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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2019 - Oyster Bottom Restoration through Aquaculture (Released 10/25/2018)

Description:

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance in support of Aquacultural practices that are designed to restore oyster habitat in association with bottom aquaculture production.

Land Uses:

Water

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		Bottom Depth (answer yes to only one option)	
	1	The bottom depth of the acreage to be restored is greater than 12 feet.	50
	2	The bottom depth of the acreage to be restored is less than 12 feet.	100
2		Type of shell to be used for bottom base. (answer yes to only one option)	
	1	Clam shells will be used for the bed restoration.	50
	2	Oyster shells will be used for the bed restoration.	100
3		Bottom type. (answer yes to only one option; current field observation is preferred data)	
	1	Current information indicates that the bottom is soft. (<10% cultch by volume) or the acreage to be restored is classified as "mud" or "sand".	25
	2	Current information indicates that the bottom is hard. (>10% cultch by volume)	75
	3	Current information indicates that the bottom is hard. (>20% cultch by volume) or the acreage to be restored is classified as "cultch", "sand with cultch", or "mud with cultch".	100
4		Virginia Division of Shellfish Sanitation (DSS) Classification. (Restricted waters are excluded from the EQIP Oyster Pilot no harvesting allowed; answer yes to only one of the options)	
	1	The lease is located in waters classified by DSS as "Conditionally Approved".	50
	2	The lease is located in waters classified by DSS as "Approved".	100
Maximum Points: 400 Total Points			650

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points

1		Geographic and Resource Priorities: Virginia 12-Digit HUCS containing TMDL Streams: Prioritized by Non-Point Source Pollution Risks from Agriculture. Only one yes allowed for questions 1-3.	
	1	Project Area's watershed is a High Priority HUC	250
	2	Project Area's watershed is a Medium Priority HUC	150
	3	Project Area's watershed is a Low Priority HUC or a HUC without a Priority	75
2		Previous Contract Implementation	
	1	The applicant had a previous Farm Bill contract terminated within the last five fiscal years?	-100
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	375

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water Restoration of Rare and Declining Natur (643)

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