

**Ranking Tool Summary**

**for FY2016 - FY16 Organic**

**(Draft)**

**Description:**

FY16 Organic Certified

**Land Uses:**

Crop, Farmstead, Forest, 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) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? 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 Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
	2	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	60
3		Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
	3	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	60
4		Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
	4	a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on "non-cropland" acreage?	35
	4	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	35
5		Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points	

	5	a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering the farm?	20
	5	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	50
	5	c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	20
6		Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
	6	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?	50
7		Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	
	7	a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40
	7	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20
	7	c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10
		Maximum Points: 400    Total Points	800

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	a. Is the program application for development of a conservation activity plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared transition to organic plan (138)? If answer is "Yes," do not answer any other Local-level questions. If	250

		answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	
	2	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
	3	a. Will the proposed project implement practices from a previously prepared (2015 or before) Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (CAP 138) plan?	30
	3	b. EQIP schedule of operations plans for the implementation of all funded practices within 3 years or less.	25
	3	c. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T” levels)?	75
	3	d. If the operation is transitioning, is the producer currently working with a certifying agent?	25
	3	e. Will the application implement the Residue Management, No-Till (329) practice (which must be applied on the same acres for 3 consecutive years)?	50
	3	f. Will the application implement one or more of the following organic practices: Conservation Cover (327), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management No-Till (329), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Cover Crops (340), Critical Area Planting (342), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), and Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528)?	25
		Maximum Points: 250    Total Points	500