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## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2019 - EQIP 2019 Forestland Beginning Farmer (Draft)

#### Description:

EQIP 2019. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2019 Forestland Beginning Farmer applications.

#### Land Uses:

Forest

#### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 5.610

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

|                |                 |             |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| High: 100 - 70 | Medium: 69 - 30 | Low: 29 - 0 |
| 100-70         | 69-30           | 29-0        |

#### Optional Notes:

#### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

|                 |                   |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| High: 250 - 175 | Medium: 174 - 100 | Low: 99 - 0 |
| 250-175         | 174-100           | 99-0        |

#### Questions:

| Number | Question   | Points |
|--------|--|--------|
| 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    |
| 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     |
| 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     |
| 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  |
| 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  |
| 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  |
| 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  |
| 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  |
| 9            | a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?               | 10  |
| Total Points |   | 500 |

**State Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

|                 |                   |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| High: 300 - 200 | Medium: 199 - 100 | Low: 99 - 0 |
| 300-200         | 199-100           | 99-0        |

**Questions:**

| Sub-heading Number | Question Number | Question   | Points |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|--------|
|                    | 1               | Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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.   | 300    |
|                    | 2               | Water Quality: Does the application include Tree Planting to convert at least 10 acres of open planning land unit acreage (or all offered planning land units if less than 10 acres) to trees (does not include sites with Ecological Site Descriptions for Prairie, Savanna or Glade)?  | 80     |
|                    | 3               | Degraded Plant Condition: Does the application include at least one practice (314, 315 or 528 Biological Control with Grazing Animals scenario) to adequately address non-native invasive species that are currently crowding native forest plants, impeding tree regeneration, and degrading forest health & wildlife habitat quality, thus limiting forest management options? | 80     |
|                    | 4               | Degraded Plant Condition: Does the application include Forest Stand Improvement (666) to achieve the desired stocking rate and species diversity?  | 60     |
|                    | 5               | Soil Erosion: Does the application include Access Control (472) to exclude all livestock on all forest and/or riparian areas (perennial streams, wetlands, and sinkholes), currently accessed by livestock?  | 50     |
|                    | 6               | Soil Erosion: Does the application include Forest Trails & Landings (655) on   | 30     |

|  |  |  |                  |
|--|--|--|------------------|
|  |  | existing log landings & harvest trails that are currently eroding? |                  |
|  |  | Maximum Points: 300  | Total Points 600 |

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

|                 |                   |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| High: 350 - 200 | Medium: 199 - 100 | Low: 99 - 0 |
| 350-200         | 199-100           | 99-0        |

Questions:

| Sub-heading Number | Question Number | Question   | Points           |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|
|                    | 1               | Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? 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. | 350              |
|                    | 2               | Does the applicant qualify for Limited Resource Farmer?  | 88               |
|                    | 3               | Does the applicant qualify for Socially Disadvantaged?   | 88               |
|                    | 4               | Does the applicant qualify for Veterans Preference status?   | 87               |
|                    | 5               | Does the applicant qualify for Beginning Farmer?   | 87               |
|                    |                 | Maximum Points: 350  | Total Points 700 |

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Air Quality Impacts: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

- Access Control (472)
- Brush Management (314)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)

Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition

- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

- Fence (382)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Firebreak (394)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Restoration and Management of Declining (643)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Structures for Wildlife (649)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food Conservation Cover (327)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage Fence (382)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
  - Access Control (472)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Fence (382)
  - Forest Trails and Landings (655)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
  - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
  - Well Decommissioning (351)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

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