

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY18 Organic Transition
National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
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 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? 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.	400 Point(s)
Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	60 Point(s)
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	60 Point(s)

Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
4. a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage?	35 Point(s)
4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	35 Point(s)
Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points	
5. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?	20 Point(s)
5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	50 Point(s)
5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	20 Point(s)
Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?	50 Point(s)
Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	
7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40 Point(s)
7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. 1a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic plan? 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.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation	
2. a. Will the proposed contract activities include practices which will assist the producer to reduce sediments and/or nutrients from leaving a field that adjoins a water body listed on the Oklahoma 303(d) list.	40 Point(s)
2. b. Will the proposed contract activities will include practices which will assist the producer to reduce sediments and/or nutrients from leaving a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body? Do not answer yes if 2a was answered yes.	15 Point(s)
2. c. Water Quality Degradation: The proposed contract activities include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies to FOTG quality criteria standards.	30 Point(s)
Degraded Plant Condition	
3. a. Will the proposed contract include practices identified in an integrated Pest Management Plan as specified in the "Plans and Specifications" portion of the standard that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk, Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all impacted acres within the plan unit?	35 Point(s)
3. b. Will the proposed contract activities include practices that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one or more of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk), Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all grazingland contracted acres where they occur in densities that constitute a resource concern?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Degraded Plant Condition: the proposed contract activities includes implementation of conservation practices that include pollinator plant species for organic production systems (e.g., filter and buffer strips, hedge rows, windbreaks, etc.). To receive points the plantings must include 3 species of early, mid, and late flowering species (9 TOTAL).	15 Point(s)
3. d. Will the proposed contract activities include a high tunnel system which will address plant health and vigor concerns AND extension of the growing season for the crop?	20 Point(s)
Soil Erosion	
4. a. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address sheet, rill and/or wind erosion where soil loss is greater than "T" and the proposed contract will include conservation practices that will reduce sheet, rill or wind erosion below "T" on at least 25% of the contracted acres (based on before and after RUSLE2 or WEPS calculations).?	20 Point(s)
4. b. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address concentrated flow erosion and include conservation practices that will stop the progression of head cutting and widening of active classic gullies?	30 Point(s)
Soil Quality	
5. a. The proposed contract activities will include implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	20 Point(s)
Business Lines	
6. a. The proposed contract activities will include practices to address all existing Soil Erosion, Soil Condition, Water Quantity, Water Quality, Plant Condition, Domestic Animals, and Energy Use resource concerns	40 Point(s)
6. b. Has the applicant ever had a contract that was terminated, or found out of compliance?	-10 Point(s)