

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Mercer LWG-Grassland

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Mercer LWG-Grassland	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.	250 Point(s)
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)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
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.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

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?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. 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.	400 Point(s)
2. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will adjust application amounts and/or timing of organic/inorganic fertilizers according to soil test?	30 Point(s)
3. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce animal wastes that impact water quality?	30 Point(s)
4. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) for improved quality of livestock drinking water?	40 Point(s)
5. Does the application provide financial assistance for practice(s) that will mitigate the potential environmental risk of pest management control measures?	30 Point(s)
6. Will the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) which will reduce erosion on cropland fields?	40 Point(s)

7. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will address saline seeps, recharge areas, and/or saline/sodic soils?	15 Point(s)
8. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice(s) that will reduce the number of tillage operations?	10 Point(s)
9. Does the application provide financial assistance for the implementation of the manure scenario of Nutrient Mgmt?	15 Point(s)
10. Will the application provide financial assistance for a practice applied on range or pasture that improves the utilization of under-grazed areas?	50 Point(s)
11. Does the application provide financial assistance for a practice that will convert cropland to perennial herbaceous vegetation?	30 Point(s)
12. Does the application provide financial assistance to convert from conventional or reduced tillage to a no-till system?	40 Point(s)
13. Does the application provide financial assistance for livestock grazing practice(s) on grazing systems with 4 or more pastures per herd?	50 Point(s)
14. Does the application provide financial assistance for practice that minimizes the risk of accidental release of stored oil products used in agriculture operations?	20 Point(s)
15. Does the application include practices to install or enhance woody vegetation for farmsteads, fields, or wildlife habitat?	15 Point(s)
16. Does the application include a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the applicant in extending the growing season, improve plant productivity, health and vigor?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Pick any of the following resource criteria that apply:	
1. Does the EQIP application include implementation of practices that will increase plant diversity, health, vigor, and reduce noxious weeds?	50 Point(s)
2. Does the EQIP application include implementation of practices that will reduce the potential to contaminate ground or surface water and/or have a positive effect on water quality?	50 Point(s)
3. Does the EQIP application include a new livestock water development that would increase livestock water quantity and quality?	50 Point(s)

