

**Application Ranking Summary
Area 2 High Tunnel System**

Program: EQIP 2014
Ranking Tool: Area 2 High Tunnel System

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions
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.
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)?
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?
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)?
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
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?
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?
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?
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.
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?
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?
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?

Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?
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?

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
1. The Schedule of Operations includes a high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor.
2. The Schedule of Operations includes a high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.
3. The High Tunnel System will be used to produce multiple crops throughout different growing seasons. (Example: tomatoes followed by fall greens such as kale, chard, etc.)
4. The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing high tunnel in order to address soil quality such as the use of Cover Crop.
5. The schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing high tunnel in order to address irrigation management such as the use of a roof runoff structure and microirrigation.
6. The Schedule of Operations includes planting pollinator habitat adjacent to the high tunnel site.
7. Is the County associated with this application included in the StrikeForce Initiative?

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
1. Has the planned High Tunnel site been in annual crops for three or more years, 2013 thru 2016?
2. Are the crops grown in the High Tunnel for commercial sale?
3. Is the applicant utilizing a High Tunnel structure in their current operation?
4. EQIP Plan Schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less.

Land Use:

Crop;

Resource Concerns
Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water

Practices
Conservation Cover
Cover Crop
Critical Area Planting
Diversion
Grassed Waterway
High Tunnel System
Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Irrigation Water Management
Mulching
Roof Runoff Structure
Subsurface Drain
Underground Outlet