

Ranking Categories – CROPLAND HEALTH (CLH);  
CLH-BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER;  
CLH-LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER;  
CLH-SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER

**Primary Resource Concern –**

- **Soil Condition – Organic Matter Depletion**
- **Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Non-irrigated Land**

**Secondary Resource Concern –**

- **Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Northern Bobwhite Quail)**

**Eligible Land Uses –**

- **Crop**

**Additional Requirement**

- **No State Issue points will be awarded to any applicant who has had a cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract in the past.**

**State Issues –**

If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, or Northern Bobwhite Quail habitat area. If neither question applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within a Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, or Northern Bobwhite Quail habitat area and native grass and forbs will be planted according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards and specifications on a minimum of 40.0 contiguous acres. (35 points)
- (1b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located within a Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, or Northern Bobwhite Quail habitat area and native grass and forbs will be planted according to NRCS eFOTG standards and specifications on a minimum of 40.0 contiguous acres. (30 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following three questions related to the Erosion Index (EI). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ALL soils (100.0 percent) in the unit of concern. (190 points)
- (2b)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ANY soil on greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern, but not ALL soils (less than 100.0 percent), in the unit of concern. (130 points)
- (2c)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ANY soil, but less than 50.0 percent, in the unit of concern. (70 points)

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If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) and Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR). If none apply leave the answers “NO”:

- (3a) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 0 and less than 5.0, as determined by Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE 2) prediction model. (1000 points)
- (3b) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 5.0 and less than 7.5, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (750 points)
- (3c) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 7.5 and less than 10.0, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (500 points)
- (3d) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR index greater than or equal to 10.0 and less than 30.0, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (250 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following three questions related to Available Water Storage Index (AWSI). (No points are available for those units of concerns with a VERY HIGH available water storage.) If none apply leave the answers “NO”:

- (4a) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is VERY LOW. (1000 points)
- (4b) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is LOW. (750 points)
- (4c) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is MEDIUM. (500 points)
- (4d) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is HIGH. (250 points)

Crop types are defined as winter broadleaf, winter grass, summer broadleaf, and summer grass. Answer EACH of the following three questions related to cropping rotation:

- (5) There are four crop types in the cropping rotation. (5 points)
- (6) The cropping rotation includes at least three continuous years of perennial grasses or legumes. (5 points)
- (7) Cover crops are included in the cropping rotation (at least one during a three crop type cycle or two during a four crop cycle). (5 points)

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**Local Issues –**

Answer the following questions related to the application:

- (1) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (5 points)
- (2) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)
- (3) Participant completed the appropriate Self-Assessment Worksheet (SAW) prior to the application evaluation period cut-off date and returned it to the appropriate NRCS field office. SAW was NOT completed by NRCS staff. (5 points)
- (4) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (5 points)
- (5) Greater than or equal to 33.3 percent of the unit of concern will be planted to native grass and forbs according to NRCS eFOTG standards and specifications. (5 points)
- (6) Native plant species will be used in a financially assisted vegetative practice. (5 points)