

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <i>EQIP 2008, Fiscal Year 2012</i>	
Ranking Tool: <i>Organic (Certified and Transition)</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 ( <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html">http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html</a> )?	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. Soil Quality Degradations -Organic Matter Depletion. Answer 1 question for maximum of 45 points.	
a 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 FOTG quality criteria standards.	45 Point(s)
b 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 FOTG quality criteria standards.	25 Point(s)
2. Soil Erosion Resource Issues. Answer 1 question for maximum of 45 points.	
a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in reduction of erosion to FOTG quality criteria standards?	45 Point(s)
3. Water Quality Resource Issues. Maximum points 110.	
a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes 595 Integrated Pest Management which meets FOTG	45 Point(s)
b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage only to FOTG quality criteria.	20 Point(s)
c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient Management to FOTG quality criteria for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments.	45 Point(s)
4. Plant Condition Resource Issues. Answer all that apply for Maximum points 90.	
a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering farm.	30 Point(s)
b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects.	30 Point(s)
c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management.	30 Point(s)
5. Water Conservation . Answer all that apply for Maximum points 50.	
a Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system.	25 Point(s)
b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture.	25 Point(s)
6. Domestic Animal Resource Issues; answer all that apply for Maximum points 50.	
a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs.	30 Point(s)

b 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 Point(s)
c 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 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>425</i>

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
a. Improve the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone, up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPA's (within zone)?	35 Point(s)
b. Improve the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	15 Point(s)
2. Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
a. Increase groundwater recharge or decrease water withdrawal in a state identified STRESSED	15 Point(s)
b. Improve irrigation systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	
4. Soil Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW erosion?	15 Point(s)
b. Stabilize BANK EROSION from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels?	15 Point(s)
6. High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
a. Improve soil tilth, infiltration, organic matter, or compaction by implementing two or more SOIL BUILDING practices?	15 Point(s)
b. Improve the sustainability of GRASS-FED animal agriculture?	15 Point(s)
c. Enhance or improve local food production (locally marketed)?	15 Point(s)
8. Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
a. Formation of partnerships among agencies (i.e. MDAR, DCR, NHESP, USFWS) to support financial and /or technical assistance?	15 Point(s)
9. Other Considerations – Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
a. The applicant has never before been selected for funding through EQIP.	15 Point(s)
b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-20 Point(s)
c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50 Point(s)
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>185</i>