Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Belfast FO Small Farm Soil Health

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Belfast FO Small Farm Soil Health		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

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.	Yes O or No O
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?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
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?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes O or No O
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes O or No O
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?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
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?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes O or No O
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
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)?	Yes O or No O
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
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?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes O or No O

State Issues 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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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. If yes, 400 points	Yes O or No O
If the application is NOT for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)-Answer ranking elements 2-22 as pertinent for this application:	
2. Soil Organic Matter and Carbon Sequestration. If Cropland, will soil condition index change from less than 0.5 to 0.5 or greater when contract is implemented? 50 points	Yes O or No O
3. STATE PRIORITY ISSUE: SOIL – EROSION - Classic gully erosion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 50 points	Yes O or No O
IF APPLICABLE, Answer EITHER 4a OR 4b, but NOT both:	
4. a. SOIL – EROSION - Sheet and rill erosion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 15 points	Yes O or No O
4. b.SOIL – EROSION - Sheet and rill erosion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be reduced with proposed action? 3 points	Yes O or No O
Continue answering as pertinent for this application:	
5. SOIL – EROSION - Ephemeral gully erosion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 15 points	Yes O or No O
6. SOIL CONDITION – Organic matter depletion is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 15 points	Yes O or No O
7. SOIL CONDITION – Compaction is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 15 points	Yes O or No O
8. SOIL CONDITION – Contaminants (residual pesticides) are not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 15 points	Yes O or No O
9. SOIL CONDITION – Damage from soil deposition is not at the QC at the benchmark condition but	Yes O or No O

will be with proposed action? 15 points	
10. STATE PRIORITY ISSUE: WATER QUALITY – Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 50 points	Yes O or No O
11. STATE PRIORITY ISSUE: WATER QUALITY – Excessive suspended sediment and turbidity in surface water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 50 points	Yes O or No O
12. WATER QUALITY – Excessive nutrients and organics in ground water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
13. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pathogens in groundwater - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
14. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pathogens in surface water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
15. WATER QUALITY – Harmful levels of pesticides in ground and/or surface water - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
16. AIR QUALITY – Excessive ozone - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
17. AIR QUALITY – Ammonia (NH3) - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
18. AIR QUALITY – Chemical drift (not P) - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
19. AIR QUALITY – Objectionable odors - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
20. AIR QUALITY – Reduced visibility - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
21. AIR QUALITY – Undesirable air movement - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O
22. PLANT CONDITION – Noxious and invasive plants - not at the QC at the benchmark condition but will be with proposed action? 10 points	Yes O or No O

Local Issues 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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
1. 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. If yes, 250 points	Yes O or No O
If the application is NOT for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)-Answer the following Local ranking elements as pertinent for this application:	
2. Have or will the applicant participate in a comprehensive soil quality testing program (soil biology test)? 100 points	Yes O or No O
3. Will practices be implemented to increase soil biota such as crop rotation, mulching, or IPM? 75 ponts	Yes O or No O
4. Is sedimentation negatively affecting intermittent or perennial streams that are located within 1000 feet of the field and will be addressed by this contract? 75 points	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues: National Issues: **Final Ranking Score:**

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**