

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2019 - FY19 High Tunnel System

(Draft)

Description:

The High Tunnel System (practice code 325) is a new conservation practice released in March 2015 to replace the previous Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (practice code 798). The purpose of the High Tunnel System conservation practice is to assist producers to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner. The practice has the potential to assist producers to improve plant health and vigor.

Land Uses:

Crop

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 64.040

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 50	Medium: 49 - 10	Low: 9 - 0
Cost of requested practices provides a high level of environmental benefits per program invested dollar.	Cost of requested practices provides an average level of environmental benefits per program invested dollar. Requested practices may not be enough to fully treat the identified natural resource concern.	Cost of requested practices provides a low level of environmental benefits per program invested dollar. Requested practices will probably not be enough to fully treat the identified natural resource concern.

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 130	Medium: 129 - 41	Low: 40 - 0
This EQIP application ranks high on National resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address at least three or more of the National resource priorities.	This EQIP application ranks medium on National resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address at least two or more of the National resource priorities.	This EQIP application ranks low and meets the minimum requirement of addressing at least one National resource priority.

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	10

	regulatory measures?	
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: 400 - 150	Medium: 149 - 75	Low: 74 - 0
This EQIP application ranks high on State resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address more than 2 resource concerns.	This EQIP application ranks medium on State resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address at least two resource concerns.	This EQIP application ranks low on State resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address at least one resource concern.

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Applicant has a sustainable certification (i.e., Salmon Safe or other a third-party certification program) addressing water quality and/or other resource concern on the farm or ranch.	200
	2	Applicant is currently marketing their products through local food systems (schools, restaurants, farmer's markets, road-side stands, Community-Supported Agriculture markets, etc.)	125
	3	Applicant is compliant with other financial assistance programs and has never had a previous financial assistance contract cancelled or terminated OR this is the applicants first EQIP contract.	75
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points: 400

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 150	Medium: 149 - 26	Low: 25 - 0
This application ranks high on Local resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address over half of the local EQIP priorities.	This application ranks medium on local resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address at least half of the local EQIP priorities.	This application ranks low on Local resource priorities. All requested conservation practices address less than half of the local EQIP priorities.

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
4		Growing Degree Days to provide the opportunity to extend the growing season for fresh produce required for thriving local food systems	
	4	Areas of the state with growing degree days between 140 - 900	250
	5	Areas of the state with growing degree days between 910 - 1800	100
	6	Areas of the state with growing degree days between 1810 - 2300	50
	7	Areas of the state with growing degree days between 2310 - 2800	25
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	425

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Underground Outlet (620)

Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Mulching (484)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Roof Runoff Structure (558)

Soil Quality Degradation: Compaction

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Mulching (484)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)

Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- High Tunnel System (325)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)