

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Beginning Farmer - AFO/CAFO

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Beginning Farmer - AFO/CAFO		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

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"/>
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)?	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"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
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"/>
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?	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"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
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"/>
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.	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
Choose no more than one of the following two questions:	
1. Does the applicant have a fully developed CNMP with a site inventory and evaluation (I&E) to handle manure and wastewater storage and treatment (if needed) and a phosphorus based nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the applicant have a Prescribed Grazing (528) plan including an Inventory & Evaluation/I&E for the requested practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
State Questions Continued:	
3. Is there a current conservation plan (plan that adequately addresses soil erosion, water quality, including nutrients if applicable) for the proposed project area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Are high animal concentration areas creating an environmental problem anytime of the year, and the proposed project will address the resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is the applicant applying one or more practices to include filter areas, field borders to provide edge of field protection for the management of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Are livestock excluded or will be excluded from surface water sources (except for stable crossings) and the protected riparian area is at least 15 feet wide from top of bank? (Wider buffer may receive additional points from next question.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Are livestock excluded or will be excluded from surface water sources (except for stable crossings) and the protected riparian buffer is at least 35 feet wide?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Is there an existing Riparian Forest Buffer (minimum width 35 feet) on all streams on the project area, or will the applicant establish these buffers within the contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Is the applicant someone who has not received an NRCS (CBWI or EQIP) contract within the last 3 fiscal years, other than a Conservation Activity (CAP) Plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Is the majority of the offered acreage located in the 12-Digit HUC that Pennsylvania NRCS has identified as a FY 2016 Targeted Priority Watershed? [Use GIS layer (High/Medium Priority watershed) located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Concerns_FY2016.gdb]?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Is the applicant applying one or more of the following practices (327, 329, 330, 340, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 512, 528, 585, 590, 600) in a land unit that contains poorly, somewhat poorly drained soils [Use GIS layer poor_somewhat_poor_drained_soils) located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Concerns_FY2016.gdb] to reduce surface runoff from these areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Is the applicant applying one or more of the following practices (327, 340, 386, 390, 391, 393, 512, 528, 561, 590, 595, 635) in a land unit that contains high leaching potential soils [Use GIS layer high_leaching located in F:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Concerns_FY2016.gdb] to reduce nutrient or pesticide movement?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

13. Is the majority of the offered acreage located in the 12-Digit HUC that Pennsylvania NRCS has identified as a FY 2016 "Brook Trout - Greatly Reduced" Targeted Priority Watershed? [Use GIS layer (Brook Trout Reduced Watersheds) located in F:\geodata project_data\nrcs\Priority_Resource_Concerns_FY2016.gdb]?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
--	---

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Questions Choose one of the following two question:	
1. Is a resource concern affecting water quality within 100 feet of a stream, well, wetland, sinkhole or other water body whereas the applicant will address the concern by implementation of practices contained in the application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is a resource concern affecting water quality within 200' feet of a stream, well, wetland, sinkhole or other water body whereas the applicant will address the concern by implementation of practices contained in the application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
General Questions (Continued)	
3. Does the applicant have an unprotected animal concentration area (ACA) and/or mushroom wharf that will be treated to reduce/eliminate resource concerns by implementation of the proposed contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Is the applicant adopting a Prescribed Grazing System with increased number of paddocks for a more intensive management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the proposed grazing system include the conversion of cropland acres to permanent pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is there a water quality concern from waste water, milk house waste, or silage leachate on the farm which will be treated by implementation of the proposed contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will all streams, ponds, and water bodies have a vegetated buffer at least 35' wide after implementation of the contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Is the application for conservation practices on land protected from development by an existing conservation easement?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
--------------------------	------------------

Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

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:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: