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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2017 - Increasing Row Crop Sustainability in the Obion Ri (Draft)

Description:

FY 2015 RCPP - University of Tennessee (UT) - Increasing Row Crop Sustainability in the Obion River: The purpose of this Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is to reduce nutrients and sediment from degrading the quality of the Mississippi River Basin surface water. The project will address degraded plant condition, soil erosion, soil quality degradation and water quality degradation through implementation of cover crops, nutrient management, site-specific soil sampling, UT fertilizer recommendations on a variable-rate basis and application of the USGS SPARROW model. Through application of best management practices, the project will increase row crop sustainability in the North Fork Obion River Watershed (HUC 08010202) in parts of Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion and Weakley Counties. Participants will meet guidelines of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Nutrient Management-Advanced Nutrient Management Precision System and Cover Crops Requirement Sheets. The majority of a field must be within the watershed to be eligible. BY SIGNING THE RANKING SHEET THE APPLICANT AGREES TO SHARE APPLICABLE CROP PRODUCTION DATA WITH UT FOR DATA ANALYSIS.

Land Uses:

Associated Agriculture Land, Crop

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 10.000

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

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, 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:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Does the applicant agree to plant the entire field for three (3) consecutive years to cover crops (340)?	75
	2	Have the acres under this application been treated with no-till crop production for all crops in the last two (2) consecutive years, OR does the new operator currently practice no-till on his/her operation? Vertical tillage disqualifies applicant of points for this questions.	65
	3	Are 75% or more of the acres to be planted Highly Erodible Land (HEL)?	60
	4	Have the acres under this application been treated with cover crops and/or small grains during the last two (2) consecutive years?	30
	5	Does the field or fields to be planted contain one or more of the following practices (must be operational): Diversion (362), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Sediment Basin (350), Terrace (600), Underground Outlet (620) or Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)?	20
	6	Has the applicant ever had an EQIP contract cancelled and/or terminated in the last five (5) years for a situation that was within their control OR has applicant ever destroyed or failed to maintain a practice for its designated life span (NRCS technical errors excluded as determined by the Area Conservationist)?	-50
	7	Has the applicant ever had an EQIP contract terminated in the last five (5) years?	-50
Maximum Points:			150
Total Points			150

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Does the producer have an adequate plan and equipment to record yield differences between areas with cover crops and the required untreated areas?	125
	2	Have all the fields in this application been in no-till for the last five (5) years?	100
	3	Has the applicant observed substantial spatial yield variability in the acres under this application?	95
	4	Are fields in the application located near a 303(d) listed water body (2012 list or later version)?	80
	5	Has vertical tillage occurred on the applicant's operation in the last two (2) years?	-100
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			300

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

- Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)

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