

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2017 - High Tunnel Systems

(Released 12/06/2016)

Description:

The goal of this state initiative is to assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops (specialty) in an environmentally safe manner via the installation of a High Tunnel System (325) Application MUST contain a 325. Priority is given to those applications within the coldest regions as indicated on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map; and applications within: the city limits of Richmond, Petersburg, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Fredericksburg, Danville, Hampton, Virginia Beach or Norfolk; and those applications within a USDA defined Low-Income census tract where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1/2 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket as defined by USDA's Food Access Research Atlas. This map is available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>. To be eligible, the land upon which the High Tunnel will be sited, MUST be producing or produced during the last growing season, agricultural crops which typically could be grown within a High Tunnel.

Land Uses:

Crop

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

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		Plants: Questions 1-7: Only one Yes allowed	
	1	High Tunnel will be located in zone 5a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	400
	2	High Tunnel will be located in zone 5b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	350
	3	High Tunnel will be located in zone 6a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	300
	4	High Tunnel will be located in zone 6b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	250
	5	High Tunnel will be located in zone 7a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	200
	6	High Tunnel will be located in zone 7b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	150
	7	High Tunnel will be located in zone 8a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/).	100
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points 1750

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Food Access: Maximum of 250 points. Only one yes allowed for questions 1-2.	
	1	The site for the High Tunnel is within the city limits of Richmond, Petersburg, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Fredericksburg, Danville, Hampton, Virginia Beach, or Norfolk?	175
	2	The site for the High Tunnel is within a Low-Income census tract where a significant number or share of residents is more than 1/2 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket as defined by USDA's Food Access Research Atlas. Available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx	75
Maximum Points: 250			Total Points 250

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

- High Tunnel System (325)

Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion

- Critical Area Planting (342)

- Diversion (362)

- Grassed Waterway (412)

- Roof Runoff Structure (558)

- Subsurface Drain (606)

- Underground Outlet (620)

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion

- Critical Area Planting (342)

- Diversion (362)

- Grassed Waterway (412)

- High Tunnel System (325)

- Roof Runoff Structure (558)

- Subsurface Drain (606)

- Underground Outlet (620)

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