Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Murray County All Land Uses

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	250 Point(s)
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?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
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?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
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?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)

8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Sheet and Rill Erosion – Does the offer include planned treatment of sheet and rill erosion to the quality criteria level on the offered acres where sheet and rill erosion will be controlled to “T” or less?	35 Point(s)
2. Irrigation – Will the proposed project improve irrigation efficiency or reduce the acres of irrigated cropland on the operation?	40 Point(s)
3. Erosion Control: Classic Gullies – Will the planned project address classic gully erosion on cropland or grazing land?	35 Point(s)
4. Invasive Species: Cedar Control – Will the planned project eradicate or control eastern redcedar?	40 Point(s)
5. Stream bank Erosion – Will the planned project include practices to address active stream bank erosion?	30 Point(s)
6. Energy Conservation – Will the planned project include practices that will result in energy conservation benefits?	30 Point(s)
Surface Water: Nutrients/Organics – Will the planned project include practices to address surface water nutrients?	
7. a. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrient/organics in a nutrient limited watershed?	20 Point(s)
7. b. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that lies within ¼ mile of an impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that adjoins a water body that extends beyond the applicants property boundary?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Will the planned practice address surface water nutrients/organics on a field that adjoins a pond or other water body that lies entirely within the property boundary of the applicant?	5 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants - Does the offer include the treatment of Cedar or Mesquites?	125 Point(s)
2. Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants -Does the offer include the treatment of Thistles?	75 Point(s)
3. Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water - Does the offer include treatment planned to provide a permanent source of water for domestic livestock where there isn’t adequate available water? If Ponds are planned they are fenced to exclude livestock.	100 Point(s)
4. Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water -Does the offer include treatment planned to provide a permanent source of water for domestic livestock where there isn’t adequate available water? Ponds are not fenced to exclude livestock.	50 Point(s)
5. Other- Has the applicant had previous USDA contract that was not fulfilled (cancelled, terminated, currently out of compliance)?	-100 Point(s)
6. Plant Condition-Plants not Adapted or Suited - Does offer include treatment of conversion of cropland to permanent vegetation by Range Planting (550)? (511 or 528 will be required for an conversion)	75 Point(s)
7. Plant Condition-Plants not Adapted or Suited -Does offer include treatment of conversion of cropland to permanent vegetation by Forage and Biomass Planting (512)? (511 or 528 will be required for an conversion)	30 Point(s)
21. Soil Erosion-Does the offer include the planned treatment of scour, gully or ephemeral erosion?	25 Point(s)