

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Beginning Farmer - General**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Beginning Farmer - General		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
State Questions:	
1. Does the applicant have a current conservation plan (plan that adequately addresses soil erosion and water quality) for the land that is being offered for enrollment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the proposed project area have soil quality resource concerns (example: compaction, low fertility, erosion) that will be addressed with practices applied as part of the contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the planned treatment improve water quality in streams that transport runoff from the proposed land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the proposed project support the management of pesticides in a more environmentally and production friendly way?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer in approving an existing irrigation system improvements?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. 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"/>
7. 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"/>
8. Is the producer a Limited Resource Farmer based on the USDA online self determination tool?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. 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"/>
10. 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"/>
11. 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"/>
12. 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. Will practices implemented through this application result in the reduction of excessive pesticide and nutrient runoff on cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will practices implemented through this application result in the implementation or assist in improving an already existing no-till cropping system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will practices implemented through application result in the reduction or treatment of compaction on cropland and/or forest land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will practices implemented through application aide in controlling noxious plants on non-cropped areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Will the proposed contract include any of the following practices: Conservation Tillage, Cover Crops, Buffers at least 35 feet wide, Contouring, Strip Cropping, Contour Buffer Strips, Pollinator Habitat (0.5 acre minimum)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does the applicant have a current soil test (within 3 years) on the proposed contract acres?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will the application and requested practices result in improved forest regeneration and improved forest wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Will the proposed contract include a vegetative buffer at least 35 feet wide?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. 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
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Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>

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