

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <i>EQIP 2008, Fiscal Year 2012</i>	
Ranking Tool: <i>On-Farm Energy</i>	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
2. 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:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Assist in producing energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, biofuel, etc)?	10 Point(s)

Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10 Point(s)
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Answer BOTH of the following two questions regarding the producer's efforts to conserve energy and improve energy efficiency in their farming operation. Maximum points 150.	
1. a Has an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) also known as a Comprehensive Type 2 on-farm energy audit (that meets the ASABE S612 On-Farm energy audit standard) been conducted in the last three to five years?	100 Point(s)
1. b Is applicant using or has applicant used a smart meter to monitor, evaluate, and or manage energy usage and time-of-use on their farming enterprise/operation?	50 Point(s)
2. If appropriate, answer ONE of the following two questions regarding the producer's recent energy conservation actions. Maximum points 50.	
2. a Has applicant ALREADY INSTALLED at least TWO recommended measures/energy conserving components (i.e. lighting, ventilation, etc.) in the last three years?	50 Point(s)
2. b Has applicant ALREADY INSTALLED at least ONE recommended measure/energy conserving component (i.e. lighting, ventilation, etc.) in the last three years?	20 Point(s)
3. Select ALL APPROPRIATE categories of major energy efficiency activities that the applicant is going to install in this contract. Maximum points 160.	
3. a LIGHTING components (lamps, timers, sensors) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. b VENTILATION components (fans, control systems, variable drives, humidity control) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. c REFRIGERATION components (compressor, evaporator/chiller, motor, insulation) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. d MILK HARVESTING components (pumps, motors, controllers) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. e CONTROLLERS components (master system automation) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. f OTHER MOTORS/PUMPS components (types, compressors) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. g WATER HEATING components (heater, insulation, recovery, waterers) recommended in the	10 Point(s)
3. h AIR HEATING/BUILDING ENVIRONMENT components (heater, insulation, recovery, variable drives) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. i DRYING components (air flow, handling equipment) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. j WASTE HANDLING components (collection and dispersal equipment/methods) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. k AIR COOLING (airflow, control systems, evaporative) components recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. l WATER MANAGEMENT components (wells, reservoir, recycled) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)

3. m IRRIGATION components (motors/engines, pumps) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. n AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES that use more energy efficient ENGINE DRIVEN EQUIPMENT (i.e., planting, tilling, harvesting, etc.) recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. o CROP/FEED STORAGE components recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
3. p MATERIAL HANDLING (equipment, motors, pumps) components recommended in the Audit?	10 Point(s)
4. If appropriate, answer ONE of the following three questions regarding conservation practices offered in the EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative. Maximum points 20.	
4. a Application includes THREE OR MORE conservation practice standards offered in the Initiative.	20 Point(s)
4. b Application includes TWO conservation practice standards offered in the Initiative.	15 Point(s)
4. c Application includes ONE conservation practice standard offered in the Initiative.	10 Point(s)
5. If appropriate, answer ONE of the following three questions regarding percent of energy savings based on the measures/practices PRODUCER INTENDS TO INSTALL. Percentage energy savings = (total estimated energy saved / total current energy usage). Maximum points 20.	
5. a Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) greater than 40%?	20 Point(s)
5. b Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) between 40% and 25%?	15 Point(s)
5. c Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) between 24 and 5%?	10 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>400</i>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Energy Conservation: Answer all that apply.	
1.a. The project will reduce on-farm use of fossil fuels or bio-fuels.	40 Point(s)
1.b. The design phase of the project is substantially complete and an installer's quote has been obtained.	20 Point(s)
2. Air Quality - reduction of on-farm CO2 emissions: Answer no more than one of the following:	
2.a. The project will reduce annual on-farm CO2 emissions by > 50 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements.	40 Point(s)
2.b. The project will reduce annual on-farm CO2 emissions by 20-50 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements.	30 Point(s)
2.c. The project will reduce annual on-farm CO2 emissions by >5 and <20 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements.	20 Point(s)
2.d. The project will reduce annual on-farm CO2 emissions by 2-5 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements.	15 Point(s)
3. Does the application meet the following conditions:	
3.a. The applicant has never before participated in EQIP through a funded contract.	25 Point(s)
3.b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contracts funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-20 Point(s)
3.c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active Conservation Program Contract?	-50 Point(s)
3.d. NRCS has TERMINATED a Conservation Program Contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-100 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>125</i>