

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Soil Health

|                                  |                      |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Program:</b>                  | <b>Ranking Date:</b> | <b>Application Number:</b> |
| <b>Ranking Tool:</b> Soil Health | <b>Applicant:</b>    |                            |
| <b>Final Ranking Score:</b>      | <b>Address:</b>      |                            |
| <b>Planner:</b>                  | <b>Telephone:</b>    |                            |
| <b>Farm Location:</b>            |                      |                            |

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"/> |
| <b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>  |   |
| 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"/> |
| <b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>  |   |
| 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"/> |
| <b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>  |   |
| 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"/> |
| <b>Soil Health :- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>   |   |
| 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"/> |
| <b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>  |   |
| 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"/> |

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| 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 - impact of the project area on state designated water resources: (Select only ONE, if applicable)   |   |
| 2. 2.a. More than 75% of the area enrolled impacts 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.b. Between 50% and 75% of the area enrolled impacts 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. At least one field enrolled will impacts 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.d. More than 75% of the area enrolled impacts 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"/> |
| 2. 2.e. Between 50% and 75% of the area enrolled impacts 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"/> |
| 2. 2.f. At least one field enrolled will impacts 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. BEFORE and AFTER SCENARIOS - the proposed project will: (Select only ONE, if applicable)   |   |
| 3. 3.a. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by > 0.5 units?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. 3.b. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by 0.25-0.5 units?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. 3.c. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by 0.15-0.24 units?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. SOIL RESILIENCE (Select only ONE, if applicable)   |   |
| 4. 4.a. A cash crop will be planted using no-till or zone-till on at least 40% of the annual cropland?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |

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|---|---|
| 4. 4.b. A cash crop will be planted using no-till or zone-till on at least 20% of the annual cropland?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>5. BUFFERS: (Select any that apply)</b>  |   |
| 5. 5.a. Establishing RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS (391) for resilience against storm damage?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. 5.b. Establishing buffers or borders within or adjacent to annually tilled cropland?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. 5.c. The establishment of buffers requires a conversion of annual crop acres?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>6. BUSINESS LINES</b>  |   |
| 6. 6.a. 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"/> |
| 6. 6.b. 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"/> |
| <b>2. Water Quality - the proposed project will include: (Select any that apply)</b>  |   |
| 2. 2.a. NUTRIENT/PEST MANAGEMENT to address water quality concerns?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>3. Soil Health -the proposed project will include: (Select any that apply)</b>   |   |
| 3. 3.a. Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and Cover Crop (340)?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. 3.b. Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. 3.c. Adaptive management for Cover Crop (340) or Residue and Tillage Management (329/345)?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. 3.d. Enhancement to Cover Crop (340) - the participant will not be harvesting the cover crop?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>4. Sustainable Agriculture - The proposed project will enhance sustainability by: (Select any that apply)</b>  |   |
| 4. 4.a. Enhancing LOCAL FOOD through conservation measures (marketed within 100 miles)?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. 4.b. Enhancing ORGANIC PRODUCTION through conservation measures?   | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. 4.c. Enhancing PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR) through conservation measures?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>5. Business Lines - New program participants:</b>  |   |
| 5. 5.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. 5.b. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?  | Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/> |

**Land Use:**

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

**Ranking Score**

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Efficiency:                 |
| Local Issues:               |
| State Issues:               |
| National Issues:            |
| <b>Final Ranking Score:</b> |

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:

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