

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Improving Soil Health

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Improving Soil Health		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<b>Water Quality</b>	
1. a. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations assist the producer to implement a Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS specifications for applying fertilizer according to June Nitrate testing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Will the planned practice(s) in the Schedule of Operations reduce the risk of nutrient or sediment transport to surface water through the implementation of buffers or filter strips between fields and any surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Does the Schedule of Operations include 595, IPM or other practices to assist with the mitigation of the impacts of pesticide application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Condition</b>	
2. a. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include either No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345) with the resource concern for soil quality or soil erosion? (goal: soil structure)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include one or more of the following practices that will integrate 2+ “families” of herbaceous plants (Warm Season Grass, Cool Season Grass, Warm Season Broadleaf and Cool Season Broadleaf): * 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, which specifies grass/legumes in rotation with a commodity crop 2+ "families"; * 512 Forage Biomass Planting – with 3 or more "families" in the seeding mix; * 342 Critical Area Planting with 3 or more "families" in the seeding mix in an orchard or similar	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345) with the resource concern for soil quality: organic matter depletion? (goal: organic matter in the soil)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the practices in the Schedule of Operations include Cover Crop (340) or Crop Rotation (328) planned with either over-lapping harvest/seeding dates, or seeding within 4 weeks after crop termination and seeding within 2 weeks of harvest? (goal: soil structure and soil cover)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Does the Schedule of Operations include practices that result in a Soil Conditioning Index greater than 0?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	
3. a. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are practices in the Schedule of Operations expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Does an identified resource concern of sheet and rill erosion exist, and are practices in the Schedule of Operations expected to reduce the soil loss from above "T" to BELOW "T" according to RUSLE2?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	

1. a. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed, designated Aquifer Protection Area, or the watershed of a Class A or Class AA Inland Surface Water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Is this application located in an area where a watershed-based plan has been completed or is under development?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Is this application for land that is currently in corn production (silage, sweet or grain)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Degree of Cooperation by Producer</b>	
2. a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Does the applicant have any contracts that are currently in violation (with a CPA-153) or have any contracts that were terminated for failure to comply with contract terms and provisions within the last 3 years?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Magnitude of Expected Benefits</b>	
3. a. Has the producer completed, or is currently enrolled in, an organic certification program recognized by USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Is the applicant willing to cooperate with the NGO project partners by allowing access for water quality monitoring?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p><b>Final Ranking Score:</b></p>
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<p><b>NRCS Representative:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b></p>  <p><b>Signature Date:</b></p>
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