

Ranking Categories—ORGANIC—TRANSITION and ORGANIC—CERTIFIED

Primary Resource Concerns—

- **Domestic Animals—Inadequate Stock Water**
- **Fish and Wildlife—Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Greater Prairie—Chicken, Lesser Prairie—Chicken, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Topeka Shiner)**
- **Plant Condition—Productivity, Health, Vigor (Cropland, Forestland, Rangeland, Pastureland, Hayland)**
- **Plant Condition—Noxious, Invasive Plants**
- **Soil Condition—Organic Matter Depletion**
- **Soil Erosion—Streambank**
- **Water Quality—Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality—Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality—Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality—Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality—Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water**
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Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture**

State Issues—

Practice Implementation to Support Organic—If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions. If neither apply, leave the answers “NO”.

- (1a) The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less. (20 points)
- (1b) The EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within three years or less. (10 points)

Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues—Answer EACH of the following two questions.

- (2) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practices which include pollinator—friendly plant species in the crop rotation system. (20 points)
- (3) The EQIP plan includes implementation of conservation practices which include pollinator—friendly plant species for organic production systems (e.g., filter and buffer strips, hedge rows, windbreaks.) (10 points)

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Local Issues—

Soil Resource Issues—If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions. If neither apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) The EQIP plan includes implementation of two or more soil building/enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) quality criteria standards. (15 points)
- (1b) The EQIP plan includes implementation of one soil building/enhancing practice that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (5 points)

Soil Resource Issues—Answer the following question.

- (2) Soil Condition: The EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 590, Nutrient Management, to eFOTG quality criteria for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments. (15 points)

Soil Erosion Resource Issues—Answer the following question.

- (3) EQIP plan includes practices which will result in measurable reduction of erosion from all sources OR participant has already addressed all erosion problems to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)

Water Quality Resource Issues—Answer EACH of the following three questions.

- (4) The EQIP plan includes practices that will result in reduction of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, pesticides, and sediment, leaving the treatment unit to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)
- (5) The EQIP plan includes practices that will manage excess surface water discharge from the treatment unit to an impaired water body (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] 303d list.) to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)
- (6) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 595, Pest Management, and an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to eFOTG quality criteria for management of pests and noxious and invasive species to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)
- (7) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 633, Waste Utilization, to manage domestic livestock manure to eFOTG quality criteria standards to protect surface and groundwater resources. (10 points)

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Plant Condition Resource Issues—Answer the following question.

- (8) Plant Condition: The EQIP plan includes practices which will result in management of vegetation and surface residues to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)

Domestic Animal Resource Issues—Answer EACH of the following four questions.

- (9) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 511, Forage Harvest Management, to address National Organic Program (NOP) requirements for management of feed supplements and forage supplies. (10 points)
- (10) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 528, Prescribed Grazing, to eFOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs. (20 points)
- (11) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practices which limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (15 points)
- (12) The EQIP plan includes implementation of practices to assure adequate clean off-stream domestic livestock drinking water sources are available in the treatment unit and meets eFOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL ISSUE QUESTIONS

LOCAL ISSUES

Soil Resource Issues (Questions 1a, 1b)

Answer the question “yes”, if the plan includes at least one of the following practices:

Practice	Practice Code
Access Control	472
Brush Management	314
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C
Field Border	386
Filter Strip	393
Forage Harvest Management	511
Grassed Waterway	412
Herbaceous Wind Barrier	603
Mulching	484
Nutrient Management	590
Pasture and Hay Planting	512
Pest Management	595
Prescribed Grazing	528
Range Planting	550
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed	329
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	798
Stripcropping	585
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Waste Utilization	633
Wetland Creation	658
Wetland Restoration	657
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650

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STATE ISSUES

Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues (Question 2, 3)

Question 2—Answer “yes” to this question if the planned crop rotation includes plant species identified in Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) eFOTG specification Table 2.

Question 3—Answer “yes” to this question if the conservation practices included in the EQIP CPO include vegetative mixes developed using at least one pollinator friendly species identified in Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) eFOTG specification Table 2.

Soil Erosion Resource Issues (Question 3)

Answer “yes” to this question if any of the conservation practices in the EQIP conservation plan of operations (CPO) are listed below:

Practice	Practice Code
Access Control	472
Brush Management	314
Channel Bank Vegetation	322
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C
Dike	356
Diversion	362
Field Border	386
Filter Strip	393
Forage Harvest Management	511
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412
Hedgerow Planting	422
Herbaceous Wind Barriers	603
Lined Waterway/Outlet	468
Mulching	484
Nutrient Management	590
Pasture and Hay Planting	512
Pest Management	595
Pond	378
Prescribed Burning	338
Prescribed Grazing	528
Range Planting	550
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed	329
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346
Riparian Forest Buffer	391

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Sediment Basin	350
Spring Development	574
Streambank/Shoreline Protection	580
Stripcropping	585
Terrace	600
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Underground Outlet	620
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645
Waste Utilization	633
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650

Water Quality Resource Issues (Questions 4, 5, 6)

Question 4–Answer “yes” to this question if any of the conservation practices in REGULAR EQIP AND the EQIP CPO does not include the following conservation practices: 578, 606, 642.

Question 5 - REGULAR EQIP–Answer yes if the unit of concern is located in a high priority Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides (see CPGI) AND if the EQIP CPO does not include the following conservation practices: 578, 606, 642.

Question 6–REGULAR EQIP–Answer “yes” if EQIP CPO includes (595) Pest Management and IPM techniques and procedures are followed.

Plant Condition Resource Issues (Question 8)

Answer this question “yes” if the EQIP CPO includes one or more of the following practices:

- On cropland: Practice code 328, 329, 345, or 346.
- On grazing land: Practice code 511 or 528
- Pasture: 511 or 528
- Forest: 666

Domestic Animal Resource Issues (Questions 11, 12)

Question 11–Answer this question “yes” if Access Control (472) is included in the EQIP CPO AND the practice will be used to control livestock access on intermittent and perennial streams (use the 1:24,000 hydrography dataset) and/or naturally occurring wetlands or springs.

Question 12–Answer this question “yes” if a Watering Facility (614) is included in the EQIP CPO AND is located away from any intermittent or perennial streams (use the 1:24,000 hydrography dataset) and/or naturally occurring wetlands or springs as per 614 guidance.