



## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2016 - FY16 Seasonal High Tunnels (Draft)

**Description:**

AMA FY2015 Seasonal High Tunnel Ranking

**Land Uses:**

Crop

**Efficiency Score:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.750

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 67	Medium: 66 - 34	Low: 33 - 0
High	Medium	Low

**Optional Notes:**

**National Priorities:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 167	Medium: 166 - 84	Low: 83 - 0
High	Medium	Low

**Questions:**

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
1	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
1	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
2	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
2	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
2	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
3	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
3	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
3	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
4	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
4	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
5	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
5	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
6	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive species on non-cropland?	10

6	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
6	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
6	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
6	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10
6	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
7	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
7	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	10
7	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
8	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
8	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
8	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
Total Points		250

**State Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 167	Medium: 166 - 84	Low: 83 - 0
High	Medium	Low

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Conservation Activity Plan	
	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.	250
2		Wildlife - Will the proposed project improve habitat for at least one:	
	2	Species listed under the ESA as threatened or endangered?	25
	3	Species of greatest conservation need listed in the draft Utah Wildlife Action Plan that is other than an ESA T&E species	15
3		Weeds - Will the proposed project contribute to:	
	4	The control of all invasive species present on the offered acres?	50
	5	The control of one invasive specie present on the offered acres?	25
4		Water Quality - Will the proposed project improve water quality by reducing a TMDL impairment and is located:	
	6	Contiguous to or less than 1320 feet from the impaired water body?	50
	7	1321 to 2640 feet from the impaired water body?	30
	8	2641 to 5280 feet from the impaired water body?	15
5		Grazing Lands - Will the proposed project result in a change in the Grazing Response Index score of:	
	9	3 to 4	25
	10	2 to 2.9	20
	11	1 to 1.9	15
	12	0 to 0.9	10

6		Grazing Lands - Will the proposed project result in a Grazing Response Index score of:	
	13	3 to 4	25
	14	2 to 2.9	20
	15	1 to 1.9	15
	16	0 to 0.9	10
7		Pollinator Habitat - Will the proposed project increase the number of flowering plants in the planning area by:	
	17	Three or more species per season (spring, summer, and fall).	25
	18	Two species per season (spring, summer, and fall).	15
	19	One specie per season (spring, summer, and fall).	5
8		Soil Health - Will the proposed project result in a change in Soil Conditioning Index of:	
	20	0.5 or greater	50
	21	0.08 to 0.49	25
Maximum Points: 250			Total Points
			720

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.330

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 300 - 201	Medium: 200 - 101	Low: 100 - 0
High	Medium	Low

**Questions:**

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)	
	1	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?	300
2		General Questions	
	2	Will the Seasonal High Tunnel be installed where specialty commodity crops are currently grown (Refer to USDA Specialty Commodity Crop Definitions)?	75
	3	Is this the applicant's first high tunnel contracted with NRCS?	30
	4	Will Crops be grown outside of the normal production period? (Feb.-Apr. and/or Oct.-Dec.)	55
3		Permits (answer Yes to only one of the following 5 or 6) Are all building permits from the county or city in place at time of ranking?	
	5	Yes or Not Applicable	15
	6	No	-100
4		Direct Marketing (answer Yes to only one of the following 7-10) What percentage of produce will be sold at farmers markets, road side stands, donations to local food banks, or other direct sales/donations?	
	7	<25%	10
	8	25-50%	20
	9	50-75%	30
	10	>75%	45
5		Frost Free Season (Answer YES to only one of the following 11-14)	
	11	Between 80 to 100 days	80
	12	Between 100 to 120 days	60

	13	Between 120 to 140 days	40
	14	Between 140 to 160 days	20
6		Contract Compliance (if applicable)	
	15	Has the applicant had a Farm Bill Contract terminated for non-compliance?	-100
	16	Does the applicant have an active Farm Bill contract that is currently not on schedule, in non-compliance or practices in arrears?	-50
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			530

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health  
 High Tunnel System (325)

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