

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Questions
FY19 Animal Feeding Operation Air and Water Quality

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
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Will a CNMP be developed for a CAFO or AFO using EQIP funds?	10 Point(s)
2. Reduce the risk of sediment, nutrients, or pesticide runoff on croplands, grazing lands or forestlands that are adjacent to a T&E species at risk bearing stream or water body?	20 Point(s)
3. Will the conservation treatment reduce ground water contamination to shallow aquifers?	20 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Result in a dedicated in-stream water lease of the producer's water rights or conserved water from the implementation of conservation measures in the contract?	10 Point(s)
2. Result in at least 5 inches/acre AND improve irrigation efficiencies by greater than 20%?	10 Point(s)
Clean air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Reduce air emissions in an identified nonattainment, former nonattainment, or maintenance area?	30 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Use cover crops, adding perennial crops to a rotation OR other conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion and/or improve soil health?	20 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities - Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Enhance at least one of the following Strategy Habitats identified in the ODFW Oregon Conservation Strategy?	10 Point(s)

High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities - Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Improve plant health and/or vigor of range or pasture lands?	20 Point(s)
2. Install practices that include planting at least 3 different flowering species of forbs, legumes, shrubs or trees?	20 Point(s)
3. Improve forest health by reducing the risk of insect/disease infestation or fire hazard on forest lands?	20 Point(s)
Strategic Initiative - Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. Install conservation practices that result in the usage of high efficiency or alternative energy sources?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. EQIP plan of operations is for a CNMP – Written (102) developed by a TSP (no further ranking required).	450 Point(s)
2. Water quality: EQIP plan of operations includes one or more of the following practices along at least 25% of the stream reaches needing new or wider buffers in the enrolled tracts: Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Tree/shrub Establishment (612). Example: a farm has applied for funding on three tracts with a total stream length of 1,000 feet (sum of perennial and intermittent streams). However, 200 feet of these streams already have adequate buffers, leaving 800 feet that needs buffers. Points are awarded if buffers are contracted on 200 feet or more of stream length on these tracts (800 feet x 25% = 200 feet). For the purposes of this question, an adequate buffer is a strip of perennial vegetation at least 30 feet wide that does not receive manure or fertilizer applications.	140 Point(s)
3. Water quality: EQIP plan of operations includes Cover Crop and/or Nutrient Management on at least 50% of the cropland and pasture in the enrolled tracts.	50 Point(s)
4. Air quality bonus: the contracted Nutrient Management includes injection of manure or incorporation of manure on the same day as application. If points are awarded for this question, the application also receives points for Question 3.	80 Point(s)
5. Water quality: EQIP plan of operations includes one or more of the following structural practices: Waste Transfer (634), Sprinkler System (442), Pumping Plant (533), Roof Runoff Structure (558), Vegetative Treatment Area (635).	70 Point(s)
6. Water quality: EQIP plan of operations includes one or more of the following structural practices: Waste Storage Facility (313), Composting Facility (317). Points are only awarded for this question if the EQIP plan of operations includes contract items for Technical Service Provider design, installation and check-out for these contracted practices, or if the client provides practice designs, stamped by a licensed engineer, on or before the application deadline.	70 Point(s)
7. Air quality: EQIP plan of operations includes Windbreak/shelterbelt Establishment (380) along at least 10% of the boundary of one field (cropland, pasture, or headquarters) in the enrolled tracts. Example: a headquarters field is a square with sides of 1,000 feet each, giving a total boundary of 4,000 feet. Points are awarded if the contract includes at least 400 feet of Windbreak/shelterbelt Establishment for this headquarters field (4,000 feet x 10% = 400 feet).	40 Point(s)

Land Use:

Associated Agriculture Land;

Crop;

**Farmstead;
Pasture;**

Resource Concerns	Practices
Air Quality Impacts: Objectionable Odors	Composting Facility
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Groundwater	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan -
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water	Cover Crop
	Field Border
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater	Filter Strip
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water	Heavy Use Area Protection
	Herbaceous Weed Treatment
	Irrigation Water Management
	Nutrient Management
	Nutrient Management Plan - Written
	Pumping Plant
	Roof Runoff Structure
	Sprinkler System
	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
	Tree/Shrub Establishment
	Underground Outlet
	Vegetated Treatment Area
	Waste Transfer
	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment