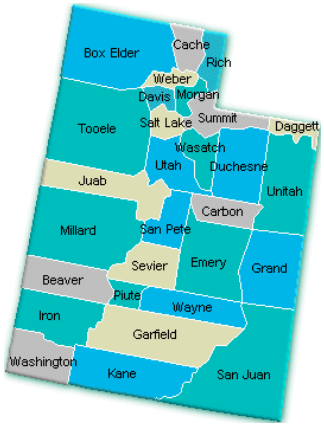
Animal Waste (AFO/CAFO) Ranking Tool Questions and Instructions



USDA-NRCS—Salt Lake City, Utah

References:

- http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/
- EFOTG
- CPM 440—Part 512 CPC
- CPM 440-Part 515 EQIP
- TMDL or Listed Watersheds:
- National Planning Procedures Handbook
- UT Bulletin 300-07-04
- Area Agronomist
- Questions on the use of the ranking tool should be directed through Area Programs Specialists to Julie Nelson, State Economist.

National At-Risk species Resource Concerns

- Plant Condition; Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
- Plant Condition; T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
- Fish and Wildlife; Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species
- Fish and Wildlife; T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern

2007-Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Note to all users: The official Application and Evaluation Ranking Tools are located in Protracts.

NATIONAL Priority Issues

Question 1: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDL's where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination or point source such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must be expected to meet quality criteria for all applicable NRCS Water Quality criteria.

Question 2: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conservation of a considerable amount of ground or surface water resources?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must be expected to meet quality criteria for all applicable NRCS Water Quantity criteria.

Question 3: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?

- To claim these points, the proposed project must include one or more of the conservation practices on page 3.

Question 4: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?

- To claim these points, soil erosion must go from above T to below T as a result of the proposed project OR Quality criteria for Soil Condition; Rangeland Site Stability must be met as a result of implementing the proposed project.

Question 5: Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?

- To claim these points, the project must be expected to meet quality criteria for one or more of the four national at-risk species resource concerns (see list, left sidebar).

At-risk plant species are in Appendix C. - Rare Plant Species by Habitat Type
At-risk animal species are in Appendix A. - Utah CWCS Tier I, II, and III Species List.
See Utah-NRCS Website—Programs-EQIP tab.

STATE Priority Issues Questions and Rules

Question 1: Will implementing a CNMP make it so that you are not required to have a DEQ permit? If you answer "yes" to Question #1, you must answer "no" to Question #2.

Question 2: Will your operation have a discharge in a 25-year, 24-hour storm event AND need a DEQ permit? If you answer "yes" to Question #2, you must answer "no" to Question #1.

STATE Priority Issues, continued

Question 3: Is the applicant addressing noxious Species as identified by the State or County or Cooperative Weed Management Area. Contact your local weed supervisor or county agent to identify if the target species is of concern. If answered yes, these species must be addressed through the appropriate practices in the contract.

3. *Does the plan address control of an invasive species identified by a state, county, or local government or by a local Cooperative Weed Management Area as being a noxious species?*

Question 4: Is the planned project in an approved area wide plan as defined by the National Planning Procedures Handbook, UT Bulletin 300-7-04 and been designated as such by the Assistant for Field Operations? In order to answer yes to this question all of these REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET.

4. *Is this project in an area that is covered by an approved areawide plan as defined by the National Planning Procedures Handbook ?*

LOCAL Priority Issues

Question 1: Is the project located in a watershed of a nutrient impaired TMDL or [303(d) listed] water body (lake, stream, reservoir) or TMDL nutrient impaired watershed? Answer yes or no.

Answer yes to only one of the following. Answer is based on BEFORE UAFFRI.

Question 2: Has this operation been assessed as having a High UAFRRI index?

Question 3: Has this operation been assessed as having a Medium UAFRRI index?

Question 4: Has this operation been assessed as having a Low UAFRRI index?

Answer yes to only one of the following. Answer is based on CHANGE in UAFFRI Index.

Question 5: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from High to Very Low?

Question 6: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from High to Low?

Question 7: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from High to Medium?

Question 8: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from Meduim to Very Low?

Question 9: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from Medium to Low?

Question 10: Will the UAFRRI index for this operation change from Low to Very Low?

EQIP National Priorities

1. Reductions of **nonpoint source** pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;
2. Conservation of **ground and surface water** resources;
3. Reduction of **emissions**, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
4. Reduction in **soil erosion and sedimentation** from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and
5. Promotion of **at-risk species** habitat conservation.

Conservation Practices—to claim points for National Priority Question #3, the proposed project must include one or more of the following practices:	
Access Road (560)	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)	Deep Tillage (324)
Alley Cropping (311)	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
Irrigation Water Management (449)	Drainage Water Management (554)
Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste (591)	Stripcropping (585)
Mulching (484)	Feed Management (592)
Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature (366)	Surface Roughening (609)
Nutrient Management (590)	Field Border (386)
Animal Mortality Facility (316)	Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Pasture and Hay Planting (512)	Filter Strip (393)
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control (450)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
Pest Management (595)	Firebreak (394)
Atmospheric Resource Quality Management (370)	Use Exclusion (472)
Prescribed Burning (338)	Forest Site Preparation (490)
Closure of Waste Impoundment (360)	Vegetative Barrier (601)
Prescribed Grazing (528)	Forest Stand Improvement (666)
Composting Facility (317)	Waste Facility Cover (367)
Pumping Plant (533)	Fuel Break (383)
Conservation Cover (327)	Waste Storage Facility (313)
Range Planting (550)	Grassed Waterway (412)
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)
Recreation Area Improvement (562)	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
Constructed Wetland (656)	Waste Utilization (633)
Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (566)	Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
Contour Buffer Strips (332)	Wastewater Treatment Strip (635)
Recreation Trail and Walkway (568)	Hedgerow Planting (422)
Contour Farming (330)	Wetland Creation (658)
Residue Management, Seasonal (344)	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area (331)	Wetland Enhancement (659)
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)	Irrigation Canal or Lateral (320)
Cover Crop (340)	Wetland Restoration (657)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	Irrigation Field Ditch (388)
Critical Area Planting (342)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
Cross Wind Ridges (589A)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
Rock Barrier (555)	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)
Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)