Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
EQIP Beginning Farmer / Rancher - Non-Irr (State)

Program: EQIP 2008	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: EQIP Beginning Farmer / Rancher - Non-Irr (State)		**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 – 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 implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants?	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
Answer one of the following planning questions only if applicable to this application:	
1. Was a progressive conservation plan developed to treat 30% or more of the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
2. Was a RMS conservation plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the application acres prior to the application cutoff? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
3. Was a RMS conservation plan developed to treat the identified resource concerns on the entire ag operation prior to the application cutoff? (20 points)	20 Point(s)
Answer all of the following questions that apply to this application.	
4. Will the quality criteria for 'Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully and/or Classic Gully' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
5. Will the quality criteria for 'Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics' and/or 'Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
6. Will the quality criteria for 'Air Quality - Particulate Matter and Objectionable Odor' be met with the installation of a Windbreak, Shelterbelt or Tree Planting? (10 points)	10 Point(s)

7. Will the quality criteria for 'Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants' be addressed through the use of Herbaceous Weed Control or Integrated Pest Management techniques? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
8. Will the planned practices reduce the risk of wildfires? E.g. Forest thinning, forest pruning, green strips, firebreaks/fuel breaks, prescribed burning. (10 points)	10 Point(s)
9. Will nutrient management be applied for 3 years? (25 points)	25 Point(s)
10. Will pest management be applied for 3 years? (25 points)	25 Point(s)
Cropland	
11. Will the planned practices improve the soil condition index to meet or exceed quality criteria? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
Answer one of the next two questions on soil erosion reduction as a result of contract implementation? Use the current NRCS tool for the appropriate erosion type. If multiple types of erosion occur use most predominant.	
12. Is average soil loss reduced by more than 5 tons/acre to meet quality criteria? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
13. Is average soil loss reduced by less than 5 tons/acre to meet quality criteria? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
Answer one of these three conservation tillage questions only if the practices are planned for the contract.	
14. Will a Basic Mulch Till System be used continuously in the crop rotation? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
15. Will a High Intensity Mulch Till system be used continuously in the crop rotation? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
16. Will a no-till/strip till system be used continuously in the crop rotation? (20 points)	20 Point(s)
Irrigated land (Answer in addition to Cropland and/or Grazingland questions if land is irrigated)	
17. Will the quality criteria for 'Soil Erosion - Irrigation Induced' be met with the installation of the conservation practices in this application where it was not met on benchmark conditions? (5 points)	5 Point(s)

18. Will the planned conservation practices convert the existing irrigation system to a sprinkler irrigation system or to a drip irrigation system? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
19. Will Irrigation Water Management be applied for 3 years? (25 points)	25 Point(s)
Answer one of the next two questions on irrigation efficiency. Average irrigation efficiencies on all acres in the application.	
20. Is irrigation efficiency improved more than 21% to meet quality criteria? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
21. Is irrigation efficiency improved from 12 to 21% to meet quality criteria? (5 points)	5 Point(s)
Answer one of the next two questions if a gravity pressurized sprinkler system is planned for implementation in the contract.	
22. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 50 to 99% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation. (5 points)	5 Point(s)
23. Do the planned conservation practices include the installation of a 100% gravity pressurized sprinkler irrigation system? This can either be through improvement to an existing or the result of a new system installation. (10 points)	10 Point(s)
Grazingland	
24. Will the planned conservation practices allow the applicant to meet the quality criteria for 'Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water 'where they have not been met on benchmark condition? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
25. Will prescribed grazing be applied for 3 years? (25 points)	25 Point(s)
26. Will the prescribed grazing plan incorporate multiple grazing units with rest periods during the growing season? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
27. Will brush management be applied on the application acres where woody species have been determined to be invasive? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
28. Will Range Planting be applied on the application acres which will result in an improved range health? (5 points)	5 Point(s)

Forestland (Timber Production is primary land use)	
29. Will the planned practices promote tree species which are most adapted and suitable to improve forest health? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
30. Will the planned practices improve forest productivity by managing to proper stocking levels? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
31. Will the planned practices address insect and disease problems? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
Species of Concern	
32. Will the planned practices directly benefit a listed Endangered or Threatened species and/or it's designated critical habitat? (20 points)	20 Point(s)
33. Will the planned practices directly benefit a Candidate or Proposed Candidate species and/or it's designated critical habitat? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
34. Will the planned practices directly benefit multiple Species of Concern? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
Stream Bank Erosion	
35. Has the design been completed and have the permits been applied for? (10 points)	10 Point(s)
36. Will the treatment include installation of a buffer within the riparian area? (10 points	10 Point(s)
37. Will the planned conservation practices have a direct positive effect on habitat used by an existing species of concern or T&E species? (15 points)	15 Point(s)
Answer one of the next two questions if Streambank or Shoreline Erosion will be addressed.	
38. Erosion will be reduced by 1-10 cu. ft. per linear foot/year. (5 points)	5 Point(s)
39. Erosion will be reduced by over 10 cu. ft. per linear foot/year. (10 points)	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Answer all of the following questions that will be addressed on the application.	
1. Do the planned practices address water quality concerns that have been identified as impairments in a TMDL management plan or 303d listed stream where the land is located (direct impacts)? (35 points)	35 Point(s)

2. Will the planned practices result in the permanent relocation of a confined animal feeding area away from a stream or other water body? (50 points)	50 Point(s)
3. Will livestock impacts to live water be reduced by installing practices such as: fencing, watering facilities, buffer areas and/or prescribed grazing? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
4. Will the planned practices improve permanent wildlife habitat on and around crop/pasture fields? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
5. Will the planned practices solve an existing resource problem that has led to a letter of violation? (40 points)	40 Point(s)
6. Will the planned practices result in a change to an existing grazing plan that will increase the level of management? (30 points)	30 Point(s)
7. Is the applicant a limited resource, beginning, or socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher? (35 points)	35 Point(s)