Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
EQIP Organic - Certified

Program: EQIP 2008	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: EQIP Organic - Certified		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

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)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Practice Implementation to Support Organic:	
1. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within TWO years or less.	30 Point(s)
2. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within THREE years or less.	15 Point(s)
3. EQIP plan includes implementation of five or more of the NRCS Core 6 organic conservation practices OR completes an installed system of Core 6 organic conservation practices.	30 Point(s)
4. EQIP plan includes implementation of three to four of the NRCS Core 6 organic conservation practices.	20 Point(s)
5. EQIP plan includes implementation of one to two of the NRCS Core 6 organic conservation practices.	10 Point(s)
Soil Resource Issues:	
1. EQIP plan includes implementation of two or more soil building/enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to FOTG quality criteria standards.	20 Point(s)
2. EQIP plan includes implementation of one soil building/enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc., to FOTG quality criteria standards.	10 Point(s)
3. Soil Condition: EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient Management to FOTG quality criteria for management of soil fertiflity, plant health and vigor, plant nutrients and soil amendments.	20 Point(s)

Soil Erosion Resource Issues:	
1. EQIP plan includes practices which will result in measurable reduction of erosion from all sources OR participant has already addressed all erosion problems to FOTG quality criteria standards.	20 Point(s)
Water Quality Resource Issues:	
1. EQIP plan includes practices which will result in reduction of sediment leaving the treatment unit and meets FOTG quality criteria standards.	15 Point(s)
2. EQIP plan includes practices which will minimize contaminant loading in runoff leaving the field OR minimize contaminants entering adjacent water bodies (through the use of filter strips, field borders, buffers, etc.) to FOTG quality criteria standards.	15 Point(s)
3. EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 595 Pest Management and an organic system IPM plan to adequately manage pests of concern and to meet FOTG quality criteria standards.	25 Point(s)
4. EQIP plan includes practices which will manage irrigation water to optimize plant health, reduce pest problems, and minimize leaching of NOP approved nutrient and pesticide products.	15 Point(s)
Plant Condition Resource Issues:	
1. Plant Condition: EQIP plan includes practices which will result in management of surface residues to FOTG quality criteria standards.	15 Point(s)
Domestic Animal Resource Issues:	
1. EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 511 Forage Harvest Management to address NOP requirements for management of feed supplements and forage supplies.	15 Point(s)
2. EQIP plan 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.	25 Point(s)
3. EQIP plan includes implementation of practices which limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies to FOTG quality criteria standards.	20 Point(s)
4. EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 633 Waste Utilization to manage domestic livestock manure to FOTG quality criteria standards to protect surface and groundwater resources.	15 Point(s)
5. 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 FOTG quality criteria standards.	15 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues:	
1. EQIP plan includes implementation of practices which include pollinator friendly plant species in the crop rotation system.	25 Point(s)
2. EQIP plan includes implementation of conservation practices which include pollinator plant species for organic production systems (e.g. filter & buffer strips, hedge rows, windbreaks, etc.).	15 Point(s)
3. EQIP plan includes practices which establish habitat that benefits fish and/or wildlife species.	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses

1. Does this application address resource concerns in multiple land use categories?	100 Point(s)
2. Does this application establish permanent non-crop vegetation in cropland?	50 Point(s)
3. Does this application include a pest and nutrient management plan that complements the organic system plan?	30 Point(s)
4. Does this application result in an RMS plan on the enrolled acres?	30 Point(s)
5. Will this application result in treatment of stream bank erosion?	40 Point(s)