

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Application Ranking Summary**  
**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)-Nearshore Health**  
**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)

2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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 the development of a CAP for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102), Nutrient Management Plan (104), or Drainage Water Management Plan (130)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other State-level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions.	400 Point(s)
Phosphorus Priority:	
2. a. Is the program application located in a phosphorus priority watershed? Yes = 100 points; No - 0 points	100 Point(s)

Watershed Impacts:	
3. a. Does the program application include core conservation practices planned for phosphorus reduction within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area (Example: State or county watershed plan, NGO focus watershed) that addresses the same or similar watershed impairments (excess nutrients or sediment)? Yes = 100 points; No = 0 points	100 Point(s)
Collaborative Efforts - Edge of Field Monitoring:	
4. a. Does the program application include core conservation practices planned for phosphorus reduction within a phosphorus priority watershed that has a joint NRCS/USGS edge of field and stream monitoring project in place (or scheduled to be in place) and located upstream of the stream gauge? Yes = 75 points; No = 0 points	75 Point(s)
Soil Health - Will the program application result in improved soil health by (select all that apply):	
5. a. Implementing Residue Management (329 and/or 345 for all crops), and basic, enhanced, or advanced nutrient management on acres not previously using these practices or if being implemented to reach a higher level of nutrient reduction than previously achieved within GLRI-identified priority watersheds? Yes to both criteria = 50 points; No to any = 0 points	50 Point(s)
5. b. Implementing Cover Crop (340) on acres not previously using this practice within GLRI-identified priority watershed? Yes = 50 points; No = 0 points	50 Point(s)

<b>Drainage Water Management:</b>	
6. Will the program application include practices that result in lowered phosphorus loading through Drainage Water Management (554)? Yes = 25 points; No = 0 points	25 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Will this application result in the adoption of a Nutrient Management System as defined by the 590 standard?	40 Point(s)
2. Will this application result in the adoption of a 100 percent No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed system?	40 Point(s)
3. Will this application result in the use of cover crops in the crop rotation?	30 Point(s)
4. Has the applicant completed any Farm*A*Syst tools in the last 3 years?	20 Point(s)
5. Is the applicant working toward MAEAP verification?	20 Point(s)
6. Will this application result in the installation of Riparian Forest Buffer (391) or Filter Strip (393)?	20 Point(s)
7. Will this application result in the adequate storage of livestock waste?	20 Point(s)
8. Will this application result in no contaminated runoff leaving the headquarters?	20 Point(s)
9. Will this application result in the implementation of a prescribed grazing system that implements one or more of these practices: Prescribed Grazing (528); Heavy Use Area Protection (561); Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580); Watering Facility (614); Stream Crossing (578); or Access Control (472)?	20 Point(s)
10. Will this application result in the conversion of confined livestock to grazing?	20 Point(s)