NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
EDGE-OF-FIELD WATER QUALITY MONITORING
APPLICATION EVALUATION RANKING TOOL—STATE AND LOCAL QUESTIONS

Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Monitoring Activity State Ranking Criteria	FY2013 Points
1. If there is monitoring equipment on-site previously installed using funding for conservation practice (CP) 799 that meets the criteria of the 202 conservation activity or can be retrofitted, answer **One** of the following. (125 total)	
1a: Does the application include the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring (EOFWQM)—Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity which will support two or more existing monitoring systems which meet the Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring—System Installation (202) conservation activity?	125
1b: Does the application include the EOFWQM—Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity which will support: • One existing monitoring system which meets the EOFWQM—System Installation (202) conservation activity; and • At least one new EOFWQM—System Installation (202) must be installed?	85
1c: Does the application include the EOFWQM—Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity which will support two or more existing monitoring systems which can be retrofitted to meet the EOFWQM—System Installation (202)?	115
1d: Does the application include the EOFWQM—Data Collection and Evaluation (201) activity which will support: • one existing monitoring system which can be retrofitted to meet the EOFWQM—System Installation (202); and • at least one new EOFWQM—System Installation (202) will be installed per requirements?	75
2. Answer **All** of the following criteria that apply regarding the location of the project. (100 total)	
2a: Is the planned EOFWQM system upstream of existing in-stream (Tier II) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	50
2b: Is the planned EOFWQM system upstream of existing 12-digit mouth/pour point (Tier III) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	30

2c: Will the monitoring effort be located along or upstream of an impaired stream segment or water body (as defined by the 303d list or an identified Total Maximum Daily Load [TMDL]) and contribute to the knowledge base to assist in the water quality improvement efforts?	20
3. Answer **All** of the following criteria regarding the participants ability to expedite implementation of monitoring. (30 total)	
3a: Does the applicant have a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) on hand that conforms to the 202 conservation activity?	10
3b: Has an elevation survey already been completed to establish the size and drainage outlet point of the catchment?	10
3c: At the time of application, has the level of uncertainty for any existing or proposed EOFWQM system been estimated from past monitoring activities?	10
4. If the application enables 1 "control" station to serve as a comparison for multiple "variable" stations, then answer **One** of the following related to the monitoring plan. (40 total)	
4a: Does the application include three edge of field monitoring stations (1 "control" station and 2 "variable" stations)?	20
4b: Does the application include four or more edge of field monitoring stations (1 "control" station and 3 or more "variable" stations)?	40
5. Answer **All** of the following criteria that applies to the application's ability to evaluate systems or practices identified for the targeted watershed for FY2013. (105 total)	
5a: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize water quality benefits from a conservation system with at least one practice in the Avoid, Control, and Trap categories simultaneously.	12
5b: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize water quality benefits from a system of practices installed over tile drainage production.	12
5c: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize water quality benefits to surface-water runoff from a system of practices installed on row crop fields with an average slope of 1 percent or less. .	12
5d: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize the effect of timing of commercial and manure nutrients and/or the use of amendments/inhibitors on production and nitrogen and phosphorus losses.	21
5e: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize the water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, and/or soil health).	12

5f: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize the water quality benefits of drainage water management systems and/or bioreactors.	12
5g: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that characterize the water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems and/or rice production systems.	12
5h: The application will evaluate EOFWQM systems that investigate matching buffer or filter width needs with slopes, erodibility, tillage and crop rotations	12
6. Answer **All** of the following criteria that apply to the past performance of the applicant. (-100 total)	
6a: Does the applicant currently have any active U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) contracts that are behind schedule, or have they had any USDA-NRCS contracts terminated?	-100
Total Points:	**400**

FY2013 Monitoring Activity Local Ranking Criteria	**FY2013 Points**
1. The applicant has documentation showing previous knowledge or involvement with watershed or field level water quality monitoring.	250