

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2016 - FY16 EOF Monitoring N. Raccoon MRBI

(Draft)

National Priorities:

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2	c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
Total Points		500

State Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Answer all of the following criteria that apply regarding the location of the project. (140 total)	
	1	Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of existing in-stream (Tier II) water quality monitoring efforts that collect continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	50
	2	Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of an existing 12-digit mouth/pour point (Tier III) water quality monitoring effort that collects continuous flow and periodic water samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents?	30
	3	Is the planned edge-of-field monitoring system upstream of an existing water quality monitoring site (e.g., Federal agency, State agency) that collects periodic water quality samples that analyze for similar water quality constituents? 30	30
	4	Will the monitoring effort be located along or upstream of an impaired stream segment or water body (as defined by the 303d list or an identified TMDL) and/or contribute to the knowledge base to assist in the water quality improvement efforts?	30
2		Answer all of the following criteria regarding the participant's ability to expedite implementation of monitoring. (40 total)	
	1	Does the applicant already have a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) that conforms to the 202 Conservation Activity Standard and has already been approved by the NRCS Water Quality Management Team?	30
	2	Has an elevation survey already been completed to establish the size and drainage outlet point of the catchment?	10
3		If the application enables 1 "control" station to serve as a comparison for multiple "variable" stations (e.g., one for surface runoff and one for tile drain flow or two surface runoff stations, each having a distinct conservation practice system), then answer the following related to the monitoring plan. (20 total)	
	1	Does the application include three or more edge of field monitoring stations (one "control" station and two or more "variable" stations)?	20
4		Answer all of the following criteria that clarify the application's ability to evaluate systems or practices identified for the targeted watershed for FY 2016. (200 total)	
	1	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits from a system of conservation practices installed over tile drainage and monitor those benefits at the tile outlet.	45
	2	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits of a drainage water management system.	50
	3	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate surface water quality benefits of conservation practices installed on nearly level to flat fields.	30
	4	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits of a below-field conservation practice (e.g., bioreactor, riparian buffer or cover, wetlands).	45

	5	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits of irrigation water management systems.	10
	6	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits of cover crops, species selection, and purpose (nutrient capture, erosion protection, and/or soil health).	10
	7	The edge-of-field monitoring system will evaluate water quality benefits at least one practice in the "avoid," "control," and "trap" categories.	10
5		Answer all of the following criteria that apply to the past performance of the applicant. (-100 total)	
	1	Does the applicant currently have any active USDA-NRCS contracts that are behind schedule, or have they had any USDA-NRCS contracts terminated?	-100
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	300

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Utilizing a systems approach	
	1	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on greater than or equal to 75% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 1.1-1.3)	30
	2	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 26% and 74% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 1.1-1.3)	20
	3	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 1% and 25% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 1.1-1.3)	10
2		Addressing Specific Impairments	
	1	Will nutrient management 590 be implemented in conjunction with erosion control practices to control the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from fields?	50
	2	Will a cover crop be utilized on at least 25 percent of the offered acres?	30
3		Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring	
	1	Does the application include two edge of field monitoring stations (1 "control" station and 1 "variable" station) (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 3.1 and 3.3)	20
	2	Does the application include three edge of field monitoring stations (1 "control" station and 2 "variable" stations) (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 3.1 and 3.3)	40

	3	Does the application include four or more edge of field monitoring stations (1 "control" station and 3 or more "variable" stations) (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 3.1 and 3.3)	70
	4	The application will evaluate edge of field monitoring systems that will characterize the effect of BMP's on nitrogen and phosphorus losses.	20
4		Proximity to perennial streams	
	1	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 0 - 500 feet. (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 4-1 thru 4-4).	50
	2	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 501 - 1000 feet. (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 4-1 thru 4-4).	30
	3	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 1001 - 2000 feet. (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 4-1 thru 4-4).	20
	4	Distance of lowest BMP to Perennial Stream (information coming from Iowa Streams Layer in Arc Map) is 2001+ feet. (Answer yes to no more than one of questions 4-1 thru 4-4).	10
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	400