

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2018 - Wildlife-Grassland Habitat

National Priorities:

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 (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)?	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:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	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		Comprehensive Landuse Plan with Wildlife Emphasis	
	1	Comprehensive Landuse Plan with Wildlife Emphasis - Site has an existing grassland management plan developed or approved by a natural resource professional with wildlife as the objective.	50
3		Landuse history	
	1	Site is existing prairie remnant > 10 acres being renovated. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	90
	2	Site is cropland or hayland > 40 acres being converted to native grassland and forb system for native grassland wildlife. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	90
	3	Site is existing prairie remnant < 10 acres being renovated. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	60
	4	Site is cropland or hayland 20-40 acres being converted to native grassland and forb system for native grassland wildlife. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	60
	5	Site is existing grassland system > 40 acres being enhanced and will be used to demonstrate wildlife and grazing compatibility. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	50
	6	Site is existing mixed stand of native grasses > 40 acres being enhanced by addition of forbs. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	40
	7	Site is existing grassland system > 20 acres being enhanced for demonstrating wildlife and grazing compatibility. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	35
	8	Site is cropland or hayland 5-20 acres being converted to native grassland and forb system for wildlife. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	30
	9	Site is existing natives of 10-40 acres being enhanced with additional native grassland species. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	20
	10	Site fits none of the descriptions from questions 8-16. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.10)	0
4		Pollinators	
	1	The site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat benefiting native pollinators. If Yes continue to Questions 4.3 - 4.5	10
	2	The site is not verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat benefiting native pollinators. If No continue with Question 5.1.	0
	3	A minimum of 80% of the site is greater than 120 feet from areas treated with pesticides.	30
	4	At a minimum the site has 3 species of flower plants in each of the three seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall) of which a minimum of 2 are species of	30

		milkweed, one native legume and one native bunch grass or clump-forming sedge.	
	5	Site has a minimum of 45% forb cover	20
5		Habitat Longevity	
	1	Project will be applied to land that is under a permanent conservation easement.	35
6		Contribution to planned resource management system	
	1	The agreement will contribute to applying the planned resource management system for the property.	35
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	985

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the Local priority category.	
	1	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		Geographical Priority Area	
	1	Southern Iowa Grasslands (Grand River Grasslands project area). (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	80
	2	Site is within the Loess Hills Special Landscape Area. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	65
	3	Prairie Remnant within the Loess Hills Landform or Upper Little Sioux River Prairie Remnant areas. . (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	55
	4	All other Grassland Iowa Bird Conservation Areas not already mentioned. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	45
	5	Predicted suitability of landscapes for greater prairie chickens in Iowa. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	25
	6	None of questions 2-1 through 2-5. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.6)	0

3		Percentage of Grassland within One Mile	
	1	Percentage of Grassland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of the Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is: More than 35 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	110
	2	Percentage of Grassland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of the Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is: > 20 but < 35 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	80
	3	Percentage of Grassland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of the Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is: > 10 but < 20 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	45
	4	Percentage of Grassland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of the Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is: Less than 10 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	5
4		Species of Concern	
	1	Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for State or Federally listed Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate species AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.2)	110
	2	Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan or USFWS Region 3 list of Birds of Conservation Concern AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. (Attach a list with specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.2)	55
5		Habitat Continuity	
	1	Application is for a group project where two or more adjacent landowners are applying practices to the same habitat resource.	25
	2	Application site is adjacent to a site under permanent protection by a conservation entity.	25
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	1075