

Beginning Farmer/Rancher

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

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

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Water Quality Degradation:	
	1	a. Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the reduction of nutrients in surface and/or ground waters?	100
	1	b. Excessive Sediment in surface waters: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the reduction of sediment in surface waters?	50
2		Soil Erosion:	
	2	a. Concentrated Flow Erosion: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the reduction of concentrated flow erosion?	75
	2	b. Sheet, Rill, & Wind Erosion: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the reduction of sheet, rill and/or wind erosion?	50
3		Soil Quality Degradation:	
	3	a. Organic Matter Depletion: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the increase of soil organic matter?	50
4		Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife:	
	4	a. Habitat Degradation Food, Water Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity / Space: Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will result in the improvement of wildlife habitat?	75
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points
			400

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Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Livestock Resource Concerns:	
	1	a. Will the proposed project result in the implementation of a practice(s) that will solve a resource concern(s) on a livestock operation?	100
2		General Questions:	
	2	a. Will the proposed project result in ANNUALLY planted cropland acres being converted to perennial hay, pasture or biomass production?	75
	2	b. Will the proposed project result in implementation of a practice(s) identified in an EXISTING management plan (examples: forest management plan, nutrient management plan, etc.)?	75
Maximum Points: 250 Total Points			250