

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Questions
EQIP Certified Organic & Organic Transition**

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>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 state priority category.</p>	
<p>1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	400 Point(s)
<p>Soil Quality: Answer all questions that apply for a maximum of 45 points.</p>	
<p>2. 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.?</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>2. 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.?</p>	25 Point(s)
<p>Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points</p>	
<p>3. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>Water Quality: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points</p>	
<p>4. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes 595 Integrated Pest Management?</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>4. b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage?</p>	20 Point(s)

4. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	45 Point(s)
Plant Condition: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points	
5. 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)
5. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	30 Point(s)
5. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management?	30 Point(s)
Water Conservation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points	
6. a Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system?	25 Point(s)
6. b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	25 Point(s)
Domestic Animals: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points	
7. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing AND/OR 512 Pasture & Hayland Planting for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	30 Point(s)
7. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7. 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?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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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 local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. Yes = 250 Points	250 Point(s)
2. Does this application facilitate livestock exclusion from ALL sensitive areas (i.e., surface water and wetlands) with a 20 ft buffer and the applicant agrees to the livestock exclusion at all times (except flash grazing as identified in an existing prescribed grazing plan)? Do NOT assign points if there are no environmentally sensitive areas or if livestock are not impacting these areas. Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
3. Does the application include a legume cover crop on at least 50% of the cropland acres? Yes = 50 Points	50 Point(s)
4. Does the application convert active cropland or hayland to a riparian forest buffer at least 35 ft in width? Yes = 30 Points	30 Point(s)
5. Does the application include forage and biomass planting (on pasture or hayland) to address resource concerns (overall rating of <25 - poor or very poor) identified on the NH Pasture Condition Score Sheet? Yes = 30 Points	30 Point(s)
6. Will 50% or more of the ag products produced be consumed or marketed within 50 miles of the farm? (May only answer "yes" to question 6 or 7 - not both) Yes = 30 Points	30 Point(s)
7. Will 50% or more of the ag products produced be consumed or marketed within 100 miles of the farm? (May only answer "yes" to question 6 or 7 - not both) Yes = 15 Points	15 Point(s)
8. Does the application include one or more conservation practices identified in an EXISTING Grazing Conservation Activity Plan or Prescribed Grazing Plan to address an existing water or soil quality resource concern? Yes = 20 Points	20 Point(s)
9. Does the application include at least one practice to control of invasive species or improve pollinator habitat? Yes = 10 Points	10 Point(s)
10. Does the application include practices to address one or more resource concerns identified in an existing Soil Health Assessment? Yes = 10 Points	10 Point(s)

11. Does the application include Nutrient Management - Soil Health Assessment? Yes = 5 Points	5 Point(s)
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