

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Drought Mitigation - Livestock

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. 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 implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)

Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the producer currently implementing a prescribed grazing plan that meets the 528 standard on all contract acres.	100 Point(s)
2. Will the proposed project address turbidity and sediment deposition in surface water by limiting access to implemented practices (example: watering facility/access ramp installed with fenced pond). These points should be awarded for watering facilities as well.	100 Point(s)
Surface Water: Nutrients/Organics – Will the planned project include practices to address surface water nutrients? Answer only one question below which best describes the proposed project.	
3. A: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrient/organics in a nutrient limited watershed?	50 Point(s)
3. B: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that lies within ¼ mile of an impaired water body?	40 Point(s)
3. C: Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that adjoins a water body that extends beyond the applicants property boundary?	30 Point(s)
3. D: Will the planned practice address surface water nutrients/organics on a field that adjoins a pond or other water body that lies entirely within the property boundary of the applicant?	20 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Domestic Animals - Inadequate Livestock Water: Does proposed project provide immediate livestock water where adequate quantities currently do not exist (points should not be given for pond construction)?	200 Point(s)
2. Other - Has the applicant ever had a previous USDA contract that was not fulfilled (canceled, terminated, currently out of compliance)?	-250 Point(s)
Domestic Animals - Stress and Mortality: What % of the offered acreage has livestock levels been reduced due to a lack of water within the last 45 days (answer only one)?	
3. A. 100% destocked?	100 Point(s)
3. B. Greater than or equal to 75% destocked?	50 Point(s)
3. C. Greater than or equal to 50% destocked?	25 Point(s)
3. D. Greater than or equal to 25% destocked?	10 Point(s)
3. E. Less than 25% destocked?	0 Point(s)
Domestic Animals - Stress and Mortality: What % of the offered acreage has water been transported to meet livestock demand (answer only one)?	
4. A. 100% of offered fields for more than 45 days?	60 Point(s)
4. B. 100% of offered fields for less than 45 days?	50 Point(s)
4. C. 50% or more of offered fields?	20 Point(s)
4. D. Less than 50% of offered fields?	0 Point(s)
Domestic Animals - Stress and Mortality: What % of the current water sources in the offered acreage is undrinkable to livestock or wildlife due to water quality or quantity concerns (examples: no water, stagnate water, excessive algae, mud/silt, or water less than 3 feet deep, answer only one)?	
5. A. 100% of all water sources in offered acreages?	20 Point(s)
5. B. 75% or more of water sources in offered acreages?	10 Point(s)
5. C. 50% or more of water sources in offered acreages?	5 Point(s)
5. D. Less than 50% of water sources in offered acreages?	0 Point(s)
Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water: What % of water currently exists in the offered acreage compared to total water capacity of offered acreage (example: field 1 has one pond which is 50% full, field 2 has one pond with is 50% full, field 3 has one dry well with 0%, thus $\{50\% + 50\% + 0\% \} / 3 = 33.3\%$ answer only one)?	
6. A. Less than or equal to 10%?	20 Point(s)
6. B. Greater than 10% but less than 25%?	10 Point(s)
6. C. Greater than 25% but less than 50%?	5 Point(s)
6. D. Greater than 50%?	0 Point(s)