Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Organic Certified

Program: EQIP 2014

Ranking Tool: FY17 Organic Certified

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
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 state priority category.
1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.
2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points
3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?
Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.
4. a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?
4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?
Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points
5. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?
5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?
5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?
Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.
6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?
Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points
7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?
7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?
7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
1. a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138) or Nutrient Management Plan (104)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
2. a. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less.
2. b. EQIP plan schedule of operations provides for implementation of all funded practices within three years or less.

Land Use:
Crop;
Farmstead;
Forest;
Pasture;

Resource Concerns
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Shelter
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
Soil Quality Degradation: Compaction
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
Soil Quality Degradation: Subsidence
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transported to Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water

Practices
Access Control
Animal Mortality Facility
Brush Management
Composting Facility
Conservation Cover
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Tra
Cover Crop
Critical Area Planting
Diversion
Fence
Field Border
Firebreak
Forage and Biomass Planting
Grade Stabilization Structure
Grassed Waterway
Heavy Use Area Protection
Hedgerow Planting
Herbaceous Weed Control
High Tunnel System
Integrated Pest Management
Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Irrigation Water Management
Livestock Pipeline
Mulching
Nutrient Management
Nutrient Management Plan - Written
Pond
Prescribed Burning
Prescribed Grazing
Residue Mgmt-No-Till
Riparian Forest Buffer
Riparian Herbaceous Cover
Roof Runoff Structure
Roofs and Covers
Spring Development
Stream Crossing
Stripcropping
Subsurface Drain
Terrace
Trails and Walkways
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Underground Outlet
Water Well
Watering Facility