

## Application Ranking Summary FY19 Organic EQIP

### 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 (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)?	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 and Air Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
4. 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?	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 Plant Habitat: Maximum of 90 points	
5. a Does the EQIP schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on noncropland acreage?	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
<p>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</p>	
<p>1. 1a. Only for transitioning, N/A for Certified organic. 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.</p>	100 Point(s)
<p>A screen tool will be used on all FY18 EQIP applications that were received and completely eligible prior to the application cutoff. If this application did not receive a high priority, please stop and do not continue ranking. (Ranking medium priority applications need approval from the State Con). You may only tag practices in the ranking tool that are included in the uploaded AD-1155. All applications need to have an application cost prior to ranking. (not just an estimate) If the plan is competing in multiple pools, upload the toolkit plan to the application most likely to be funded prior to ranking. Plan maps will clearly identify all contracted CINs and use official NRCS NPPH symbols. Only award points for conservation practices or activities that will be financially assisted in this EQIP contract. Changing or adjusting practices or extents after the application has been submitted for evaluation to achieve a better ranking score is not allowed in EQIP</p>	
<p>1. 1. Will contracted practices assist the applicant in complying with at least one of the following: AFO/CFO, Tribal or Forest Practices Act laws and regulations, Water quality compliance on DOE designated water bodies, The Food Quality Protection Act? Identify: _____, 5 points</p>	5 Point(s)
<p>2. 2. Will the contract assist the applicant in implementing an existing comprehensive RMS plan (signed after 9-21-2008) that has been developed for the participant's entire Ag Operation(s)? (Forest Stewardship plan must meet the requirements for RMS to receive points) 15 points</p>	15 Point(s)
<p>3. 3. If selected for contracting, this application will allow the participant to become a first time adopter using all of the planned practices included on the AD-1155. Consider adopted practices on all associated agricultural operation(s) that they are involved in. 30 points</p>	30 Point(s)
<p>4. 4. Answer YES if the State Conservationist has provided approval to rank applications for this pool that are screened as Medium and this application has been screened as such (medium). (No Lows) -200 Points</p>	-200 Point(s)
<p>5. 5. Degree of conservation benefit: There are CINs included in the application that only address a resource concern that already meets planning criteria. -100 Points</p>	100 Point(s)
<p>Tribal resource concern treatment:</p>	
<p>6. 6. Regardless of location, do all of the practices treat a Tribal resource concern according to the TRA? 5 Points <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/technical/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/technical/</a></p>	5 Point(s)
<p>Likelihood that applicant will complete and maintain contracted practices:</p>	
<p>7. 7. The applicant did NOT properly operate and maintain previously cost-shared practices, or has prior EQIP contract(s) that have not stayed on schedule with the original AD-1155. Use applicant interviews, staff knowledge and ProTracts searches to make determination. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. -50 Points</p>	-150 Point(s)
<p>8. 8. Applicant has been issued (or by policy should have been issued) an NRCS-CPA-153 on a current or prior NRCS contract(s) (FY14-18). This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. Excludes approved waivers. -150 Points</p>	-150 Point(s)

9. Applicant has a current or past contract that was (or by policy should have been) modified due to a delay in implementation of their practice schedule. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities, but excludes delays due to NRCS or are outside of the control of the participant. -15 Points	-15 Point(s)
10. 10. Cancelled contract: Applicant voluntarily requested cancellation of an obligated contract within the last three years.(FY16, FY17 or FY18) and the status of the cancellation hardship is not documented as being resolved. Example of are solved hardship would be: The participant has fully recovered from the health issue which necessitated the cancellation. Re-applying in hopes to receive a higher cost-share rate, or hold-down, should not be considered resolving the cancellation hardship. -35 Points	-35 Point(s)
<b>Contracted Practices:</b>	
11. 11. Applicant was pre-approved for a contract during FY18 and chose to cancel prior to obligation. 50 Points	-50 Point(s)
12. 12. Application has a livestock type tagged on the application home screen. Or, includes at least one of the following wildlife practices. • CP 327 – Conservation Cover • CP 390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover • CP 391 – Riparian Forest Buffer • CP 395 – Stream Habitat Improvement and Management • CP 396 – Aquatic Organism Passage • CP 422 –Hedgerow Planting • CP 472 – Access Control • CP 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection • CP 643 –Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats • CP 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management • CP645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management • CP 646 – Shallow Water Development and Management • CP 647 –Early Successional Habitat Development/Management • CP 657 – Wetland Restoration • CP 658 – Wetland Creation• CP 659 – Wetland Enhancement 30 Points	30 Point(s)
13. 13. Applicant has never had an NRCS contract terminated, or has never had an NRCS FA contract. This includes all participants applying as individuals and embedded members of entities. 300 points	300 Point(s)
14. 14. AD-1155 contains only practices that are identified on the current SHPO/THPO agreement as "Undertakings with little to no Potential to Affect Historic Properties". Or, CR has already been reviewed and approved by NRCS. No Potential to Affect Includes: 201, 315, 328, 329, 330, 340, 345, 353, 355, 367, 371, 372, 379, 399, 449, 450, 484, 511,528, 554, 557, 587, 588, 590, 591, 592, 595, 629, 775, 521A, 521B, 521C, 521D, 589C. There are also 30 other practices that are included if certain criteria is met. Please consult the agreement at: <a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a> 50 Points	50 Point(s)
15. 15. AD-1155 contains only practices that are non-engineering. Or, designs have already been reviewed and approved by NRCS. Engineering practices include: 309 - 313 - 316 - 317 - 319 - 320 - 326 - 350 - 351 - 353 - 356 - 360 - 362 - 367 -372 - 373 - 374 - 375 - 376 - 378 - 388 - 395 - 396 - 410 - 412 - 428 - 430 - 441 - 442 - 443 - 449 - 450 - 460 - 464 -500 - 516 - 520 - 521A - 521B - 521C - 521D - 533 - 554 - 558 - 560 - 561 - 570 - 574 - 575 - 578 - 580 - 582 - 584 -585 - 587 - 590 - 592 - 600 - 605 - 606 - 607 - 608 - 614 - 620 - 629 - 632 - 633 - 634 - 635 - 636 - 638 - 642 - 654 -655 - 657 - 659 - 670 - 672 - 735 - 775. 20 Points	20 Point(s)
16. 16. AD-1155 contains all practices with an ESA determination of “no effect” in the CPA-52. Or, ESA consultation has already occurred and NRCS has received concurrence on the proposed practices from FWS or NMFS. 100 points	100 Point(s)
17. 17. Application is associated with an ALE easement that requires a practice applied as per this plan to treat an endangered species and received points on their easement application ranking. 30 points	30 Point(s)
<b>Splitting a practice into multiple years or contracts to avoid the limitations will not be permitted.</b>	
19. 17. All practices on the FY19 payment schedule are eligible for the (NOI). There are NO hold-downs for the organic initiative. However, Organic Initiative payment limitations do apply. Refer to contracts appendix. • Payments for practices for the Organic Initiative are limited to \$20,000 per fiscal year and \$80,000 during the 6 rolling years of a Farm Bill.	0 Point(s)

<b>Practices</b>
Access Control
Access Road
Agrichemical Handling Facility
Alley Cropping
Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Pro
Animal Mortality Facility
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application
Aquatic Organism Passage
Bedding
Brush Management
Channel Bed Stabilization
Clearing and Snagging
Composting Facility
Conservation Cover
Conservation Crop Rotation
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Tra
Constructed Wetland
Contour Buffer Strips
Contour Farming
Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop
Controlled Traffic Farming
Cover Crop
Critical Area Planting
Cross Wind Trap Strips
Dam, Diversion
Deep Tillage
Denitrifying Bioreactor
Dike
Diversion
Drainage Ditch Covering
Drainage Water Management
Dry Hydrant
Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Feed Management
Fence
Field Border
Field Operations Emissions Reduction

Filter Strip
Firebreak
Forage and Biomass Planting
Forage Harvest Management
Forest Stand Improvement
Forest Trails and Landings
Fuel Break
Grade Stabilization Structure
Grassed Waterway
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment
Groundwater Testing
Heavy Use Area Protection
Hedgerow Planting
Herbaceous Weed Treatment
Herbaceous Wind Barriers
Integrated Pest Management
Irrigation Canal or Lateral
Irrigation Ditch Lining
Irrigation Field Ditch
Irrigation Land Leveling
Irrigation Pipeline
Irrigation Reservoir
Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac
Irrigation Water Management
Land Clearing
Livestock Pipeline
Monitoring Well
Mulching
Multi-Story Cropping
Nutrient Management
Obstruction Removal
On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility
Open Channel
Pond
Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil T
Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membran
Precision Land Forming
Prescribed Grazing
Pumping Plant
Range Planting
Residue Mgmt, Reduced Till
Residue Mgmt-No-Till
Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural

Riparian Forest Buffer
Riparian Herbaceous Cover
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
Roof Runoff Structure
Roofs and Covers
Salinity and Sodic Soil Management
Sediment Basin
Shallow Water Development and Management
Silvopasture Establishment
Spring Development
Sprinkler System
Stormwater Runoff Control
Stream Crossing
Stream Habitat Improvement and Managemen
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Stripcropping
Structure for Water Control
Structures for Wildlife
Subsurface Drain
Surface Drain, Field Ditch
Surface Drain, Main or Lateral
Terrace
Trails and Walkways
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Pruning
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Underground Outlet
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Vegetated Treatment Area
Vegetative Barrier
Vertical Drain
Waste Facility Closure
Waste Gassification Facility
Waste Recycling
Waste Separation Facility
Waste Storage Facility
Waste Transfer
Waste Treatment
Water and Sediment Control Basin
Water Harvesting Catchment
Water Well
Water Well Decommissioning
Watering Facility
Waterspreading

Wetland Creation
Wetland Enhancement
Wetland Restoration
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
Woody Residue Treatment

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.