

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Questions
AMA - All Categories**

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" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
1. 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:	
2. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements 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 on-farm agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
3. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	

4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
4. 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:	
5. 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)
5. 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:	
6. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
6. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
6. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. 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)
7. 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:	

8. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
8. 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. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on hayland or pasture) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Value = 100 pts	100 Point(s)
2. Does the application include residue and tillage management and/or biodegradable plastic mulch for use on existing cropland? Value = 100 pts	100 Point(s)
3. Does the application include cover crops on all owned and rented cropland? Do NOT answer YES to State 3 and State 4. Value = 140 pts	140 Point(s)
4. Does the application include cover crops on at least 50% of all owned and rented cropland? Do NOT answer YES to State 3 and State 4. Value = 60 pts	60 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 25% of all owned and rented cropland? It is acceptable to answer YES to this question even if State 3 or State 4 is answered YES. It is possible to answer YES to this question if both State 3 and State 4 are answered NO. Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
2. Does the application include conservation cover or tree and shrub planting to improve native pollinator habitat? Value = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
3. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment or a practice recommended in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)
4. Does the application include Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment to improve pasture and grazing land? Value = 75 pts	75 Point(s)