

RCPP-EQIP UK Forestry Ranking Criteria

Name: _____ Application #: _____ Date: _____

National Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
1. 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.		
1a. 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.	OYes ONo	250
2. Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	OYes ONo	15
2b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	OYes ONo	10
2c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)? (Always answer no for HTS application)	OYes ONo	10
2d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"? (Always answer no for HTS application)	OYes ONo	10
2e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management? (Yes, if 316 is planned)	OYes ONo	10
3. Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft? (Always no)	OYes ONo	15
3b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use? (Yes, if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan - 118)	OYes ONo	10
3c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project? (Always no)	OYes ONo	10
3d. 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? (Yes, if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)	OYes ONo	10
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures? (Always no)	OYes ONo	10
4b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? (Always no)	OYes ONo	10
4c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)? (Yes only for Organic Certified, Transitioning to Organic and On-Farm Energy)	OYes ONo	10
4d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration? (Yes if planning 340, 612, 666, 422, or native grass 327, 512, 386, 390, 643, or 391)	OYes ONo	10

5. Soil Health– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")? (Field must be above "T" and practice(s) takes to "T" or below. Must be supported with RUSLE2. Always answer yes for HTS application)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
5b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure? (Yes, when 340 is planned for Soil Health)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6. Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern? When answering question 6a refer to the KICT Report. Points should be awarded if <u>all</u> of the following occur: 1) One or more species are listed in section I of the KICT report 2) One or more benefits are listed in section IV of the KICT report 3) All avoidance measures are or will be implemented in section II of the KICT report 4) The practices are being implemented for the reason(s) specified, and/or result in the benefits described in section IV of the KICT report <i>It is recommended that conservation assistance notes be recorded as to the application of which benefits apply and the supporting rationale.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program? (Examples would be 612, 327, 386, and 390 when wildlife beneficial vegetation is being planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators? (Yes, if native forbs or shrubs/trees are being established, or if 390, 386, or 327 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife? (Yes, if 658 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
7. Plant and Animal Communities - Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland? (Yes if practice(s) help treat invasive plant species on list located at http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm. Ex: 666 and 314 that address bush honeysuckle or tree of heaven, 315 to address sericea lespedeza or 512 that converts endophyte infected tall fescue.)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
7b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
8. Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)		
8a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption? (Yes, if 374, 672, 670, 472, 327, 386, 390, 412, 422, 329, 391, or 612 is planned. Also, yes when Fence 382 is planned that includes a solar charger or if 512 is planned to convert cropland to pastureland or hayland.)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
8b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria? (Yes, when 374, 672 or 670 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
9. Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received? (Answer yes if the planned practices will improve an existing conservation practice or complete an existing conservation system. See Guidance Document for examples)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10

State Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
Answer 'Yes' to only ONE of the following questions		
1. The applicant requested a forestry plan from Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) more than 12 months ago?	OYes ONo	400
2. The applicant requested a forestry plan from KDF 7-12 months ago?	OYes ONo	200
3. The applicant requested a forestry plan from KDF 4-6 months ago?	OYes ONo	100
4. The applicant requested a forestry plan from KDF 0-3 months ago?	OYes ONo	50

Local Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
1. Have you attended a forestry educational workshop or field day in the past 2 years?	OYes ONo	75
2. If livestock are present on your property, are they excluded from the woodland acres? (Always answer 'yes' for applicants who do not own livestock)	OYes ONo	75
3. Is the participant interested in implementing practices recommended in a Forestry Management Plan through a future EQIP application?	OYes ONo	60
4. Have you completed a timber harvest or timber stand improvement on your property within the past 5 years?	OYes ONo	40

EQIP Conservation Practices for UK Forestry Fund Account

Conservation Practice	Practice Code	Unit	Practice Lifespan (years) ¹	Payment Cap ²	Payment Limits
Forest Management Plan	106	No.	1		

¹ The conservation practice in the EQIP contract must be maintained and used for the intended purpose and the practice lifespan.

² Payment Caps will be 15% higher for Historically Underserved (HU) producers.