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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2019 - FY19 Organic Transition

(Draft)

Description:

EQIP 2019. This ranking tool is to be used when ranking EQIP 2019 Organic Transition applications.

Land Uses:

Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Pasture

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 37.860

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,	10

	PM10)?	
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: 400 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
400-200	199-100	99-0

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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
2		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
3		Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
	3	Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	60
4		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 contaminates from entering the farm?	35

	4	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	35
5		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
	5	b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	50
	5	c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	20
6		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
7		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
	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
	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
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	800

Local Issues:

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:

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.	250
	2	Does the applicant qualify for Veterans preference status?	100
	3	Does the applicant qualify for Beginning Farmer?	50
	4	Does the applicant qualify for Limited Resource Farmer?	50
	5	Does the applicant qualify for Socially Disadvantaged?	50
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	500

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality Impacts: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Alley Cropping (311)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Hedgerow Planting (422)

- 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)
 - Integrated Pest Management (595)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
 - Brush Management (314)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
 - Fence (382)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
 - High Tunnel System (325)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Firebreak (394)
 - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Hedgerow Planting (422)
 - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Prescribed Grazing (528)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
 - Conservation Cover (327)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
 - Drainage Water Management (554)
- Inefficient Energy Use: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations
 - Pumping Plant (533)
- Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
 - Irrigation Pipeline (430)
 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
 - Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurfac (443)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)
 - Pumping Plant (533)
 - Sprinkler System (442)
- Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
 - Fence (382)
 - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
 - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
 - Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water
 - Livestock Pipeline (516)
 - Pond (378)

- Pumping Plant (533)
- Spring Development (574)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
 - Alley Cropping (311)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Diversion (362)
 - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
 - Grassed Waterway (412)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
 - Underground Outlet (620)
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
 - Alley Cropping (311)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Diversion (362)
 - Grassed Waterway (412)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Terrace (600)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
 - Underground Outlet (620)
 - Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Contour Farming (330)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Forage & Biomass Planting (512)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
 - Stripcropping (585)
 - Terrace (600)
 - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
 - Access Control (472)
 - Stream Crossing (578)
- Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
 - Alley Cropping (311)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Tra (138)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till (329)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
 - Access Control (472)
 - Animal Mortality Facility (316)
 - Composting Facility (317)
 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - (102)
 - Pumping Plant (533)
 - Roofs and Covers (367)
 - Waste Storage Facility (313)
 - Waste Transfer (634)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
 - Access Control (472)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Fence (382)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Terrace (600)
- Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
 - Pond Sealing or Lining (520)
 - Subsurface Drain (606)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - (102)
 - Drainage Water Management (554)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Nutrient Management Plan - Written (104)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
 - Drainage Water Management (554)
 - Integrated Pest Management (595)

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