

2013 General EQIP Application Ranking Summary

National Priorities Addressed

Questions	Points
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 CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (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, 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)

Questions	Points
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

Questions	Value
Conservation Activity Plan (CAP): 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.	
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 state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
Water Quality: Choose one of the following, if applicable. Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
2. a. Implement practices to help meet state and local regulatory notices related to ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS impacts on water quality?	120 Point(s)
2. b. Improve the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPA's (within zone)?	80 Point(s)
2. c. Improve the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	40 Point(s)
Water Conservation: Will the proposed project help the producer implement conservation practices that will:	
3. Increase groundwater recharge or decrease water withdrawal in a state identified STRESSED BASIN, HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER?	80 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project help the producer to implement practice(s) that will:	
4. Reduce on-farm generated ozone precursors?	30 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project help the producer to implement practice(s) that will:	
5. a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW?	40 Point(s)
5. b. Stabilize BANK EROSION from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels?	40 Point(s)
5. c. Create or enhance RIPARIAN BUFFERS to help prevent future natural disaster damage to agricultural land?	40 Point(s)

Questions	Points
Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project help the producer to implement practice(s) that will:	
6. a. Create or enhance habitat for Box or Wood TURTLES?	40 Point(s)
6. b. Create or enhance habitat for federally or state identified species?	40 Point(s)
High Quality and Productive Soils, Plants and Animal Communities : Will the proposed project help the producer to implement practices that will:	
7. a. Improve or enhance BIVALVE AQUACULTURE?	40 Point(s)
7. b. Improve or enhance GRASS-FED ANIMAL agriculture?	40 Point(s)
7. c. Control INVASIVE SPECIES?	40 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Do any of the following apply:	
8. a. The project will leverage additional financial or technical assistance through partnerships with other agencies or groups (i.e. MDAR, DCR, NHESP, USFWS, etc.)?	25 Point(s)
8. b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contracts (2002/2008 Farm Bill)?	-25 Point(s)
8. c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50 Point(s)
8. d. NRCS has TERMINATED a Conservation Program Contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-100 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Questions	Value
Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) : If the application is for development of a CAP, the agency will assign the maximum points available 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 the evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality – Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
2. Address ANIMAL WASTE issues impacting designated Outstanding Resource Waters, Groundwater Zone II, or Surface Water Zone B?	65 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
3. Improve irrigation systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	40 Point(s)
Soils Health – Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
4. a. Incorporate soil health assessment through Nutrient Management (590)?	25 Point(s)
4. b. Improve soil tilth, infiltration, organic matter, or compaction by implementing two or more SOIL BUILDING practices?	25 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
5. Improve declining wildlife habitat, including grassland, shrubland and young forest?	35 Point(s)
Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project help the producer to:	
6. a. Improve or enhance locally grown and marketed FOOD production?	25 Point(s)
6. b. Improve PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	25 Point(s)
Additional Ranking Considerations : Does the following condition apply?	
7. The applicant has never received funding through EQIP?	10 Point(s)

Questions	Points
<i>Notes:</i>	

Scoring Components	% of Score
National Priorities Addressed (250 Points)	25%
State Issues Addressed (400 Points)	40%
Local Issues Addressed (250 Points)	25%
Efficiency Score = (CPPE x lifespan/practice ave. cost) (100 Points)	10%
Maximum Possible Score (1,000 Points)	100%