

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary**  
**FY15 Grazing Land, Northern Tier**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY15 Grazing Land, Northern Tier	<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
1. Does the site where the practice is to be applied have a high or moderately high runoff potential as identified in the Maryland Soil Runoff Risk Assessment GIS layer? If Yes, will the planned practice reduce the risk of nutrient or chemical loss due to runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the predominant soil where the practice is to be applied have a high leaching potential as identified in the Maryland Soil Leaching Risk Assessment GIS layer? If Yes, will the planned practice reduce the risk of nutrient or chemical loss due to leaching?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does the predominant soil where the practice is to be applied have a Moderately High leaching potential as identified in the Maryland Soil Leaching Risk Assessment GIS layer? If Yes, will the planned practice reduce the risk of nutrient or chemical loss due to leaching?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Is the planned practice less than 50 feet from surface water? If Yes, will the planned practice reduce the risk of nutrient or sediment transport to surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is the planned practice between 50-150 feet from surface water? If Yes, will the planned practice reduce the risk of nutrient or sediment transport to surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is the the predominant acreage of the tract with in an impaired area that is in the 75th percentile or greater for BOTH Nitrogen and Phosphorous yields delivered to water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Is the the predominant acreage of the tract with in an impaired area that is in the 75th percentile or greater for Nitrogen or Phosphorous yields delivered to water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Is the the predominant acreage of the tract with in an impaired area that is between the 50-75th percentile or greater for BOTH Nitrogen and Phosphorous yields delivered to water bodies?? If one Nutrient is greater than the 75 percentile and the other is in the 50-75 percentile range, Answer this question Yes.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Is the the predominant acreage of the tract with in an impaired area that is between the 50-75th percentile for Nitrogen or Phosphorous yields delivered to water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does the application include a practice identified as an AVOIDING measure? (Avoid practices include 313, 316, 317, 327, 342, 359, 366, 410, 412, 468, 472, 590, 612, 629, 632, 633, 634)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Does the application include a practice identified as a CONTROLLING measure? (Control practices include 328, 329, 340, 345, 360, 362, 382, 386, 511, 512, 528, 558, 561, 579, 580, 587, 591, 600, 614)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Does the application include a practice identified as a TRAPPING measure? (TRAP measures include 350, 378, 380, 390, 391, 393, 422, 635, 646, 657, 658)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Have ALL designs, design components, and job sheets been completed for ALL planned practices in this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Does the applicant have a conservation plan that contains the practice they are applying for?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

2. Does the applicant have a current CNMP which contains the practice(s) they are applying for?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Are all active contracts on schedule (no practices scheduled in 2014 or prior) OR applicant has had no prior contracts at all?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Is the applicant applying for practices which will meet the Certainty Program requirements?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. In the last 3 years, has the applicant completed all previous Farm Bill contracts with out any terminations, cancellations, requests to cancel, or not had any contracts at all?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does this application include two or more practices identified in the 2015 Maryland Milestone? See a complete list of the 2015 Maryland Milestone practices posted on the Maryland Share Point site in EQIP 2015.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does this application include one practice identified in the 2015 Maryland Milestone? See a complete list of the 2015 Maryland Milestone practices posted on the Maryland Share Point site in EQIP 2015.	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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