

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY19 Organic Transition
Program: EQIP, Fiscal Year 2019, Sign-up 2019-1
National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	250 Point(s)
<p>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?</p>	15 Point(s)
<p>2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>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)?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.</p>	15 Point(s)
<p>3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?</p>	10 Point(s)

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 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	

8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)

State Issues 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 state priority category.	
1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? 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 Point(s)
Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	60 Point(s)
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	60 Point(s)

Water and Air Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
4. a Does the EQIP schedule of operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering the farm?	35 Point(s)
4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	35 Point(s)
Degraded Plant Habitat: Maximum of 90 points	
5. a Does the EQIP schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on noncropland acreage?	20 Point(s)
5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	50 Point(s)
5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	20 Point(s)
Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?	50 Point(s)
Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	
7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40 Point(s)
7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application for development of a conservation activity plan (CAP) for a Technical Service Provider (TSP)- prepared transition to organic plan (138)? If the answer is "Yes," do not answer any other local-level questions. If the answer is "No," proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Will the practices you intend to implement using EQIP result in the treatment of classic or ephemeral gullies, sheet and rill erosion, or annual wind erosion on land currently documented as eroding above "T?"	60 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in practice installation on a land unit that is documented on the plan map as being directly adjacent to surface water? (Surface water is defined by CP22 in 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Amend. 1 & 2.)	70 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a positive treatment on land where current activities on the land are degrading the soil quality, as documented by a negative Soil Conditioning Index?	60 Point(s)
5. Is any portion of the land included in this application within a MDNRE impaired watershed (surface water), as shown on the impaired watersheds map?	60 Point(s)