

Attachment C

Organic Initiative State and Local Ranking Questions

State Issues–

Soil Quality Degradations–Organic Matter Depletion

Subheading 1–Soil Quality Degradations–Organic Matter Depletion. Answer 1 question for a maximum of 45 points.

1a: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Schedule of Operations includes implementation of **two or more** soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) quality criteria standards. (45 points)

1b: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of **one** soil quality or enhancing practice that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to eFOTG quality criteria standards. (25 points)

Question 2–Soil Erosion Resource Issues. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion to eFOTG quality criteria standards? (45 points)

Subheading 3–Water Quality Resource Issues. Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points.

3a: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes Conservation Practice 595, Integrated Pest Management, which meets eFOTG quality criteria. (45 points)

3b: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices for management of noxious and invasive species **ONLY** on “non-cropland” acreage only to eFOTG quality criteria.” (20 points)

3c: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CP 590, Nutrient Management, to eFOTG quality criteria for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments (45 points)

Subheading 4–Plant Condition Resource Issues. Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points.

4a: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering farm. (30 points)

4b: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects. (30 points)

4c: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management. (30 points)

Subheading 5–Water Conservation. Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points.

5a: Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system. (25 points)

5b: EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture. (25 points)

Subheading 6–Domestic Animal Resources Issues. Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points.

6a: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CP 528, Prescribed Grazing, to eFOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other resource needs. (30 points)

6b: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies to FOTG quality Criteria standards. (20 points)

6c: EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit and meets FOTG quality criteria standards. (10 points)

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 has a conservation plan approved at least 30 days prior to the application cutoff date that addresses a primary resource concern. (5 points)
4. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (5 Points)