

## NATIONAL ON-FARM ENERGY INITIATIVE

### Background

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Subtitle F–EQIP, Section 2501, provides authority for use of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP {as a national purpose}) to specifically address energy conservation through conservation practice implementation and for development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP). During fiscal year (FY) 2018, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways:

- 1) Identify ways to reduce energy use on their farms through an AgEMP conservation activity plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit.
- 2) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice (CP) standards that address inefficient use of on-farm energy.

### Approved Land Uses

- Crop, Pasture, Range, Farmstead

### Approved Resource Concerns

- Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities
- Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices

### Additional Requirements

- Core conservation practices are listed in Kansas Bulletin KS300-18-1 Attachment 20. These are practices essential in addressing the primary natural resource concerns identified in this initiative and are required.
- Capturing Energy Benefits – An “Energy Benefits” button is available in ProTracts to capture estimated energy savings. This button must be checked “yes” for all contract items implemented as part of the National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI) and based on the recommendations provided as part of a completed on-farm energy audit. Checking “yes” requires the user to enter the numeric values accurately in the correct units for the estimated energy savings and the reduction of greenhouse gases and air pollutants directly associated with the energy savings from the completed on-farm energy audit. If values for energy benefits are not available from an AgEMP or energy audit, they can be obtained from the COMET Farm Quick Energy tool:  
<http://cometfarm.nrel.colostate.edu/QuickEnergy>

### Priority

The NOFEI Screening Criteria Worksheet found on the last page of this attachment, shall be completed for each eligible NOFEI application. A screening priority of HIGH, MEDIUM, or LOW must be recorded in Program Contracts System (ProTracts).

- To receive **HIGH** screening priority, the application must include an AgEMP (128) OR the application includes at least 1 “Core” CP (374, 449, 533, 670, 672) necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a completed AgEMP (128) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) S612 Type 2 Audit.
- All applicants who are otherwise eligible and provide documentation they are participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land tenure provisions and are competing in the designated EQIP beginning farmer or rancher (BF/R) or socially

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disadvantaged farmer or rancher (SDF/R), will be assigned **HIGH** priority status in ProTracts. Applicants certifying as veteran beginning farmer or rancher (VBF/R) and participating in CRP land tenure provisions will have their applications selected for funding prior to any other “High” priority applicants.

- To receive **MEDIUM** screening priority, the application includes zero “Core” CPs, but does include at least 1 “Supporting” CP necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a previously completed AgEMP Plan (128) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.
- **LOW** screening priority will be given to all other applications not meeting requirements for HIGH or MEDIUM priority. LOW priority applications will not be ranked.

### National Ranking Questions

- National ranking questions are consistent for all EQIP applications; however, only questions 1a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4d, 4c, 8a, 8b, and 9a apply to the NOFEI. All other national questions shall be answered “No”.

### State Ranking Questions

1. If the application is for the 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-level questions.
  - a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a Technical Service Provider (TSP) prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)? 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 points)
2. Answer ONE of the following questions in regard to applications containing energy efficiency practices.
  - a. The application contains two or more core practices. (100 points)
  - b. The application contains one core practice. (50 points)
3. Answer ALL of the following questions regarding water conservation. Leave the answers “No” if none apply.
  - a. Will the proposed project conserve water by implementing irrigation practices that reduce energy and reduce aquifer overdraft? (50 points)
  - b. Will the proposed project conserve water by implementing energy practices the recycle water? (50 points)
4. Answer ONE of the following questions regarding air quality. Leave the answers “No” if none apply.

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- a. Will the proposed project improve air quality by implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide by 100,000 pounds or more? (100 points)
  - b. Will the proposed project improve air quality by implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide by at least 75,000 pounds but less than 100,000 pounds? (75 points)
  - c. Will the proposed project improve air quality by implement energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide by at least 50,000 pounds but less than 75,000 pounds? (50 points)
  - d. Will the proposed project improve air quality by implement energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide by at least 25,000 pounds but less than 50,000 pounds? (20 points)
  - e. Will the proposed project improve air quality by implement energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide by at least 10,000 pounds but less than 25,000 pounds? (10 points)
5. Answer ONE of the following questions regarding the estimated energy cost efficiency value for the conservation practices in the EQIP Plan/Schedule of Operations.
- a. Is the estimated energy cost efficiency 50 percent or more? (100 points)
  - b. Is the estimated energy cost efficiency between 30 and 50 percent? (50 points)
  - c. Is the estimated energy cost efficiency less than 30 percent? (25 points)

### **Local Ranking Questions**

1. If the application is for the 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-level questions.
  - a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a Technical Service Provider (TSP) prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)? 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 points)
2. The application addresses an Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities primary resource concern. (75 points)
3. The application addresses an Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices primary resource concern. (75 points)

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4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2018.  
(100 points)

### **Core Practices**

- 374 FARMSTEAD ENERGY IMPROVEMENT
- 449 IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT
- 533 PUMPING PLANT
- 670 LIGHTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
- 672 BUILDING ENVELOPE IMPROVEMENT

### **Supporting Practices**

- 128 AGRICULTURAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLAN
- 328 CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION
- 329 RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT, NO-TILL
- 340 COVER CROP
- 345 RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT, REDUCED TILL
- 372 COMBUSTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
- 380 WINDBREAK/SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT

**NATIONAL ON-FARM ENERGY INITIATIVE**

RCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
National On-Farm Energy Initiative  
**NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET**

*A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.*

<b>Instructions:</b>			
Complete a screening worksheet for each eligible producer applying for EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative assistance. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP file, and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) will be recorded in ProTracts application priority. A copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.			
Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP applicant			
Applicant Name:		County:	
Application No: (OPTIONAL)		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	
Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select and circle one:			
<u>High Priority Category:</u> The application is for an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (CAP 128); Or The application includes at least one core conservation practice (374, 449, 533, 670, or 672) necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan (CAP 128) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.			High Priority Status in ProTracts
<u>Medium Priority Category:</u> The application includes no core conservation practices but does include at least one supporting conservation practice necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a previously completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ANSI/ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.			Medium Priority Status in ProTracts
<u>Low Priority Category:</u> Low Priority Applications <u>will not be ranked.</u> All other applications.			Low Priority Status in ProTracts
The priority determination of high, medium, or low must be recorded in ProTracts application priority for this applicant.			
D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	