

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions – FY2010 Local Work Group (LWG)

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the LWG drawing account when it does not specifically address the resource concerns targeted by the Statewide funding pools. An applicant may only provide one Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool. When the land within the application consists of both cropland and grassland, the application will compete in the funding pool of the predominant contracted land use.

Note: ONLY financially assisted conservation practices will be considered during the application ranking.

## **Efficiency Score:**

The Efficiency Score considers the benefits of the cost efficiency of the conservation practice during the evaluation of the applications for funding. This score is generated in the interworkings or conservation databases and is generated automatically. The Efficiency Score takes values from the CPPE (Conservation Practice Physical Effects) and cost information from the Practice Average Cost Tables in SmartTech. The score evaluates the effect of the financially assisted conservation practice in solving resource concerns.

## **Screening Tool:**

Applications must have at least one of the National questions (1-7a) answered “Yes” for EQIP application to satisfy the minimum threshold level for funding consideration. These applications will be marked “High” priority. All other applications are considered low priority and the application will not be ranked further.

Those applications that support the selection of one or more National questions within the screening tool will proceed through the remaining ranking procedure. If the applicant’s EQIP application will not support any of the National Measures, inform the applicant of its low priority and inform them of potential conservation planning enhancements that would advance their application for further consideration

## **National Priorities Addressed:**

1. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

1a. *Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

1b. *Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body.*

Points will be awarded if the application acreage adjoins a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list, a “Save our Lakes” waterbody, or a wellhead protection area. Wellhead Protection Area Maps are available in Section 1 of the Field Office Technical Guide (hard copy). Refer to the “Save our Lakes” excel spreadsheet that was provided to you. The 303(d) map overlays for streams and lakes are available for field office use. They are located at f:geodata\hydrography. Choose either tmdl\_streams\_1\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp or tmdl\_lakes\_a\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp. These maps may be used as an overlay on the conservation plan map in ArcGIS to determine if the EQIP application meets the criteria.

1c. *Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application is adjacent to a water body and contains practices that will have a positive impact on water quality, either ground or surface water. This question will be “Yes” for applications applying under the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) statewide resource concern. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, 329, 340, 345, 351, 442 (only when converting from flood to pivot), 512, 550, 590, 595, 603, and/or 610.

2. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:

2a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html>)?

Points will be awarded when any acreage in the application lies above a depleted aquifer AND the practices will provide groundwater recharge benefits.

2b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota. This will always be answered "no".

2c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?

Points will be awarded when the applicant participates in an active EPA-319 sponsored watershed project **AND** applies for water conservation practices within the EQIP application.

3. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:

3a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota, since there are currently no air regulations that apply. This will always be answered "no".

3b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?

This question will rarely be checked as "Yes." Examples may include reducing horsepower of an irrigation pumping station or the conversion of a diesel or gas motor to an electric/solar motor.

3c. Increase carbon sequestration?

Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 391, 393, 472, 512, 528 incentive, 550, 612, 650 or 657). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

4. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:

4a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will conserve soil resources on land that has an estimated benchmark soil loss greater than the tolerable soil loss (T) and a planned soil loss of (T) or less. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 332, 340, 345, 412, 512, 603, 550, 342, and/ or 610. Only select this question as "Yes" if an erosion reduction will be achieved with contracted practice(s). For example: if 340 will be a new practice but T was already achieved do not select "Yes".

Will the proposed project assist the producer to:

5a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of grasslands (native or introduced) and/or wetlands for Level 1 Species Habitat. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 390, 511 (645 criteria), 512, 528 incentive, 550, 643, 657, 658, and/or 659.

5b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application includes new practices that will allow the applicant to utilize the permanent vegetation on land that will expire in the next year or has expired from CRP within the last 2 years and has not already been converted to cropland. Practices might include water developments, fencing, and forage harvest management.

6. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:

6a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit pest management or invasive species management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 340, 345, 511, 528 incentive, 595, and/or 643.

*6b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?*

Points are awarded if any of the following financially assisted practice(s) are applied: 380 (645 Criteria), 386 (Pollinator Scenarios), 390 (Pollinator Scenarios), 391 (Pollinator Scenarios), 550, 612 (Pollinator Scenarios), 643 (Pollinator Scenarios).

*6c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit animal carcass management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, or 317.

*6d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses 595 (IPM Scenario).

*7. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*7a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in energy conservation benefits being realized. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 329, 345, 380, 442 (irrigation conversions), 484, 533 (windmills or solar panels), 590, and/or 595.

*8. Will the proposed project result in:*

*8a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses to schedule all financially assisted practices within 36 months of estimated date of contract obligation.

*8b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?*

Points will be awarded if the planned financially assisted practices will aid in accomplishing a conservation system that the applicant is adopting.

*9a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant has an existing EQIP contract in which a contract item has not been rescheduled more than one time AND the contract holder has no additional contract compliance issues.

*9b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant had an EQIP(s) that did not have contract items rescheduled more than once AND did not have any additional contract compliance issues.

*9c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?*

Points will be awarded if this is the applicant's first EQIP application.

**State Issues Addressed:**

*1. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will adjust application amounts and/or timing of organic/inorganic fertilizers according to soil test?*

Points are awarded when the application includes 590 Nutrient Management.

*2. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce animal wastes that impact water quality?*

Points shall be awarded when the practices planned for installation will reduce animal waste's impact on water quality. For example, practices may include the organic component of Nutrient Management (590), Waste Utilization (633), etc.

*3. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) for improved quality of livestock drinking water? (516, 614, 642, 574)* Points are awarded when the application includes a financially assisted practice that will improve the quality of livestock drinking water. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

4. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will mitigate the potential environmental risk of pest management control measures? Points are awarded when the application includes 595 Pest Management.

5. Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which will reduce erosion on cropland fields? (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 393, 412, 512, 550, and/or 603) Points are restricted to the practices listed when they will provide ADDITIONAL erosion control to system.

6. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will address saline seeps, recharge areas, and/or saline/sodic soils? (340, 386, 512, 550, 610) Points shall be awarded if the implementation of new practices will address the problems of saline seeps and the recharge area, or the practices will return cropped acres of saline soils to salt tolerant vegetation. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

7. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce the number of tillage operations? (329, 340, 345, 512, 550) Points are awarded when the new practices to be implemented in the application will reduce the number of tillage operations that the participant generally performs. Points are restricted to the practices listed. Note: In regard to 340 Cover Crops – only select this question as “Yes” if a reduction in tillage will truly be achieved. For example, producer practices fall tillage and by implementing cover crops he/she will no longer perform fall tillage.

8. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for the implementation of the **organic** component of 590 Nutrient Management? Points shall be awarded when organic materials are used in nutrient management.

9. Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) to facilitate grazing distribution? Points shall be awarded when the practice(s) to be applied in this application result in improved grazing distribution. Practices such as 528 incentive, 642, 614, 382, or 516 could have this desired result.

10. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will convert cropland to introduced and/or native herbaceous vegetation? (512, 550) Points shall be awarded when the EQIP application includes introduced or native herbaceous planting on cropland (512 or 550). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

Choose only one of the following questions, either 11 or 12. Points are awarded according to the planned practices that will improve STIR.

11. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance to achieve STIR of less than 9.0? (329) “Yes” will be checked if the **planned** EQIP practices will provide a STIR of less than 9.0 according to RUSL2 calculator. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

12. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance to achieve a STIR of 9.0 to 30.0? (329) “Yes” will be checked if the **planned** EQIP practices will provide a STIR of 9.0 to 30 according to RUSL2 calculator. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

Choose only one of the following questions, either 13 or 14.

13. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which assists in rotating a single herd rotates through 3-6 pastures? Points shall be awarded when the applicant’s current or future grazing system schedules a single herd of livestock to rotate through 3 to 6 pastures per grazing season. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

14. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) assists in rotating a single herd rotates through 7 or more pastures? Points shall be awarded when the applicant’s current or future grazing system schedules a single herd of livestock to rotate through 7 or more pastures per grazing season. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

## **Local Issues Addressed:**

Each Local Work Group (LWG) has developed ranking criteria to prioritize applications to meet local resource concerns. The criteria has been reviewed and approved for use by the State Conservationist. The web-based ranking sheet will simply denote the criteria as “Local Work Group Ranking Criteria #1,” “Local Work Group Ranking Criteria #2,” “Local Work Group Ranking Criteria #3.”

The criteria number corresponds with the number on the LWG fillable ranking worksheet issued for field office use. The fillable worksheet will be used to document whether the criteria was met for each LWG application. The form will be attached to the LWG web ranking report and filed in the case file.

# **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions – FY2010 Animal Feeding Operations (AFO)**

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the AFO Statewide Funding Pool when it addresses the proper handling of animal wastes. The application must include a financial assistance request for 313 Waste Storage Facility or 102 CNMP Incentive. The applicant must agree to implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) in conjunction with the ag waste system. An applicant may only provide one FY 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool.

Note: ONLY financially assisted conservation practices will be considered during the application ranking.

## **Screening Tool:**

Prior to ranking the application, EQIP AFO applications will be “screened” for funding priority. This Screening Tool will set priorities for AFO funding opportunities for FY10. The priority for each AFO application will be populated in ProTracts.

Applications that provide financial assistance for **only** a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), will be considered “High” priority and will have first opportunity for funding.

“Medium” priority shall be assigned to applications that request financial assistance for an ag waste facility for an existing animal feeding operation.

“Low” priority shall be assigned to applications that request financial assistance for an ag waste facility for a facility with an operational permit or new animal feeding operation.

In situations where it is difficult to determine if the facility is an expansion of a current facility or the application will assist in the development of a facility in a new or existing location, the determination will be based on the amount of permits that will be required by the NDSHD. If the NDSHD determines there is a need for one permit, it is an expansion. If two, the application receives a new or existing designation.

## **Efficiency Score:**

The Efficiency Score considers the benefits of the cost efficiency of the conservation practice during the evaluation of the applications for funding. This score is generated in the interworkings or conservation databases and is generated automatically. The Efficiency Score takes values from the CPPE (Conservation Practice Physical Effects) and cost information from the Practice Average Cost Tables in SmartTech. The score evaluates the effect of the financially assisted conservation practice in solving resource concerns.

## **National Priorities Addressed:**

*1. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*1a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

*1b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body.*

Points will be awarded if the application acreage adjoins a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list, a “Save our Lakes” waterbody, or a wellhead protection area. Wellhead Protection Area Maps are available in Section 1 of the Field Office Technical Guide (hard copy). Refer to the “Save

our Lakes” excel spreadsheet that was provided to you. The 303(d) map overlays for streams and lakes are available for field office use. They are located at f:geodata\hydrography. Choose either tmdl\_streams\_l\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp or tmdl\_lakes\_a\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp. These maps may be used as an overlay on the conservation plan map in ArcGIS to determine if the EQIP application meets the criteria.

*1c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application is adjacent to a water body and contains practices that will have a positive impact on water quality, either ground or surface water. This question will be “Yes” for applications applying under the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) statewide resource concern. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, 329, 340, 345, 351, 442 (only when converting from flood to pivot), 512, 550, 590, 595, 603, and/or 610.

*2. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*2a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html>)?*

Points will be awarded when any acreage in the application lies above a depleted aquifer AND the practices will provide groundwater recharge benefits.

*2b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota. This will always be answered “no”.

*2c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant participates in an active EPA-319 sponsored watershed project **AND** applies for water conservation practices within the EQIP application.

*3. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*3a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota, since there are currently no air regulations that apply. This will always be answered “no”.

*3b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?*

This question will rarely be checked as “Yes.” Examples may include reducing horsepower of an irrigation pumping station or the conversion of a diesel or gas motor to an electric/solar motor.

*3c. Increase carbon sequestration?*

Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 391, 393, 472, 512, 528 incentive, 550, 612, 650 or 657). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

*4. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*4a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will conserve soil resources on land that has an estimated benchmark soil loss greater than the tolerable soil loss (T) and a planned soil loss of (T) or less. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 332, 340, 345, 412, 512, 603, 550, 342, and/ or 610. Only select this question as “Yes” if an erosion reduction will be achieved with contracted practice(s). For example: if 340 will be a new practice but T was already achieved do not select “Yes”.

*Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*5a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of grasslands (native or introduced) and/or wetlands for Level

1 Species Habitat. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 390, 511 (645 criteria), 512, 528 incentive, 550, 643, 657, 658, and/or 659.

*5b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application includes new practices that will allow the applicant to utilize the permanent vegetation on land that will expire in the next year or has expired from CRP within the last 2 years and has not already been converted to cropland. Practices might include water developments, fencing, and forage harvest management.

*6. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*6a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit pest management or invasive species management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 340, 345, 511, 528 incentive, 595, and/or 643.

*6b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?*

Points are awarded if any of the following financially assisted practice(s) are applied: 380 (645 Criteria), 386 (Pollinator Scenarios), 390 (Pollinator Scenarios), 391 (Pollinator Scenarios), 550, 612 (Pollinator Scenarios), 643 (Pollinator Scenarios).

*6c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit animal carcass management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, or 317.

*6d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses 595 (IPM Scenario).

*7. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*7a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in energy conservation benefits being realized. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 329, 345, 380, 442 (irrigation conversions), 484, 533 (windmills or solar panels), 590, and/or 595.

*8. Will the proposed project result in:*

*8a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses to schedule all financially assisted practices within 36 months of estimated date of contract obligation.

*8b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?*

Points will be awarded if the planned financially assisted practices will aid in accomplishing a conservation system that the applicant is adopting.

*9a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant has an existing EQIP contract in which a contract item has not been rescheduled more than one time AND the contract holder has no additional contract compliance issues.

*9b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant had an EQIP(s) that did not have contract items rescheduled more than once AND did not have any additional contract compliance issues.

*9c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?*

Points will be awarded if this is the applicant's first EQIP application.

**State Issues Addressed:**

1. *Is the facility frequently flooded (at least once every 5 years)?* Check yes if the facility is flooded at least once every five years. This is an observation based on local knowledge.

2. *Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) to facilitate grazing distribution?* Points shall be awarded when the practice(s) to be applied in this application result in improved grazing distribution. Practices such as Water Wells (642), Water Tanks (614), Fencing (382), or Livestock Water Pipelines (516) could have this desired result.

3. *Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which will reduce erosion on cropland fields? (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 393, 412, 512, 550, and/or 603)* Points are restricted to the practices listed in this ranking question.

4. *The applicant currently possess an unimplemented CNMP, completed preliminary design, or is applying for practice code 102 CNMP?* Points shall be awarded if the applicant currently possesses an unimplemented CNMP, has a completed preliminary design for their animal feeding operation in hand and is ready for structural implementation, or is applying for practice code 100 in this application.

Questions 5, 6, and 7:

Identify the location of the livestock feeding operation on a USGS Quad topographic map. Measure the distance from the feeding operation location to the nearest **solid** blue line stream symbol, or waterbody identified by a blue basin color or the blue marsh symbol. If the topographic feature is blue or purple, it is a waterbody or stream and points will be awarded. Only one of the questions 5, 6, 7 can be answered "yes."

*Choose only one of the following questions, either 5, 6, or 7.*

5. *According to the topo map, is the facility within 1/4 mile of a "blue line" stream or waterbody?*

6. *According to the topo map, is the facility between 1/4 and 1/2 mile of a "blue line" stream or waterbody?*

7. *According to the topo map, is the facility between 1/2 and 1 mile of a "blue line" stream or waterbody?*

Questions 8, 9, and 10:

Using the applicant's well log, the North Dakota Geological Survey County Geological and Ground Water Resource Studies books, or producer observations determine the depth to groundwater at the feeding location. The points are awarded based on the depth range. Only one of the questions 11, 12, or 13 can be answered "Yes."

*Choose only one of the following questions, either 8, 9, or 10.*

8. *Is the depth to an aquifer or groundwater within 10 feet?*

9. *Is the depth to an aquifer or groundwater between 11 and 25 feet?*

10. *Is the depth to an aquifer or groundwater between 26 and 50 feet?*

Questions 11, 12, and 13:

Using the web soil survey or Toolkit/ArcGis, determine the predominant soil mapping unit underlying the facility. Then using the Soil Data Mart (SDM) determine the Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (Ksat) of soil layer having the least Ksat. SDM is found at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/default.aspx> in the report entitled "Physical Soil Properties." Only one of the questions 11, 12, or 13 can be answered "yes."

*Choose only one of the following questions, either 11, 12, or 13.*

11. *Is the Ksat of the least permeable soil layer of the map unit underlying the facility greater than 10 um/s (micrometers per second)?*

12. Is the Ksat of the least permeable soil layer of the map unit underlying the facility between 1 and 10 um/s (micrometers per second)?

13. Is the Ksat of the least permeable soil layer of the map unit underlying the facility between less than 1 um/s (micrometers per second)?

**Example:** Used web soil survey or ArcGIS to determine the dominant soil type under the ag waste facility (e.g., 33B). Then go into soil data mart and look for the “Physical Soil Properties” report for that given soil (33B). Under saturated hydraulic conductivity, for the given soil (33B), look for the least permeable soil layer OR the smallest range of numbers (0.10 – 10.00). When looking at this range of numbers, 0.10 – 10.00, look at the high end of the range which is the least permeable soil layers greatest potential to release water or leach nutrients. In this case it is 10.00; use this number to answer AFO ranking questions 14-16. For example, answer yes to AFO ranking question 15.

| Map symbol and soil name | Depth     | Sand       | Silt       | Clay       | Moist bulk density | Saturated hydraulic conductivity |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
|                          | <i>In</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>g/cc</i>        | <i>micro m/sec</i>               |
| 33B:                     |           |            |            |            |                    |                                  |
| Savage                   | 0-7       | —          | —          | 27-35      | 1.00-1.30          | 1.00-10.00                       |
|                          | 7-25      | —          | —          | 35-50      | 1.25-1.50          | 0.10-10.00                       |
|                          | 25-51     | —          | —          | 27-45      | 1.30-1.50          | 0.10-10.00                       |
|                          | 51-80     | —          | —          | 35-45      | 1.30-1.50          | 0.10-10.00                       |

Choose only one of the following questions, either 14 or 15.

14. Does the facility meet EPA's definition of a small Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)?

An AFO is a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met: Animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

15. Does the facility meet EPA's definition of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)?

Large Confined Animal Feeding Operation (Large CAFO), an AFO, is defined as a Large CAFO if it stables or confines greater than or equal to the number of animals specified in any of the following categories: 700 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry; 1,000 veal calves; or 1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves. Cattle includes, but is not limited to, heifers, steers, bulls, and cow/calf pairs; 2,500 swine, each weighing 55 pounds or more; 10,000 swine, each weighing less than 55 pounds; 500 horses; 10,000 sheep or lambs; 55,000 turkeys; 30,000 laying hens or broilers, if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system; 125,000 chickens (other than laying hens), if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system; 82,000 laying hens, if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system; 30,000 ducks, if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system; or 5,000 ducks, if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system.

Choose only one of the following questions, either 16, 17, or 18.

Points are awarded according to the distance to urban development. Urban development is defined as a location where home density exceeds 4 houses on 40 acres. Only one of the questions 16, 17, or 18 can be answered “Yes.” Neither question will be selected if the facility is further than 1 mile.

16. Is the facility within 1/4 mile of urban development (density of at least 4 houses per 40 acres)?

17. Is the facility within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of urban development (density of at least 4 houses per 40 acres)?

18. Is the facility within 1/2 to 1 mile of urban development (density of at least 4 houses per 40 acres)?

### **Local Issues Addressed:**

*If applicable, choose only one of the following questions, either 1, 2, or 3.*

1. *Does the EQIP application request financial assistance for the implementation of a structural ag waste system and request Practice Code 102 - CNMP?*

Points will be awarded when the application requests financial assistance for **BOTH** the development Practice Code 100 CNMP **AND** the structural implementation of the ag waste system.

2. *Does the EQIP application request financial assistance for implementation of an ag waste systems of an existing animal feeding operation (no expansion planned)?* Points will be awarded when the application requests financial assistance for an ag waste system where there is not an AUM expansion planned.

3. *Does the EQIP application request financial assistance for implementation of an ag waste systems of an expanding animal feeding operation that does not have an operational agricultural waste system?* Points will be awarded when the application requests financial assistance for an ag waste system where an AUM expansion is planned and the current system will not meet permitting requirements.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions - FY2010 Forestry & Energy

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the Forestry and Energy Statewide Funding Pool when it includes a financial assistance request for 650 Windbreak Renovation, 666 Forest Stand Improvement, 394 Firebreak ("Firewise" Assessment), 380 Windbreak Establishment, and 612 Tree and Shrub Establishment. At least 90 percent of the requested application costs must include one or more of these practices and/or the facilitative practices to compete in this funding pool. An applicant may only provide one FY 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool.

Note: ONLY financially assisted conservation practices will be considered during the application ranking.

## **Efficiency Score:**

The Efficiency Score considers the benefits of the cost efficiency of the conservation practice during the evaluation of the applications for funding. This score is generated in the interworkings or conservation databases and is generated automatically. The Efficiency Score takes values from the CPPE (Conservation Practice Physical Effects) and cost information from the Practice Average Cost Tables in SmartTech. The score evaluates the effect of the financially assisted conservation practice in solving resource concerns.

## **Screening Tool:**

Applications must meet at least one of the National questions 1-7a, for EQIP to satisfy the minimum threshold level for funding consideration. All other applications are considered low priority and the application will not be ranked further.

Those applications that support the selection of one or more National questions within the screening tool will proceed through the remaining ranking procedure. If the applicant's EQIP application will not support any of the National Measures, inform the applicant of its low priority and inform them of potential conservation planning enhancements that would advance their application for further consideration

## **National Priorities Addressed:**

1. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

1a. *Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

1b. *Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body.*

Points will be awarded if the application acreage adjoins a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list, a "Save our Lakes" waterbody, or a wellhead protection area. Wellhead Protection Area Maps are available in Section 1 of the Field Office Technical Guide (hard copy). Refer to the "Save our Lakes" excel spreadsheet that was provided to you. The 303(d) map overlays for streams and lakes are available for field office use. They are located at f:geodata\hydrography. Choose either tmdl\_streams\_1\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp or tmdl\_lakes\_a\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp. These maps may be used as an overlay on the conservation plan map in ArcGIS to determine if the EQIP application meets the criteria.

1c. *Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application is adjacent to a water body and contains practices that will have a positive impact on water quality, either ground or surface water. This question will be "Yes" for

applications applying under the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) statewide resource concern. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, 329, 340, 345, 351, 442 (only when converting from flood to pivot), 512, 550, 590, 595, 603, and/or 610.

2. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

2a. *Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas*

*(<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html>)?*

Points will be awarded when any acreage in the application lies above a depleted aquifer AND the practices will provide groundwater recharge benefits.

2b. *Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota. This will always be answered “no”.

2c. *Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant participates in an active EPA-319 sponsored watershed project **AND** applies for water conservation practices within the EQIP application.

3. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

3a. *Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota, since there are currently no air regulations that apply. This will always be answered “no”.

3b. *Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?*

This question will rarely be checked as “Yes.” Examples may include reducing horsepower of an irrigation pumping station or the conversion of a diesel or gas motor to an electric/solar motor.

3c. *Increase carbon sequestration?*

Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 391, 393, 472, 512, 528 incentive, 550, 612, 650 or 657). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

4. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

4a. *Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will conserve soil resources on land that has an estimated benchmark soil loss greater than the tolerable soil loss (T) and a planned soil loss of (T) or less. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 332, 340, 345, 412, 512, 603, 550, 342, and/ or 610. Only select this question as “Yes” if an erosion reduction will be achieved with contracted practice(s). For example: if 340 will be a new practice but T was already achieved do not select “Yes”.

*Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

5a. *Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of grasslands (native or introduced) and/or wetlands for Level 1 Species Habitat. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 390, 511 (645 criteria), 512, 528 incentive, 550, 643, 657, 658, and/or 659.

5b. *Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application includes new practices that will allow the applicant to utilize the permanent vegetation on land that will expire in the next year or has expired from CRP within the last 2 years and has not already been converted to cropland. Practices might include water developments, fencing, and forage harvest management.

6. *Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

6a. *Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit pest management or invasive species management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 340, 345, 511, 528 incentive, 595, and/or 643.

*6b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?*

Points are awarded if any of the following financially assisted practice(s) are applied: 380 (645 Criteria), 386 (Pollinator Scenarios), 390 (Pollinator Scenarios), 391 (Pollinator Scenarios), 550, 612 (Pollinator Scenarios), 643 (Pollinator Scenarios).

*6c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit animal carcass management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, or 317.

*6d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses 595 (IPM Scenario).

*7. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*7a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in energy conservation benefits being realized. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 329, 345, 380, 442 (irrigation conversions), 484, 533 (windmills or solar panels), 590, and/or 595.

*8. Will the proposed project result in:*

*8a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses to schedule all financially assisted practices within 36 months of estimated date of contract obligation.

*8b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?*

Points will be awarded if the planned financially assisted practices will aid in accomplishing a conservation system that the applicant is adopting.

*9a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant has an existing EQIP contract in which a contract item has not been rescheduled more than one time AND the contract holder has no additional contract compliance issues.

*9b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant had an EQIP(s) that did not have contract items rescheduled more than once AND did not have any additional contract compliance issues.

*9c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?*

Points will be awarded if this is the applicant's first EQIP application.

## **State Issues Addressed:**

*1. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will adjust application amounts and/or timing of organic/inorganic fertilizers according to soil test?*

Points are awarded when the application includes 590 Nutrient Management.

*2. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce animal wastes that impact water quality?*

Points shall be awarded when the practices planned for installation will reduce animal waste's impact on water quality. For example, practices may include the organic component of Nutrient Management (590), Waste Utilization (633), etc.

3. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) for improved quality of livestock drinking water? (516, 614, 642) Points are awarded when the application includes a financially assisted practice that will improve the quality of livestock drinking water. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

4. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will mitigate the potential environmental risk of pest management control measures? Points are awarded when the application includes 595 Pest Management.

5. Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which will reduce erosion on cropland fields? (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 393, 412, 512, 550, and/or 603) Points are restricted to the practices listed.

6. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will address saline seeps, recharge areas, and/or saline/sodic soils? (340, 386, 512, 550, 610) Points shall be awarded if the implementation of new practices will address the problems of saline seeps and the recharge area, or the practices will return cropped acres of saline soils to salt tolerant vegetation. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

7. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce the number of tillage operations? (329, 340, 345, 512, 550,) Points are awarded when the new practices to be implemented in the application will reduce the number of tillage operations that the participant generally performs. Points are restricted to the practices listed. Note: In regard to 340 Cover Crops – only select this question as “Yes” if a reduction in tillage will truly be achieved. For example, producer practices fall tillage and by implementing cover crops he/she will no longer perform fall tillage.

8. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for the implementation of the organic component of 590-Nutrient Management? Points shall be awarded when organic materials are used in nutrient management.

9. Will the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) to facilitate grazing distribution? Points shall be awarded when the practice(s) to be applied in this application result in improved grazing distribution. Practices such as 528 incentive, 642, 614, 382, or 516 could have this desired result.

10. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will convert cropland to introduced and/or native vegetation? (512, 550) Points shall be awarded when the EQIP application includes introduced or native herbaceous planting on cropland (512 or 550). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

Choose only one of the following questions, either 11 or 12. Points are awarded according to the planned practices that will improve STIR.

11. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance to achieve STIR of less than 9.0? (329) “Yes” will be checked if the **planned** EQIP practices will provide a STIR of less than 9.0 according to RUSL2 calculator. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

12. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance to achieve a STIR of 9.0 to 30.0? (329) “Yes” will be checked if the **planned** EQIP practices will provide a STIR of 9.0 to 30 according to RUSL2 calculator. Points are restricted to the practices listed.

Choose only one of the following questions, either 13 or 14.

13. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which assists in rotating a single herd through 3-6 pastures? Points shall be awarded when the applicant's current or future grazing system schedules a single herd of livestock to rotate through 3 to 6 pastures per grazing season. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

14. Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which assists in rotating a single herd through 7 or more pastures? Points shall be awarded when the applicant's

current or future grazing system schedules a single herd of livestock to rotate through 7 or more pastures per grazing season. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

**Local Issues Addressed:**

1. *Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for the implementation of 650 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation?* Points shall be provided if the application requests assistance for 650.
2. *Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for a 394 - Firebreak assessment?* The application requests the incentive for having a “Firewise” assessment on the application acreage.
3. *Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for the implementation of 666 - Forest Stand Improvement?* Points shall be provided if the application requests assistance for 666.
4. *Does the EQIP application provide financial assistance for the implementation of either 380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment or 612 - Tree and Shrub Establishment?* Points shall be provided if the application requests assistance for 380 or 612.

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions – FY2010 Soil Quality

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the Soil Quality Statewide Funding Pool when it includes the suite of practices and level of implementation noted in the 2010 EQIP Practice Eligibility Criteria for this initiative. An applicant may only provide one FY 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool.

Note: ONLY financially assisted conservation practices will be considered during the application ranking.

## **Efficiency Score:**

The Efficiency Score considers the benefits of the cost efficiency of the conservation practice during the evaluation of the applications for funding. This score is generated in the interworkings or conservation databases and is generated automatically. The Efficiency Score takes values from the CPPE (Conservation Practice Physical Effects) and cost information from the Practice Average Cost Tables in SmartTech. The score evaluates the effect of the financially assisted conservation practice in solving resource concerns.

## **Screening Tool:**

Applications must meet at least one of the National questions 1-7a, for EQIP to satisfy the minimum threshold level for funding consideration. All other applications are considered low priority and the application will not be ranked further.

Those applications that support the selection of one or more National questions within the screening tool will proceed through the remaining ranking procedure. If the applicant's EQIP application will not support any of the National Measures, inform the applicant of its low priority and inform them of potential conservation planning enhancements that would advance their application for further consideration

## **National Priorities Addressed:**

*1. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*1a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

*1b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body.*

Points will be awarded if the application acreage adjoins a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list, a "Save our Lakes" waterbody, or a wellhead protection area. Wellhead Protection Area Maps are available in Section 1 of the Field Office Technical Guide (hard copy). Refer to the "Save our Lakes" excel spreadsheet that was provided to you. The 303(d) map overlays for streams and lakes are available for field office use. They are located at f:geodata\hydrography. Choose either tmdl\_streams\_1\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp or tmdl\_lakes\_a\_2006\_z(appropriate utm zone).shp. These maps may be used as an overlay on the conservation plan map in ArcGIS to determine if the EQIP application meets the criteria.

*1c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application is adjacent to a water body and contains practices that will have a positive impact on water quality, either ground or surface water. This question will be "Yes" for applications applying under the Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) statewide resource concern. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, 329, 340, 345, 351, 442 (only when converting from flood to pivot), 512, 550, 590, 595, 603, and/or 610.

*2. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*2a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas*  
(<http://water.usgs.gov/oqw/rasa/html/TOC.html>)?

Points will be awarded when any acreage in the application lies above a depleted aquifer AND the practices will provide groundwater recharge benefits.

*2b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota. This will always be answered “no”.

*2c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant participates in an active EPA-319 sponsored watershed project **AND** applies for water conservation practices within the EQIP application.

*3. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*3a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?*

This criterion is not applicable to EQIP applications in North Dakota, since there are currently no air regulations that apply. This will always be answered “no”.

*3b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?*

This question will rarely be checked as “Yes.” Examples may include reducing horsepower of an irrigation pumping station or the conversion of a diesel or gas motor to an electric/solar motor.

*3c. Increase carbon sequestration?*

Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application (328, 329, 340, 342, 345, 380, 386, 391, 393, 472, 512, 528 incentive, 550, 612, 650 or 657). Points are restricted to the practices listed.

*4. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*4a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will conserve soil resources on land that has an estimated benchmark soil loss greater than the tolerable soil loss (T) and a planned soil loss of (T) or less. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 332, 340, 345, 412, 512, 603, 550, 342, and/ or 610. Only select this question as “Yes” if an erosion reduction will be achieved with contracted practice(s). For example: if 340 will be a new practice but T was already achieved do not select “Yes”.

*Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*5a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of grasslands (native or introduced) and/or wetlands for Level 1 Species Habitat. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 390, 511 (645 criteria), 512, 528 incentive, 550, 643, 657, 658, and/or 659.

*5b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?*

Points shall be awarded if the EQIP application includes new practices that will allow the applicant to utilize the permanent vegetation on land that will expire in the next year or has expired from CRP within the last 2 years and has not already been converted to cropland. Practices might include water developments, fencing, and forage harvest management.

*6. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*6a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit pest management or invasive species management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 328, 329, 340, 345, 511, 528 incentive, 595, and/or 643.

*6b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?*

Points are awarded if any of the following financially assisted practice(s) are applied: 380 (645 Criteria), 386 (Pollinator Scenarios), 390 (Pollinator Scenarios), 391 (Pollinator Scenarios), 550, 612 (Pollinator Scenarios), 643 (Pollinator Scenarios).

*6c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?*

Points will be awarded when the EQIP application includes practices that will benefit animal carcass management. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 102 CNMP, 313, or 317.

*6d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses 595 (IPM Scenario).

*7. Will the proposed project assist the producer to:*

*7a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?*

Points will be awarded if the practices included in the EQIP application will result in energy conservation benefits being realized. Points are restricted to the practices listed: 329, 345, 380, 442 (irrigation conversions), 484, 533 (windmills or solar panels), 590, and/or 595.

*8. Will the proposed project result in:*

*8a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?*

Points will be awarded when the applicant chooses to schedule all financially assisted practices within 36 months of estimated date of contract obligation.

*8b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?*

Points will be awarded if the planned financially assisted practices will aid in accomplishing a conservation system that the applicant is adopting.

*9a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant has an existing EQIP contract in which a contract item has not been rescheduled more than one time AND the contract holder has no additional contract compliance issues.

*9b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?*

Points will be awarded if the applicant had an EQIP(s) that did not have contract items rescheduled more than once AND did not have any additional contract compliance issues.

*9c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?*

Points will be awarded if this is the applicant's first EQIP application.

**State Issues Addressed:**

- 1. Application provides for new implementation of a grid soil sampling program for determining crop fertility needs. Answer "Yes" to this question if the financially assisted 590 Nutrient Management will consist of a grid soil sample to enhance a site specific application of nutrients.*
- 2. Application provides for at least one Soil Biology test sampling point. Answer "Yes" to this question if the contract contains financially assisted 590 Nutrient Management to submit at least one soil sample for biological testing (e.g., Soil Foodweb analysis) during the contract period.*
- 3. Application utilizes more than one legume crop and/or legume cover crop species to enhance biological nitrogen fixation. Answer "Yes" to this question if practice 328 and/or 340 is financially assisted and will consist of more than one legume species to enhance biological nitrogen fixation. An example of this would be a Corn-Soybean-Spring Wheat rotation which consists of a Cover Crop of Triticale and Hairy Vetch following Spring Wheat; or if practice 328 Conservation Crop Rotation is financially assisted and encourages a change to a rotation consisting of Corn-Soybean-Spring Wheat-Field Pea.*

4. *Application provides for split applications of fertilizer, part pre-plant and part post-emergence.* Answer “Yes” to this question if practice 590 Nutrient Management is financially assisted and requires a change in the nutrient management system to split application due to a switch from anhydrous ammonia to more biologically-friendly fertilizer products, or if environmentally sensitive soils require split application of fertilizers.
5. *Application provides for GPS located soil sampling sites to increase sampling consistency.* Answer “Yes” to this question if financially assisted practice 590 Nutrient Management consists of landscape based soil sampling sites which will be marked with GPS technology as this will increase sampling consistency.
6. *Application provides for the proper grazing of cover crops (take half-leave half) to enhance rangeland health and nutrient management.* Answer “Yes” to this question if the 340 Cover Crop will be utilized as part of a prescribed grazing system. Sufficient cover crop stubble height must be maintained to protect soil resources and provide snow catch.

**Questions 7 and 8 refer to the number of crop types in the primary cash crop rotation. Additional crop types added through the use of a Cover Crop do not count towards these ranking questions. Crop types are cool season grass, cool season broadleaf, warm season grass, and warm season broadleaf.**

Answer “Yes” to only one of question 7 or 8, if applicable.

7. *Application provides for an increase in crop diversity from 2 crop types to 3 or more crop types.* Points are to be awarded if the current crop rotation contains 2 or fewer crop types and practice 328 Conservation Crop Rotation is being financially assisted to encourage a change to 3 or more crop types. An example is switching from a Corn-Soybean rotation to Corn-Soybean-Spring Wheat.
8. *Application provides for an increase in crop diversity from 3 crop types to 4.* Points are to be awarded if the current crop rotation contains 3 crop types and practice 328 Conservation Crop Rotation is being financially assisted to encourage a change to all 4 crop types. An example is switching from Corn-Soybeans-Spring Wheat to Corn-Soybeans-Spring Wheat-Field Peas.

**Questions 9, 10, and 11 refer to the extent to which the residue management practices will be improved. The STIR rating calculated by RUSLE2 will be utilized to evaluate these questions.**

Answer “Yes” to only one of questions of 9, 10, or 11, if applicable.

9. *Application provides for an improvement in residue management from a system with a STIR rating greater than 30 to a system with a STIR rating less than 6.0.* Answer “Yes” to this question if the current tillage practices have a STIR rating greater than 30 and practice 329 is being financially assisted to encourage a change to a no-till system with a STIR rating less than 6.0. This would include producers currently practicing conventional tillage, 344 Seasonal Residue Use, or 345 Mulch Till.
10. *Application provides for an improvement in residue management from a system with a STIR rating between 9 and 30 to a system with a STIR rating less than 6.0.* Answer “Yes” to this question if the current tillage practices have a STIR rating between 9 and 30, and practice 329 is being financially assisted to encourage a change to a no-till system with a STIR rating less than 6.0. This would include producers currently practicing Strip-till, Direct Seeding, or a 345 Mulch Till system with a STIR less than 30.
11. *Application provides for an improvement in residue management from a system with a STIR rating between 6 and 9 to a system with a STIR rating less than 6.0.* Answer “Yes” to this question if the current tillage practices have a STIR rating between 6 and 9 and practice 329 is

being financially assisted to encourage a change to a no-till system with a STIR rating less than 6.0. This would include producers currently practicing no-till; but with a STIR rating greater than 6.

**Questions 12, 13, and 14 refer to the number of years during the contract period in which a financially assisted 340 Cover Crop will be utilized on the same acres. The practice eligibility criteria for this funding pool require either a mixture of 5+ species or inter-seeding of 1+ species into growing row crops.**

Answer "Yes" to only one question of 12, 13, or 14, if applicable.

12. *Application provides for 3 years of cover crop/companion crops meeting the practice eligibility requirements of this funding pool.*
13. *Application provides for 2 years of cover crop/companion crops meeting the practice eligibility requirements of this funding pool.*
14. *Application provides for 1 year of cover crop meeting the practice eligibility requirements of this funding pool.*

**Questions 15 and 16 refer to the extent to which the producer's Pest Management system is improved.**

Answer "Yes" to only one of questions 15 – 16, if applicable.

15. *Application provides for an improvement of pest management from a system which does not meet 595 specifications to a system which meets IPM standards. Answer "Yes" to this question if 595 Pest Management is financially assisted and leads to a change from a system which currently does not meet 595 specifications to an Integrated Pest Management system consisting of biological controls being used.*
16. *Application provides for an improvement of pest management from a system which does meet 595 specifications to a system which meets IPM standards. Answer "Yes" to this question if 595 Pest Management is financially assisted and leads to a change from a system which currently does meet 595 specifications to an Integrated Pest Management system consisting of biological controls being used. The use of biological controls should result in a decrease in the amount of pesticides used.*

Answer "Yes" to all that apply for questions 15 - 17.

### **Local Issues Addressed:**

1. *Application provides for site specific cover crops designed to address documented soil salinity. Answer "Yes" to this question if a site has documented salinity with an EC greater than 4 and the site will be seeded to a site specific saline mixture such as Sugarbeet, Barley, **and** Sunflower.*
2. *Application provides for a Crop Rotation Diversity greater than 3.0. Answer "Yes" to this question if practice 328 is financially assisted and the change in rotation leads to a Rotation Diversity greater than 3.0 using the Automated Rotation Diversity and Intensity Worksheet.*
3. *Application provides for a Crop Rotation Intensity greater than 1.7 east of Highway 281 and greater than 1.5 west of Highway 281. Answer "Yes" to this question if practice 328 is financially assisted and the change in rotation leads to a Rotation Intensity greater than 1.7 east of Highway 281 or 1.5 west of Highway 281 using the Automated Rotation Diversity and Intensity Worksheet.*

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions – FY2010 Socially Disadvantaged**

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the Socially Disadvantaged Statewide Funding Pool when the applicant meets the Socially Disadvantaged eligibility requirements. The applicant can choose to apply under this pool or under another pool. In either case the Socially Disadvantaged toggle button under Participant information and the HU cost list must be chosen in order to receive the additional financial assistance. An applicant may only provide one FY 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool.

**National Priorities Addressed and State Issues Addressed:** see LWG instructions

### **Local Issues Addressed:**

Answer “Yes” to only one of questions 1-3, as applicable.

1. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the AFO fund code criteria?*
2. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the Forestry fund code criteria?*
3. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the SQI fund code criteria?*

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking Instructions – FY2010 Beginning Farmer**

An EQIP application will be ranked and compete within the Beginning Farmer Statewide Funding Pool when the applicant meets the Beginning Farmer eligibility requirements. The applicant can choose to apply under this pool or under another pool. In either case the Beginning Farmer toggle button under Participant information and the HU cost list must be chosen in order to receive the additional financial assistance. An applicant may only provide one FY 2010 EQIP application per operating unit per funding pool.

**National Priorities Addressed and State Issues Addressed:** see LWG instructions

### **Local Issues Addressed:**

Answer “Yes” to only one of questions 1-3, as applicable.

1. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the AFO fund code criteria?*
2. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the Forestry fund code criteria?*
3. *Does this application implement practices that would meet the SQI fund code criteria?*

**Limited Resource Farmers: Limited Resource Farmers should apply under any appropriate fund code. The toggle button under Participant Info and the HU cost list must be chosen in order to be eligible for the additional financial assistance.**