

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY 2013 National Water Quality Initiative**

National Priorities

Issue Question	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.	
1a. 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/No
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes/No
2b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes/No
2c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes/No
Clean and Abundant Water: Water conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3 a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes/No
3b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes/No
3c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes/No
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices (s) which:	
4a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes/No
4b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes/No
4c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes/No
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices(s) which:	
5a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes/No
5b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes/No
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes/No
6b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes/No
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
7a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes/No
7b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes/No
7c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes/No
7d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes/No
7e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes/No
7f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes/No
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes/No
8b. 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/No
8c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes/No

Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations- Will the proposed project result in:	
9a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes/No
9b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes/No
9c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes/No
Total Points	400

State Issues:

Issue Question	Reponses
Water Quality - Watersheds	
1. Does the application include "Core" conservation practices that will be implemented within 1/4 mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and /or phosphorous), on the EPO 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	Yes/No
Geographic Impacts:	
2. Are "Core" conservation practices planned on the offered acres that are: (i) Greater than 75% of the offered acres are within the targeted watershed, AND (ii) Greater than 75% of the offered acres have a "Core" conservation practice planned for application.	Yes/No
Collaborative Efforts:	
3. Are "Core" conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	Yes/No
Efforts to Address Watershed Impairments:	
4. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	Yes/No
High Risk Soils:	
5. Are "Core" conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	Yes/No
	400

Local Issues

Issue Question	Reponses
1. Will the implementation of planned conservation practices for at least one field in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where at least one practice exist in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories?	Yes/No
2. Will RUSLE-2 sediment delivery be reduced by more than 1 ton/ac on at least one field in this application?	Yes/No
3. Will RUSLE-2 sediment delivery be reduced by more than 3 ton/ac on at least one field in this application?	Yes/No
4. Does this application address excessive nutrients and organics in surface water with the Nutrient Management Practice (590)?	Yes/No
5. Does this application address excessive nutrients and organics in surface water with practices other than Nutrient Management Practice (590)?	Yes/No
6. Does this application address excessive nutrients and organics in ground water with the Nutrient Management Practice (590)?	Yes/No
7. Does this application address harmful levels of pesticides in ground or surface waters with the Integrated Pest Management Practice (595)?	Yes/No
8. Does this application address harmful levels of pesticides in ground or surface waters with practices other than the Integrated Pest Management Practice (595)?	Yes/No
9. Will livestock be excluded or managed away from the identified 303(d) listed streams, tributaries or water bodies?	Yes/No
10. Will threatened and endangered species be addressed with this application?	Yes/No
	250