installed? | Yes O or No O |
| 1. c. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support two or more existing monitoring systems which can be retrofitted to meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202)? | Yes O or No O |
| 1. d. Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity that will support both of the following: One existing monitoring system which can be retrofitted to meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring- System Installation (202) and at least one new Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202) must be installed. | Yes O or No O |
| Answer all of the following criteria that apply regarding the location of the project. (100 total) | |
| 2. a. Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of existing in-stream (Tier II) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. b. Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of existing 12-digit mouth/pour point (Tier III) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. c. Will the monitoring effort be located along or upstream of an impaired stream segment or water body (as defined by the 303d list or an identified TMDL) and contribute to the knowledge base to assist in the water quality improvement efforts? | Yes O or No O |
| Answer all of the following criteria regarding the participant's ability to expedite implementation of the monitoring (30 total). | |
| 3. a. Does the applicant have a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) on hand that conforms to the 202 | Yes O or No O |

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| Conservation Activity? | |
| 3. b. Has an elevation survey already been completed to establish the size and drainage outlet point of the catchment? | Yes O or No O |
| 3. c. At the time of application, ha sthe level of uncertainty for any existing or proposed edge-of-field monitoring system been estimated from past monitoring activities? | Yes O or No O |
| If the application enables one "control" station to serve as a comparison for multiple "variable" stations, then answer one of the following related to the monitoring plan. | |
| 4. a. Does the application include three edge of field monitoring stations (one "control" station and two "variable" stations)? | Yes O or No O |
| 4. b. Does the application include four or more edge of field monitoring stations (one "control" station and three or more "variable" stations)? | Yes O or No O |
| Answer all of the following criteria that applies to the application's ability to evaluate systems or practices identified for the targeted watershed for FY 2014. (105 total) | |
| 5. a. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits from a conservation system with at least one practice in the Avoid, Control, and Trap categories simultaneously. See attachment B. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. b. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits from a system of practices installed over tile drainage production. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. c. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize water quality benefits to surface-water runoff from a system of practices installed on row crop fields with an average slope of 1 percent or less. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. d. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the effect of timing of commercial and manure nutrients and/or the use of amendments or inhibitors on production and nitrogen and phosphorus losses. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. e. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, and/or soil health). | Yes O or No O |
| 5. f. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of drainage water management systems, bioreactors, or both. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. g. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that characterize the water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems, rice production systems, or both. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. h. The application will evaluate edge-of-field monitoring systems that investigate matching buffer or filter width needs with slopes, erodibility, tillage, and crop rotations. | Yes O or No O |
| Answer all of the following criteria that apply to the past performance of the applicant. (-100 total) | |
| 6. a. Does the applicant currently have any active USDA-NRCS contracts that are behing schedule, or have they had any USDA-NRCS contracts terminated? | Yes O or No O |

**Local Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| 1. Applicant or partner of the applicant has previous experience in the installation, operation, and maintenance of edge-of-field monitoring systems. | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Applicant or partner of the applicant will perform in-stream monitoring as a component of the overall project. | Yes O or No O |

**Land Use:**

| Resource Concerns | Practices |
|---|---|

**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

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| National Issues:<br><br>**Final Ranking Score:** |

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

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| **NRCS Representative:**<br><br><br>**Signature Date:** | **Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:**<br><br><br>**Signature Date:** |