

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary  
EQIP Cropland Farmstead Pasture**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> EQIP Cropland Farmstead Pasture		<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"/>

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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category. 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. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of drinking water supply reservoir including tributaries thereto, surface water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity")	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a groundwater area mapped GAA or community public wellhead and ground water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of class SA waters impacted by agriculture and water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Based upon the 2014 303d list is the operation located within 1000 feet of the impaired waterbody or having a direct hydrologic connection that is impaired by nutrients (dissolved oxygen or excessive algal growth), pesticides, turbidity or other agricultural pollutants such as bacteria/pathogens and the particular water quality issue(s)) is being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is the site located within 1000 feet of a cold water fishery or Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPW) where conservation practices are being planned to improve and/or protect water quality, water quantity or other habitats related to SRPW designation? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will soil erosion or soil conservation practices have a positive effect on prime farmland soils or a soil of statewide importance as listed by Rhode Island NRCS? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Soil Erosion or Soil Quality.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Are public areas (public roads, school, etc.) or non-farm residences contiguous to cropland where air quality practices will be implemented? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Air Quality.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will planned practices enhance protection and are within 1000 feet of T & E species or State listed species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Will planned practices address control of noxious and invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Is the land permanently protected through a conservation easement, purchase of development rights or other mechanism?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

12. Has the applicant previously successfully addressed a resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Will planned practices address water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns that are within 300 feet of a private well or other surface waters/wetlands/vernal pools?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Has the applicant previously developed a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and is going to implement it under this contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Will the project enhance or contribute to habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation through this EQIP Contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>General Questions-To be answered by all Landuses/Categories</b>	
1. Will the applicant implement or maintain a 50 foot riparian buffer (herbaceous or woody) on all water bodies adjacent to agricultural land through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the applicant implement or maintain a 35 foot (but less than 50 foot) riparian buffer (herbaceous or woody) on all water bodies adjacent to agricultural land through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Is the practice going to improve water quality with regard to excessive nutrients in ground and surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Has the applicant successfully completed an NRCS contract in the past, according to the originally planned schedule?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the applicant have an RMS plan prepared by or for USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Is the applicant addressing all water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns through this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Cropland</b>	
8. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will practices be applied to reduce erosion (including addressing any existing water quality impacts from this erosion)? (Practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does the applicant currently have and implement an approved Irrigation Water Management Plan including record keeping?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Does the applicant currently use no-till, reduced tillage, or will implement practices resulting in improved soil health?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Pasture</b>	
12. Is the practice going to improve water quality with regard to nutrients and pathogens in ground water or surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Is the applicant using the contract to implement a Grazing Management Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Does a practice in this plan support an existing CNMP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Will practices be installed to exclude livestock from riparian areas, wetlands, hydric soils, and vernal pools (as applicable)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. Will a heavy use area (outside headquarters, such as at a watering facility) be stabilized to prevent erosion and or water quality resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Is the applicant treating invasive plants through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Livestock/Farmstead</b>	
18. Is the practice going to improve water quality with regard to nutrients and pathogens in ground and/or surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Is the applicant using the contract to implement a CNMP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. Will practices be applied to address water quality in a TMDL/303d/drinking water reservoir?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. Will practices be installed to exclude livestock from riparian areas, wetlands, hydric soils, and vernal pools?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Will a heavy use area be stabilized to prevent erosion and or water quality resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

<b>Resource Concerns</b>	<b>Practices</b>
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**Ranking Score**

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

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