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## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2018 - EQIP 2018 Pasture/Hayland FOSA 4C

(Released 12/22/2017 )

#### Description:

EQIP 2018. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2018 Pasture/Hayland FOSA 4c applications.

#### Land Uses:

Pasture

#### 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               | Water Quality: Does the application include a containment fence that will exclude all livestock from surface waters on the offered planning land units?  | 75     |
|                    | 3               | Livestock Production Limitation: Does the application include converting at least 10% of the existing introduced forages to native (CSG and/or WSG) permanent perennial vegetation on the offered planning units?  | 75     |
|                    | 4               | Livestock Production Limitation: Does the application include scenarios associated with Prescribed Grazing (528) that would create stockpiled forage on at least 10% of offered planning land unit acreage?  | 20     |
|                    | 5               | Degraded Plant Condition: Does the application include practices to install a new permanent paddock per herd grazing system that will meet the Prescribed Grazing (528) Standard?  | 15     |
|                    | 6               | Excess Water: Does the application include practices to remedy issues related to the 2017 flooding?  | 10     |
|                    | 7               | Soil Erosion: Are the offered planning land units within the watershed of a  | 5      |

|                                  |   |  |     |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----|
|                                  |   | PL566 Dam?   |     |
| 1                                |   | Answer only one 8 or 9   |     |
|                                  | 8 | Water Quality: Does the application include Forage and Biomass Planting (512) to convert at least 25 acres of annual cropland planning land unit acreage (or all offered planning land units if less than 25 acres) to native (CSG and/or WSG) permanent perennial vegetation?     | 100 |
|                                  | 9 | Water Quality: Does the application include Forage and Biomass Planting (512) to convert at least 25 acres of annual cropland planning land unit acreage (or all offered planning land units if less than 25 acres) to introduced (CSG and/or WSG) permanent perennial vegetation? | 75  |
| Maximum Points: 300 Total Points |   |  | 675 |

**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               | Undesirable plant productivity and health will be improved by installing a new minimum five (5) paddock per herd grazing system (through practices included in this application) that meets 528 specifications.   | 80     |
|                    | 3               | Undesirable plant productivity and health will be improved by installing a new minimum eight (8) paddock per herd grazing system (through practices included in this application) that meets 528 specifications.  | 40     |
|                    | 4               | Will undesirable plant productivity and health be improved by expanding an existing, properly managed grazing system by 3 or more permanent paddocks?   | 80     |
|                    | 5               | Degraded Plant Condition—Excessive plant pressure by undesirable weeds and/or brush has been identified as a resource concern on pasture and Herbaceous Weed Control (315) or Brush Management (314) is included in the EQIP application to address that concern.   | 30     |
|                    | 6               | Applicant (or active manager of offered acres) has completed an approved regional grazing school (by October 31, 2017- end of regional grazing school year).  | 30     |
|                    | 7               | Access control (472) is included in the application to address undesirable plant productivity and health and protect water quality- by excluding any wooded/forested area (1 acre minimum), streams, water bodies, or sink holes on the offered tract(s). Livestock (at time of application) must currently be present and have access (to be eligible for the points and 472 payment). | 15     |
|                    | 8               | Access control (472) is included in the application to protect water quality and address undesirable plant productivity and health- by excluding 100% of the streams, water bodies, or sink holes on the offered tract(s). Livestock (at time of application) must currently be present and have access (to be eligible for the points and 472 payment).                                | 20     |
|                    | 9               | To address soil erosion- sheet and rill, at least five (5) acres of existing annually planted cropland acres will be converted to permanent forage  | 40     |

|                                     |    |   |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|-----|
|                                     |    | species using 512 Forage and Biomass Planting. Field(s) is not currently in a perennial grass crop and were planted to annual crop in 2017.                                       |     |
|                                     | 10 | To address degraded plant condition and inadequate habitat, at least five (5) acres will be converted to Native Warm Season forage species using 512 Forage and Biomass Planting. | 15  |
| 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
  - Access Control (472)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Grazing Management Plan - Written (110)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - 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
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
  - Fence (382)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Firebreak (394)
  - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Prescribed Burning Plan - Written (112)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - 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
  - Shallow Water Management (646)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Inefficient Energy Use: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations
  - Pumping Plant (533)
- Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
  - Pumping Plant (533)
- Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
  - Fence (382)

- Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
- Grazing Management Plan - Written (110)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water
  - Livestock Pipeline (516)
  - Pond (378)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Water Well (642)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
  - Access Control (472)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Fence (382)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - 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
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)
  - Structure for Water Control (587)
  - Vertical Drain (630)
- Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
  - Integrated Pest Management (595)

Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)

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