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Ranking Tool Summary
for FY2016 - Urban Farming Initiative
(Released 05/05/2016)

Description:
Welcome to the Urban Farming RI Initiative

Land Uses:
Associated Agriculture Land, Forest, Other, Water

Efficiency Score:
Scoring Multiplier: 1.150

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:
Scoring Multiplier: 1.150
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 (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	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,	10

	or species of concern.	
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:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.710

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of drinking water supply reservoir including tributaries thereto, surface water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity")	32
	2	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a groundwater area mapped GAA or community wellhead and ground water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	20
	3	Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of class SA waters impacted by agriculture and water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	32
	4	Based upon the 2014 303d list is the operation located within 1000 feet of the impaired waterbody or having a direct hydrologic connection that is impaired by nutrients (dissolved oxygen or excessive algal growth), pesticides, turbidity or other agricultural pollutants such as bacteria/pathogens and the particular water quality issue(s)) is being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	32
	5	Is the site located within 1000 feet of a cold water fishery or Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPW) where conservation practices are being planned to improve and/or protect water quality, water quantity or other habitats related to SRPW designation? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	32
	6	Will soil erosion or soil conservation practices have a positive effect on prime farmland soils or a soil of statewide importance as listed by Rhode Island NRCS? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Soil Erosion or Soil Quality.)	32
	7	Are public areas (public roads, school, etc.) or non-farm residences	16

		contiguous to cropland where air quality practices will be implemented? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effet on Air Quality.)	
	8	Will planned practices enhance protection and are within 1000 feet of T & E species or State listed species?	64
	9	Will planned practices address control of noxious and invasive species?	32
	10	Is the land permanently protected through a conservation easement, purchase of development rights or other mechanism?	16
	11	Has the applicant previously successfully addressed a resource concern?	16
	12	Will planned practices address water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns that are within 300 feet of a private well or other surface waters/wetlands/vernal pools? The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	16
	13	Has the applicant previously deveoped a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and is going to implement it under this contract?	32
	14	Will the project enhance or contribue to habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation through this EQIP Contract?	32
		Maximum Points: Total Points	404

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.150
Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	What is the distance to a Low Income/Low Access Food Access area "Food Desert"? (http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx) Located within 3 miles of an identified area?	20
	2	What is the distance to a HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program Target area? (https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/617/nsp-target-areas-map/) Located within 5 miles of an identified area?	20
	3	Will the products grown on the land within this application be supplied to schools as part of an established Farm to School Initiative?	5
	4	Will the products grown on the land within this application be donated to a community food pantry?	5
	5	Has the applicant secured access to a consistent source of water to irrigate the land within this application?	200
	6	Does the applicant have a plan of operations or is part of a plan of operations that includes the land being considered in this application? (75 points) [An NRCS Conservation Plan does not count towards this question.]	75
	7	Is the applicant an Historically Underserved Client?	20
	8	Does the application include practices that will improve water quality with regard to excessive nutrients or pathogens in surface water?	20
	9	Does the application include practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	20
	10	If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP contract?	15
		Maximum Points: Total Points	400

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Forest Site Preparation (490)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Forest Site Preparation (490)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Runoff Management System (570)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Runoff Management System (570)

Soil Quality Degradation: Compaction

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Runoff Management System (570)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

- Access Control (472)
- Composting Facility (317)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Field Border (386)

Irrigation Pipeline (430)
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
Irrigation Water Management (449)
Obstruction Removal (500)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Waste Facility Cover (367)

Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
Access Control (472)
Composting Facility (317)
Conservation Cover (327)
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
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Field Border (386)
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