

RCPP-EQIP Advanced Precision Ag for Sustainable Conservation Ranking Criteria

Purpose: This project will occur in the Red River and Lower Cumberland watersheds where both surface and groundwater impairments are a concern with nutrients, bacteria, and sediment being the primary issues. The goal is to advance the implementation of on-farm precision agriculture practices to help ensure the sustainability, resilience, and continued productivity of the area’s working lands while improving productivity gains for the producers.

Project Counties: Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Simpson, Todd and Trigg

Lead Partner: Security Seed and Chemical, Inc

Name: _____ **Application #:** _____ **Date:** _____

National Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
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 national priority category.		
1a. 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.	OYes ONo	250
2. Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	OYes ONo	15
2b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	OYes ONo	10
2c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)? (Always answer no for HTS application)	OYes ONo	10
2d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”? (Always answer no for HTS application)	OYes ONo	10
2e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management? (Yes, if 316 is planned)	OYes ONo	10
3. Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft? (Always no)	OYes ONo	15
3b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use? (Yes, if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan - 118)	OYes ONo	10
3c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project? (Always no)	OYes ONo	10
3d. 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, if implementing practices identified in a certified Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)	OYes ONo	10

4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures? (Always no)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
4b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? (Always no)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
4c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)? (Yes only for Organic Certified, Transitioning to Organic and On-Farm Energy)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
4d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration? (Yes if planning 340, 612, 666, 422, or native grass 327, 512, 386, 390, 643, or 391)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
5. Soil Health– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")? (Field must be above "T" and practice(s) takes to "T" or below. Must be supported with RUSLE2. Always answer yes for HTS application)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
5b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure? (Yes, when 340 is planned for Soil Health)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6. Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern? <i>When answering question 6a refer to the KICT Report. Points should be awarded if <u>all</u> of the following occur:</i> 1) One or more species are listed in section I of the KICT report 2) One or more benefits are listed in section IV of the KICT report 3) <u>All</u> avoidance measures are or will be implemented in section II of the KICT report 4) The practices are being implemented for the reason(s) specified, and/or result in the benefits described in section IV of the KICT report <i>It is recommended that conservation assistance notes be recorded as to the application of which benefits apply and the supporting rationale.</i>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program? (Examples would be 612, 327, 386, and 390 when wildlife beneficial vegetation is being planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators? (Yes, if native forbs or shrubs/trees are being established, or if 390, 386, or 327 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
6d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife? (Yes, if 658 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
7. Plant and Animal Communities - Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland? (Yes if practice(s) help treat invasive plant species on list located at http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm. Ex: 666 and 314 that address bush honeysuckle or tree of heaven, 315 to address sericea lespedeza or 512 that converts endophyte infected tall fescue.)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
7b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
8. Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)		

8a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption? (Yes, if 374, 672, 670, 472, 327, 386, 390, 412, 422, 329, 391, or 612 is planned. Also, yes when Fence 382 is planned that includes a solar charger or if 512 is planned to convert cropland to pastureland or hayland.)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
8b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria? (Yes, when 374, 672 or 670 is planned)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10
9. Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:		
9a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received? (Answer yes if the planned practices will improve an existing conservation practice or complete an existing conservation system. See Guidance Document for examples)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	10

State Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
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.		
1a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	400
Answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to ALL the following questions:		
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	225
3. Full-width tillage was used on 25% or less of the acres included in this application in the past two crop years (2017 & 2018)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	35
4. Does this application include planting a multi-species Cover Crop (340) on application acres?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	35
5. Are conservation practices included in this application to be implemented on offered acres with a majority (51% or more) of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	35
6. EQIP planned practice(s) on offered acres include a conservation practice(s) that will improve soil quality, reduce sheet and rill, and/or reduce gully erosion from the existing condition.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	35
Answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to ONE of the following questions:		
7a. Does this application include incorporating a Cover Crop (340) into your rotation on acres where Cover Crop (340) has not previously been implemented which would result in 51% or more of the application acres planted to Cover Crop (340)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	35
7b. Does this application include incorporating a Cover Crop (340) into your rotation on acres where Cover Crop (340) has not previously been implemented which would result in 50% or less of the application acres planted to Cover Crop (340)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	15

Local Issues:

Ranking Questions		Points
<p>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.</p>		
<p>1a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>250</p>
<p>2. Does this application include the implementation of a system of practices on application acres such as 590, 340, 329, etc.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>95</p>
<p>3. Will the practice(s) benefit federally listed threatened or endangered species? When answering question 2 refer to the KICT Report. Points should be awarded if <u>all</u> of the following occur:</p> <p>1) One or more species are listed in section I of the KICT report 2) One or more benefits are listed in section IV of the KICT report 3) All avoidance measures are or will be implemented in section II of the KICT report 4) The practices are being implemented for the reason(s) specified, and/or result in the benefits described in section IV of the KICT report</p> <p><i>It is recommended that conservation assistance notes be recorded as to the application of which benefits apply and the supporting rationale.</i></p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>4. Is the majority (51% or more) of the treated acres included in the Red River (05130206) Watershed?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>55</p>
<p>5. Is the majority of the treated acres included in either a well head protection area or karst area as identified by DOW? (Yes, if more than 50% of applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of these special emphasis areas as per ArcMap)</p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>35</p>
<p>6. Is the majority of the treated acres included in either a DOW identified watershed or high quality waters/classified stream? (Yes, if more than 50% of applicant's offered acreage falls within the boundaries of these special emphasis areas as per ArcMap).</p>	<p><input type="radio"/>Yes <input type="radio"/>No</p>	<p>35</p>

EQIP Conservation Practices for RCPP-Advanced Precision Ag for Sustainable Conservation
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Conservation Practice	Practice Lifespan (years) ¹	Unit	Practice Code	Payment Cap ²	Payment Limits
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	1	No.	102		
Drainage Water Management Plan	1	No.	130		
Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistant Weed Plan	1	No.	154		
Integrated Pest Management Plan	1	No.	114		
Irrigation Water Management Plan	1	No.	118		
Nutrient Management Plan	1	No.	104		
Conservation Cover	5	Ac.	327		
Cover Crop	3	Ac.	340		
Critical Area Planting	10	Ac.	342		
Diversion	10	Ft.	362		
Field Border	10	Ac.	386		
Grade Stabilization Structure	15	No.	410		
Grassed Waterway	10	Ac.	412		
Herbaceous Weed Control	5	Ac.	315		
Integrated Pest Management	1	Ac.	595		
Irrigation Water Management	1	Ac.	449		
Lined Waterway or Outlet	15	Ft.	468		
Mulching	1	Ac.	484		
Nutrient Management	1	Ac.	590	\$120,000	\$40K/yr up to 3 yrs.
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	1	Ac.	329		
Riparian Forest Buffer	15	Ac.	391		
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	5	Ac.	390		
Structure for Water Control	20	No.	587		
Subsurface Drain	20	Ft.	606		
Terrace	10	Ft.	600		
Underground Outlet	20	Ft.	620		
Water and Sediment Control Basin	10	No.	638		

¹ The conservation practice in the EQIP contract must be maintained and used for the intended purpose and the practice lifespan.

² Payment Caps will be 15% higher for Historically Underserved (HU) producers.