Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2016 - Livestock - Grazing/Pasture/Hayland

(Draft)

Description:

Livestock - Grazing/Pasture/Hayland

Land Uses:

Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Farmstead, Pasture

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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
2	a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
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
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10

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
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
	Total Points	500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	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	
	1	a. Is the program application for 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
2		Soil Health: Answer one of the following (Maximum of 65 points).	
	2	a. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of 3 practices that address three or more of the following soil health principals: 1) Using plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil, 2) Managing soils more by disturbing them less, 3) Growing a living root throughout the year, 4) Keeping the soil covered as much as possible?	65
	2	b. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of two practices that address two of the following soil health principals: 1) Using plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil, 2) Managing soils more by disturbing them less, 3) Growing a living root throughout the year, 4) Keeping the soil covered as much as possible?	40
	2	c. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of one practice that address one of the following soil health principals: 1) Using plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil, 2) Managing soils more by disturbing them less, 3) Growing a living root throughout the year, 4) Keeping the soil covered as much as possible?	15
3		Soil Erosion:	
	3	a. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of practices that will result in the long term reduction of soil erosion?	75

4		Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (Answer all that apply for a maximum of 100 points)	
	4	a. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, or pesticides on land within 300 feet from a designated impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody)?	30
	4	b. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, or pesticides on land within 300 feet from a non-impared water body?	15
	4	c. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of 595 Integrated Pest Management and/or (590) Nutrient Management?	25
	4	d. Will the proposed project improve water quality by resulting in development of a drainage water management plan or result in the implementation of targeted practices?	30
5		Healthy Plants and Wildlife: Will the proposed project address Plant Structure and Composition, Plant Pests and Animal Habitat Degradation? (Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points)	
	5	a. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?	20
	5	b. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of practices that increase habitat and forage for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	20
	5	c. Land enrolled in this application establishes native grassland and/or manages grassland habitat within a "prairie core" or "prairie corridor" as defined by the MN Prairie Conservation Plan (refer to GIS layer).	20
6		Insufficient water – inefficient use of irrigation water resource concern:	
	6	a. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or result in the implementation of practices that will improve irrigation water management?	25
7		Livestock Resource Concerns:	
	7	a. EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that solve resource concerns on a livestock operation?	25
8		DWSMA:	

	8	a. Will the proposed project result in solving a surface or ground water resource concern located within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area that is identified in the FY16 EQIP DWSMA GIS layer?	50
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	855

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Local Work Group: Answer one of the following (Maximum of 20 points).	
	1	a. Will the application implement any practice with a lifespan GREATER THAN 15 years in a geographic area specifically identified by the LWG? Documentation from the LWG meeting must be placed in the application folder to support the answer of "yes".	20
	1	b. Will the application implement any practice with a life span of 10 to 15 years in a geographic area specifically identified by the LWG? Documentation from the LWG meeting must be placed in the application folder to support the answer of "yes".	10
2		General Questions:	
	2	a. The applicant has NOT had an AWEP, EQIP or WHIP contract TERMINATED due to non-compliance within the last 5 years.	20
	2	b. Applicant had an FY2015 EQIP Livestock - Grazing/Pasture/Hayland application on the same land, which was "eligible and ranked" but not selected for funding. (To get the points, a copy of the application deferral letter from 2015 has been placed in the applicant's EQIP application folder.)	25
	2	c. The land enrolled in this application includes EXPIRING Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be expiring from a CRP contract on September 30, 2016.	20

	2	d. Will the proposed project implement practices identified in a completed prescribed grazing plan?	25
	2	e. Will application result in establishment of native vegetation to be used for grazing purposes.	35
	2	f. Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind- Will the application convert cropland to pasture as the permanent land use?	35
	2	g. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, or pathogens on pasture within 300 feet from a designated impaired water body?	25
	2	h. Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, or pathogens on pasture within 300 feet from a non-impaired water body?	25
	2	i. Water Quality Degradation - Will the application install Access Control (472) or Stream Crossing (578) along streams or riparian areas?	10
	2	j. Animals – Livestock Water – The application includes practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	260