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## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2018 - EQIP 2018 Cropland Area 4 (Draft)

#### Description:

EQIP 2018. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2018 Cropland Area 4 applications.

#### Land Uses:

Crop

#### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 37.860

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 70	Medium: 69 - 30	Low: 29 - 0
100-70	69-30	29-0

#### Optional Notes:

#### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
250-175	174-100	99-0

#### 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

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 300 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
300-200	199-100	99-0

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.	300
	2	Soil Erosion: Does the application include a vegetative or management practice or combination of vegetative/management practices that will ensure the erosion rate on all offered HEL cropland planning land units is reduced to "T"?	100
	3	Water Quality: Does the application include a practice to establish permanent perennial vegetation strips, buffers or waterways on 2% of the offered cropland planning land units, or a minimum of 1 acre, whichever is greater?	90
	4	Water Quality: Does the application include a practice on cropland planning land units directly adjacent to surface water and will result in water runoff being filtered?	40
	5	Soil Erosion: Does the application include a structural practice to address observable, actively eroding ephemeral gully or classic gully erosion and/or water quantity where the applicant agrees to construct 100% of structural practices and apply cover crop on deferred acres containing the planned	40

		structure between May 1st and September 30th?	
	6	Soil Erosion: Does the application include practices that will address ephemeral gully erosion?	15
	7	Excess Water: Does the application include practices to remedy issues related to the 2017 flooding?	10
	8	Soil Erosion: Are the offered cropland planning land units within the watershed of a PL566 Dam?	5
Maximum Points: 300			Total Points 600

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 350 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
350-200	199-100	99-0

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.	350
	2	To address organic matter depletion, will 25% or 20 acres, whichever is less, of the eligible acres (on the offered tract(s)) in the application include the adoption of EQIP funded 340 cover crops that will provide for a living crop year around? A 'yes' could be given for both questions 2 and 3, if criteria is met in both.	50
	3	To address organic matter depletion, will 50% of the eligible acres (on the offered tract(s)) in the application include the adoption of EQIP funded 340 cover crops that will provide for a living crop year around? A 'yes' could be given for both questions 2 and 3, if criteria is met in both.	80
	4	Soil erosion resources concern: Will the application reduce soil erosion on cropland through the installation of EQIP funded structural erosion control practices such as 362, 410, 412, 600, 620 or 638?	120
	5	Will 25% or 20 acres, whichever is less, of the eligible acres (within the offered tract(s)) include the adoption of EQIP funded 329 Residue Management- No-till or Strip-till system to address soil erosion- sheet and rill? This is a continuous system where all crops in the rotation will be no-tilled upon implementation. There must be a management change. Acres already being continuously no-tilled do not count toward the 25%.	35
	6	To improve pollinator and/or wildlife habitat, is there a planned EQIP funded planting for a permanent cover that will utilize either Conservation Cover (327) or Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), or Field Borders- wildlife friendly species (386).	45
	7	To address soil health, will 50% or more of the eligible offered cropland acres (on the tracts included in the application) include EQIP funded 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, to incorporate small grains into the rotation (small grains not currently in the rotation)?	20
Maximum Points: 350			Total Points 700

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Air Quality Impacts: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
  - Integrated Pest Management (595)
  - Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Firebreak (394)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Structures for Wildlife (649)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
  - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
  - Conservation Cover (327)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
  - Drainage Water Management (554)
  - Drainage Water Management Plan - Written (130)
  - Shallow Water Management (646)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
  - Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
  - Irrigation Pipeline (430)
  - Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
  - Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443)
  - Irrigation Water Management (449)
  - Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)
  - Sprinkler System (442)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
  - Conservation Cover (327)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Mulching (484)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
- Terrace (600)
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Vertical Drain (630)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
  - Well Decommissioning (351)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
  - Denitrifying Bioreactor (605)
  - Drainage Water Management (554)
  - Drainage Water Management Plan - Written (130)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Saturated Buffer (604)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Vertical Drain (630)
- Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
  - Drainage Water Management (554)
  - Drainage Water Management Plan - Written (130)
  - Integrated Pest Management (595)
  - Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)

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