

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 On-Farm Energy**

**STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR
NATIONAL CRITERIA ARE
NOT APPLICABLE - 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-eroeland?	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
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
If the application is for the 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-level questions.	
1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)? 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
With regard to applications containing energy efficiency practices (answer one of the following):	
2. a The application contains two or more core practices.	100
2. b The application contains at least one core practice and additional supporting practices.	50
2. c The application contains only supporting practices.	0
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by (select all that apply):	
3. a Implementing irrigation practices that reduce energy and reduce aquifer overdraft?	50
3. b Implementing practices that recycle or reuse water?	50
Air Quality - Does the application contain projects that improve air quality by (answer one of the following):	
4. a Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by 100,000 pounds or more?	100
4. b Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by at least 75,000 pounds but less than 100,000 pounds?	75
4. c Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by at least 50,000 pounds but less than 75,000 pounds?	50
4. d Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by at least 25,000 pounds but less than 50,000 pounds?	20
4. e Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by at least 10,000 pounds but less than 25,000 pounds?	10
4. f Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by less than 10,000 pounds?	0
Use the “Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet” to calculate the estimated energy cost efficiency value for the conservation practices in the EQIP Plan/Schedule of Operations. Answer one of the following questions:	
5. a Is the estimated energy cost efficiency 50 percent or more?	100
5. b Is the estimated energy cost efficiency between 30 and 50 percent?	50
5. c Is the estimated energy cost efficiency less than 30 percent?	25
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One – Conservation Activity Plan If the application is for the 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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local level questions.	
1. a. Is the EQIP application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
Local Category Two – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Equipment and Facilities (Energy Use on Headquarters) Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes: (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	

2. a. NRCS Conservation Practice 374 - Farmstead Energy Improvement, 670 - Lighting System Improvement, OR 672 - Building Envelope Improvement to reduce headquarters energy use as identified in an ASABE S612 Type II Headquarters Energy Audit.	25
2. b. NRCS Conservation 380 – Windbreak Shelterbelt or 650 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation to reduce headquarters energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	15
Local Category Three – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations reduces irrigation-related energy use and includes: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. NRCS Conservation Practices, 533 - Pumping Plant AND 449 - Irrigation Water Management, to reduce irrigation-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	70
3. b. NRCS Conservation Practices, 533 - Pumping Plant OR 449 - Irrigation Water Management, to reduce irrigation-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	30
Local Category Four – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations reduces energy use and includes: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. NRCS Conservation Practices, 340 - Cover Crop AND 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation, to reduce cropland management-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	70
4. b. NRCS Conservation Practices, 340 - Cover Crop OR 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation, to reduce cropland management-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	30
Local Category Five – INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations reduces cropland tillage management-related energy use and includes: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. NRCS Conservation Practices, 329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till, to reduce cropland tillage management-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	70
5. b. NRCS Conservation Practice, 345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till to reduce cropland tillage management-related energy use as identified by the appropriate NRCS tool.	40