

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Beginning Farmer or Rancher Zone 4
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
Conservation Activity Plans _ If this application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) answer this question only and set the application type to "Planning" or "Plan Organic".	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) developed by a registered TSP? 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.	250 Point(s)
Degraded Plant Condition - answer yes to only one of questions 2ab, 2b, and 2c. Answer yes to only one of questions 2d, and 2e	
2. a. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on all contracted acres.	30 Point(s)
2. b. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on >75% of the total contract acres.	20 Point(s)
2. c. Will the proposed contract address undesirable plant productivity and health resource concern as identified through rangeland health or pasture condition scoring AND include a prescribed grazing plan as outlined in the "plans and specifications" section of the NRCS Prescribed Grazing (528) standard on >50% of the total contract acres.	5 Point(s)
2. d. Will the proposed contract include practices identified in an integrated Pest Management Plan as specified in the "Plans and Specifications" portion of the standard that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk, Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all impacted grazingland acres within the plan unit?	25 Point(s)
2. e. Will the proposed contract activities include practices that will address Excessive Plant Pest Pressure by controlling one or more of the following species of statewide significance: Salt Cedar (tamarisk), Sericea Lespedeza, Musk Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle, Eastern Red Cedar, or Mesquite on all grazingland contracted acres where they occur in densities that constitute a resource concern?	5 Point(s)
Soil Erosion	
3. a. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address sheet, rill and/or wind erosion where soil loss is greater than "T" and the proposed contract will include conservation practices that will reduce sheet, rill or wind erosion below "T" on at least 25% of the contracted acres (based on before and after RUSLE2 or WEPS calculations).?	30 Point(s)
3. b. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address concentrated flow erosion and include conservation practices that will control and prevent active ephemeral gullies on cropland?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address concentrated flow erosion and include conservation practices that will stop the progression of head cutting and widening of active classic gullies?	10 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation: Will the proposed contract include conservation practices to address excess nutrients in surface and ground waters? (Points can be accumulated from each question, if applicable.)	
4. a. The proposed contract will include activities developed through a nutrient management plan, as specified in the Oklahoma NRCS Nutrient Management (590) standard, that includes application of nutrients (inorganic or organic) in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water. This category includes CNMP planning.	5 Point(s)

4. b. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water quality.	5 Point(s)
4. c. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water quality, on land within a designated "Nutrient Limited Watershed" (Nutrient Limited Watershed maps can be found in eFOTG- section II - Special Environmental Concerns Information).	10 Point(s)
4. d. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and/or application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water on land within 3 miles of a 303(d) listed impaired or threatened waters?	10 Point(s)
4. e. The proposed contract will include conservation practices developed through a CNMP that involve storage, handling and application of animal waste in such a manner that does not adversely affect surface or ground water on land adjoining 303(d) listed impaired or threatened waters (303d listing can be found in eFOTG - section II - Special Environmental Concerns Information - Clean Water - Oklahoma DEQ GIS Data Viewer).	10 Point(s)
4. f. The proposed contract activities will address excessive nutrients or sediment in surface waters in intermittent streams and/or perennial streams through livestock exclusion or installation of filters or buffers.	10 Point(s)
Inadequate Habitat Fish and Wildlife - Wildlife Habitat Degradation: Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by (select all that apply)	
5. a. Will the proposed contract activities correct all limiting factor(s) identified as resource concerns within a state approved wildlife habitat evaluation guide and/or a written, site-specific wildlife habitat plan for a specific wildlife species or guild of species identified as Whitetail deer, Quail and Turkey.	30 Point(s)
5. b. Will the proposed contract activities restore habitat to the ecological site description's presumed historic vegetative community?	10 Point(s)
Excess/Insufficient Water-Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water. Answer all of questions 6a through 6e that apply. Answer only one of 6f or 6g.	
6. a. Will the proposed contract activities reduce the gross amount of water applied on an operation that is currently drawing water from the Ogallala Aquifer or the Altus Lugert Irrigation District?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Will the proposed contract activities reduce the acres of irrigated cropland on an operation?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Will the proposed contract activities result in implementing practices that reduce irrigation water applied due to a change in the existing crop rotation that includes non irrigated crop or fallow period?	5 Point(s)
6. d. Will the proposed contract activities result in implementing practices that reduce irrigation water applied as a result of changing existing crop rotation to a crop rotation with lower water consumptive use or rotation of crops?	5 Point(s)
6. e. Will the proposed contract activities include the implementation of Well Decommissioning (351) and/or will the producer agree to destroy the existing irrigation system which is being replaced by a more efficient system?	5 Point(s)
6. f. Will the proposed contract activities result in an estimated 20% or more reduction of gross water applied?	10 Point(s)
6. g. Will the proposed contract activities result in an estimated 10-19% reduction of gross water applied?	5 Point(s)
Business Lines	
7. a. Will the proposed contract be scheduled for completion within 2 years of obligation?	5 Point(s)
7. b. Will the proposed contract include activities identified in an existing conservation plan as needed to complete or enhance an existing conservation system?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Has the applicant had a previous EQIP contract that was terminated in the past 3 years or is currently in non-compliance?	-10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability: Will the planned treatment increase the level of grazing management through implementation of prescribed grazing and any of the following practices Watering Facility (614), Fences (382), Prescribed Burning (338)? = 50 pts	50 Point(s)
2. Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water: Does the offer include treatment planned to provide a permanent source of water for livestock where one does not currently exist or to facilitate Prescribed Grazing (528)? = 65 pts	65 Point(s)
3. Domestic Animals - Stress and Mortality: Will the planned treatment reduce livestock stress and mortality by implementing any of the following practices Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Animal Trails and Walkways (575), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)? = 15 pts	15 Point(s)
4. Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water: Will the planned treatment exclude livestock from an existing water body? = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
5. Plant Condition - Plants not Adapted or Suited: Will the planned treatment include the conversion of existing cropland to permanent vegetation by implementing Range Planting (550)? Answer this question even if you also answer yes to question 11. = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
6. Other: Has the applicant ever had a previous USDA contract that was not fulfilled (cancelled, terminated, currently out of compliance)? = -100 pts	-100 Point(s)
7. Other: Will all items in the project be planned for completion by the end of the second year of the contract? = 40 pts	40 Point(s)
8. Soil Erosion - Stream Bank: Does the offer include practices to address active stream bank erosion by implementing at least two of the following practices: Critical Area Planting (342), Fence (382), Heavy Area Use (561), Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Range Planting (550), Pond (378), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Use Exclusion (472), or Watering Facility (614)? = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
9. Soil Erosion / Water Quality: Does the planned treatment include adoption one or more of the Conservation Buffer practices such as, but not limited to, Contour Buffer Strips (332), or Field Borders (386)? = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
Answer no more than one of the following three questions relating to soil erosion	
10. A. Does the offer include the treatment of soil erosion greater than 2T? = 40 pts	40 Point(s)
10. B. Does the offer include the treatment of soil erosion between 1T and 2T? = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
10. C. Does the offer include the treatment of soil erosion less than T? = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
Answer no more than one of the following two questions relating to grass planting.	
11. A. Plant Condition - Plants not Adapted or Suited: Will the planned treatment include the conversion of existing cropland to permanent vegetation by implementing Forage and Biomass Planting (512) or Range Planting (550) and either Prescribed Grazing (528) or Forage Harvest Management (511) on 0-25% of the offered cropland acres? = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
11. B. Plant Condition - Plants not Adapted or Suited: Will the planned treatment include the conversion of existing cropland to permanent vegetation by implementing Forage and Biomass Planting (512) or Range Planting (550) and either Prescribed Grazing (528) or Forage Harvest Management (511) on 25% or more of the offered cropland acres? = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
Answer no more than one of the following two questions relating to farming technique.	
12. A. Soil Condition - Compaction: Will the proposed project reduce soil compaction by implementing the conservation tillage practice no-till? = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
12. B. Soil Condition - Compaction: Will the proposed project reduce soil compaction by implementing the conservation tillage practice mulch till? = 5 pts	5 Point(s)
Answer no more than one of the following three questions relating to invasive species.	
13. A. Plant Condition - Noxious and invasive Plants: Does the offer include the control of locally identified invasive species on 75-100% of the offered grazingland acres? = 30 pts	30 Point(s)
13. B. Plant Condition - Noxious and invasive Plants: Does the offer include the control of locally identified invasive species on 50-75% of the offered grazingland acres? = 20 pts	20 Point(s)
13. C. Plant Condition - Noxious and invasive Plants: Does the offer include the control of locally identified invasive species on 50% of the offered grazingland acres? = 10 pts	10 Point(s)