

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

HU - Beginning Farmer

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: HU - Beginning Farmer		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 state priority category.	
1. 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (answer only one, if applicable) "	
2. 2.a. Implementing practices to help meet state or local REGULATORY notices related to agricultural impacts on water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.b. Improving the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPA's (within zone)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.c. Improving BIVALVE AQUACULTURE gear and biofoul management in coastal waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.d. Implementing a CNMP to reduce animal source pollution through practices such as: Composting Facility (317), Waste Storage (313), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Roofs and Covers (367)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.e. Improving the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply.)	
3. 3.a. Reducing WATER WITHDRAWAL in a state identified stressed basin, high yield or sole source aquifer; or improving GROUNDWATER RECHARGE in a state identified high or medium yield aquifer?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.b. Improving irrigation OR livestock watering systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.c. Automating irrigation systems resulting in water and energy savings?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Soil Erosion/Soil Health - Will the proposed project: (select all that apply.)	
4. 4.a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.b. Increase SCI values or decrease STIR values?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Livestock Production Limitations - The project will: (select any that apply.)	
5. 5.a. Address water quality, air quality, and human/animal health concerns by implementing Animal Mortality Facility (316) or Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 5.b. Address insufficient feed and forage, stock water and shelter through practices such as Brush	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Management (314), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Forage Harvest Management (511), Prescribed Grazing (580), Pond (378), Watering Facility (614), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)?	
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat for: (select all that apply.)	
6. 6.a. Federally Listed species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 6.b. State Listed species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 6.c. Species of Conservation Concern	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL - The project provides invasive species control in areas with: (answer only one, if applicable.)	
7. 7.a. LOW INTENSITY - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. 7.b. MEDIUM INTENSITY - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. 7.c. HIGH INTENSITY - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Business Lines - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success:	
8. 8.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. 8.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: >= 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. 8.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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 local priority category.	
1. 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 local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Water Quality - Will the proposed project improve water quality by:	
2. 2.a. Addressing NUTRIENT/PEST MANAGEMENT concerns impacting water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. 2.b. Restricting animal access to rivers, streams and water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Soil & Plant Health - the proposed project will:	
3. 3.a. Establish permanent vegetative practices such as buffers, borders, conservation cover or other plantings?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.b. Implement management practices on annually tilled cropland, such as: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340) and Residue and Tillage Management (329) or (345)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. 3.c. Improve existing vegetative cover on other associated lands to meet the conservation objectives of plant communities through practices such as: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat (643)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Forest Management - Does the application improve growing conditions and/or promote diverse age classes, or desirable native regeneration through any of the following:	
4. 4.a. Patch cut, sized 2 ac to 4.9 ac	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.b. Crop tree release/ Thinning/ Group selection	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.c. Pre-commercial thinning	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.d. Creating old growth characteristics	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.e. Undesirable regeneration (native and/or exotic) is treated (314)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.f. Tree/Shrub establishment (612)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. 4.g. Non-commercial cut where the mean stand diameter in the project area is < 6"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. High Tunnels - Site Conditions:	

5. 5.a. The site is optimal, considering sun exposure, water drainage, soil quality and fertility, air drainage, and risk of herbicide or soil pest carry-over.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 5.b The soils are classified in Hydrologic Soil Group A or B?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 5.c. The ground is relatively flat with a slope of 0-3%?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. 5.d. There is sufficient water available to meet the crop water needs?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Sustainable Agriculture: The proposed project will enhance sustainability by:	
6. 6.a. Converting a confined animal operation to a grass based animal feeding operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 6.b. Improving PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 6.c. Providing local/organic products to enhance rural economy?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Business Lines - New program participants:	
7. 7.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
-------------------	-----------

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
--

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.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
---	--