

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
FY17 High Tunnel System

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS FUND POOL. DO NOT ANSWER THESE CRITERIA.

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Point(s)
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.	250
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)?	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
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
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
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?	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
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
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
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.	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
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?	10
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by- (select all that apply)	
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
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?	10
<b>State Issues Addressed</b>	
<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Point(s)</b>
State Category One – DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Select ‘Yes’ to All Applicable Answers)	
1. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to extend the growing season of seasonal crops; and, practice(s) will be scheduled if needed to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.	200
1. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow; and, practice(s) will be scheduled if needed to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.	150
1. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants that would otherwise be damaged by excessive sunlight; and, practice(s) will be scheduled if needed to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.	75
1. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants otherwise be damaged by excessive wind; and, practice(s) will be scheduled if needed to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.	75
<b>Local Issues Addressed</b>	
<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Point(s)</b>
Local Category One – SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Organic Matter Depletion (Select ‘Yes’ to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes adoption of a seasonal high tunnel system and results in implementation of a conservation crop rotation system that includes conservation practice, 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation, in conjunction with soil building practices, such as, cover crop, mulching and/or conservation cover, to sustain or improve soil organic matter in footprint of the seasonal high tunnel system.	70
1. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes adoption of a seasonal high tunnel system and soil building practices such as, cover crop, mulching and/or conservation cover to sustain or improve soil organic matter in the footprint of the seasonal high tunnel system.	50

Local Category Two – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management Conservation treatment (structural and/or management) results in attainment of 449 – Irrigation Water Management: (Select "Yes" to One Answer, if applicable)	
2. a. Conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as "High" in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the Irrigation Scheduling planning tool.	20
2. b. Conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as "Medium" or "Low" in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the Irrigation Scheduling planning tool.	15
2. c. Conservation treatment will achieve Level I irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3.	10
Local Category Three – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations – (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
3. a. Result in development and implementation of an irrigation water management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 449 – Irrigation Water Management, to reduce the potential for off-site transport of nutrients to surface water.	10
3. b. Result in development and implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management, to reduce the potential for off-site transport of nutrients to surface water.	10
Local Category Four – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes management practices that minimize the amount of nutrients/organic material moving below the root zone; management practices include NRCS conservation practice, 590 - Nutrient Management and/or 449 - Irrigation Water Management. The hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. A, soils with high infiltration rates.	20
4. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates.	15
4. c. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates.	10
Local Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water (Select 'Yes' to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices or IPM techniques from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating for at least one pesticide to 'Low' or 'Very Low' and adoption of a Year-Round University of California Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM), when available for the crop or other comparable protocol.	20
5. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices or IPM techniques from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating to 'Low' or 'Very Low' for at least one pesticide.	15