

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Lincoln County Grazingland**

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)
8. 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)
9. 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)
10. 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. 1. Soil Erosion – Classic Gully: Lincoln - Offer includes planned treatment of gully erosion on grazing land. Planned treatment includes Grade Stabilization Structure (410) and/or Critical Area Planting (342).	45 Point(s)
2. 2. Soil Erosion – Ephemeral Gully and/or Sheet & Rill: Lincoln - Establishment of Cropland to Permanent Vegetation - Planned treatment includes establishment of cropland to permanent vegetation including native grass (550) and/or introduced grass (512) and either Prescribed grazing (528) or Forage Harvest Management (511).	60 Point(s)
3. 3. Plant Condition – Noxious and Invasive Plants: Lincoln - Offer includes treatment of sericea lespedeza (Herbaceous Weed Control, 315) on native rangeland and/or pastureland and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) on the entire operating unit.	45 Point(s)
4. 4. Plant Condition – Noxious and Invasive Plants: Lincoln - Offer includes treatment of high priority eastern red cedar through brush management (314) and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) on the entire operating unit.	60 Point(s)
5. 5. Plant Condition – Noxious and Invasive Plants: Lincoln - Offer includes treatment of medium priority eastern red cedar through brush management (314) and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) on the entire operating unit.	40 Point(s)
6. 6. Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, and/or Vigor: Lincoln – Additional Water Sources – Offer includes treatment planned to provide additional water source(s) in addition to an existing water source to facilitate grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) on the entire operating unit. Applicable practices include Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614), Well (642), and Animal Trails and Walkways (575).	40 Point(s)
7. 7. Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, and/or Vigor: Lincoln - Cross fencing- Planned treatment includes cross fencing (382) to facilitate grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528) on the entire operating unit.	50 Point(s)
8. 8. Animals - Domestic – Inadequate stock water: Lincoln - Offer includes treatment planned to provide a permanent water source for domestic livestock that currently does not have a reliable water source in the grazing unit and implementation of grazing management to meet the Prescribed Grazing Standard (528). Applicable practices include Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614), Well (642), and Animal Trails and Walkways (575).	50 Point(s)
9. 9. Soil Erosion – Stream Bank: Lincoln - Establishing New Buffer Practices (includes regeneration) and Protection of Existing Buffers - Planned treatment includes protection of existing perennial streams, intermittent streams, and ponds (new and existing) from degradation by establishment of new buffer practices. All of the existing buffer concerns (protection of existing perennial streams, existing ponds, and new ponds) must be addressed. Buffer practices include Fence (382), Contour Buffer Strip (332), Filter Strip (393), Cross Wind Trap Strip (589C), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Herbaceous Wind Barrier (422A), Field Border (386), and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).	50 Point(s)
10. 10. Soil Erosion – Stream Bank: Lincoln - Protection of Existing Buffers or New Buffer Practices (includes regeneration) - Planned treatment includes protection of existing perennial streams, intermittent streams and ponds (new or existing) from degradation by protection of existing conservation buffer practices. Buffer practices include Fence (382), Contour Buffer Strip (332), Filter Strip (393), Cross Wind Trap Strip (332), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Herbaceous Wind Barrier (422A), Field Border (386), and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380). Existing buffers must meet one of the listed practice standards before points may be awarded.	30 Point(s)