

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
FY-16 Pasture Improvement Project**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Pasture Improvement Project		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 <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
State Ranking Questions:	
1. Has the applicant (by Tax ID number) had a prior year EQIP contract which were cancelled or terminated due to contract violation(s) within the past three program years? Do not answer this question if the contract was cancelled due to lack of TSP availability to complete the CAP plan.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. The EQIP application will result in the implementation of practice(s) in the existing approved GMP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will this application include one of the following practice, (314, 315, 382, 511, 512, 528, 560, 561 and/or 614) and the applicant (by Tax ID Number) has not received EQIP Financial Assistance (FA)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will this application increase the “Livestock Concentration Areas” score on the Pasture Condition Score Sheet by one point or more? (If they have No Pasture Condition Score Sheet answer No)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will this application increase the “Plant Cover” score on the Pasture Condition Score Sheet by one point or more? (If they have No Pasture Condition Score Sheet answer No)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will this application utilize EQIP funds to implement Prescribed Grazing (528)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Cropland acres will be converted to permanent pasture land Forage and Biomass Planting (512)? (Note: Change in production system must meet all the criteria identified in 515.81 4.i)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will this application utilize EQIP funds to address unmanaged runoff from the winter feeding location? Such as 393, 472, 561, 365, 635, etc...	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will this application utilize EQIP funds to exclude livestock from streams and/or woodland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Noxious or Invasive species has been identified in the grazing operation and they will be addressed as part of this contract? (See attached FY 2016 Noxious and Invasive Plant Species List)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Will adequate Watering Facilities (614) will be installed according the GMP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. The EQIP plan include the installation of an adequate Watering Facility (614) within 100 ft of the heavy use pad used for winter feeding?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Local Ranking Questions	
1. Will a multiple paddock grazing system be implemented to avoid continuous grazing of a single pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is available livestock water limiting proper grazing distribution which requires the installation of one or more of the following practices; Pipeline (516), Pumping Plant (533), Watering Facility (614), or Spring Development (574)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will livestock be excluded from environmentally sensitive areas (Riparian Areas, Wetland, Perennial/Intermittent Streams and Woodlots) by implementing Fence (382) or Stream Crossing (578)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

4. Will One of the following practices included in the application: Heavy Use Pad (561), or Access Road (560) and be utilized during drought or winter feeding periods by the participant?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
--	---

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
-------------------	-----------

Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

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:

<p>NRCS Representative:</p> <p>Signature Date:</p>	<p>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</p> <p>Signature Date:</p>
---	--