

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2018 - Wildlife-Forestland 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 forestland or savanna management plan that has wildlife habitat as the main objective which was developed or reviewed by a natural resource professional.	80
3		Site Objective Emphasis is on Producing Hard Mast Species at Maturity (DBH >12")	
	1	Site Objective Emphasis is on Producing Hard Mast Species at Maturity (DBH >12") - Site will have >80% of optimal stocking rate of hardmast trees at maturity OR site is a savanna identified in writing by a resource professional and approved as such by NRCS that is under active management and protection to maintain that condition. (Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1-3.4)	60
	2	Site Objective Emphasis is on Producing Hard Mast Species at Maturity (DBH >12") - Site will have > 60% but < 80% optimal stocking rate at maturity.(Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	40
	3	Site Objective Emphasis is on Producing Hard Mast Species at Maturity (DBH >12") - Site will have > 35% but < 60% optimal stocking rate at maturity.(Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	25
	4	Site Objective Emphasis is on Producing Hard Mast Species at Maturity (DBH >12") - Site will have <35% optimal stocking rate at maturity.(Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.4)	0
4		Diversity of Native Hard Mast Tree Species in Forestland Stand at Maturity	
	1	Diversity of Native Hard Mast Tree Species in Forestland Stand at Maturity - Woodland stand will have > 4 species of hardwoods with both the white and red oak groups represented. All Species counted must be native woody plants, do not include introduced species. Species must comprise at least two percent of the tree species to be counted as part of the stand. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	60
	2	Diversity of Native Hard Mast Tree Species in Forestland Stand at Maturity - Woodland stand will have > 4 species of hardwoods with only either the white oak or the red oak group represented. All Species counted must be native woody plants, do not include introduced species. Species must comprise at least two percent of the tree species to be counted as part of the stand. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	40
	3	Diversity of Native Hard Mast Tree Species in Forestland Stand at Maturity - Woodland stand will have < 4 species of hardwoods. All Species counted must be native woody plants, do not include introduced species. Species must comprise at least two percent of the tree species to be counted as part of the stand. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	0
	4	Diversity of Oak Savanna Restoration at Maturity - Savanna will have either Burr Oak or White Oak woodland community and appropriate associated shrub	60

		community at maturity. Appropriate shrub community species includes hazelnut, lead plant, New Jersey tea, smooth sumac, pasture rose, and prairie willow. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	
	5	Diversity of Oak Savanna Restoration at Maturity - Savanna will have either Burr Oak or White Oak woodland community but will not have the appropriate shrub community. Appropriate shrub community species includes hazelnut, lead plant, New Jersey tea, smooth sumac, pasture rose, and prairie willow. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	40
	6	Diversity of Oak Savanna Restoration at Maturity - Savanna will not have either Burr Oak or White Oak woodland community or appropriate associated shrub community at maturity. Appropriate shrub community species includes hazelnut, lead plant, New Jersey tea, smooth sumac, pasture rose, and prairie willow. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.6)	0
5		Age Class of the Forest Stand with Which the EQIP Project is Associated	
	1	Age Class of the Forest Stand with Which the EQIP Project is Associated - Forestland is > 50 percent pole timber (4-12 " DBH). (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.4)	40
	2	Age Class of the Forest Stand with Which the EQIP Project is Associated - Forestland is > 50 percent is saw timber (> 12 " DBH). (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.4)	20
	3	Age Class of the Forest Stand with Which the EQIP Project is Associated - Forestland is > 50 percent regeneration (< 4" DBH). (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.4)	15
	4	Age Class of the Forest Stand with Which the EQIP Project is Associated - Forestland does not meet the criteria in question 5-1, 5-2, 5-3. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.4)	0
	5	Savanna canopy cover will be between 25 – 60% upon completion of restoration. (Answer Yes to one of question 5.1 or 5.6)	30
	6	Savanna canopy cover will be between 0 – 24% or 61 – 100% upon completion of restoration. (Answer Yes to one of question 5.1 or 5.6)	0
6		Easement Protected	
	1	Project will be applied to privately owned land that is under a permanent conservation easement.	15
7		Contribution to Planned Resource Management System	
	1	The EQIP financial assistance agreement will contribute to applying the planned resource management system for the property.	15
		Maximum Points: 300 Total Points	840

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		Geographic Priority Area	
	1	Site is within the primary Forestland Priority Area or a woodland or savanna Bird Conservation Area. (If site is within both the primary and secondary Forestland Priority Areas, select the priority area with the most acres for this application)(Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	120
	2	Site is within the secondary Forestland Priority Area. (If site is within both the primary and secondary Forestland Priority Areas, select the priority area with the most acres for this application)(Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	45
	3	Site is not within an identified Forestland Priority Area. (Answer Yes to one of questions 2.1 - 2.3)	0
3		Species of Concern	
	1	Site is verified by a resource professional in writing with the application as providing habitat for an animal State or Federal Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species AND the practices and management planned and applied to the site will improve habitat for that identified species. Document in file the specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.(Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.2)	90
	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. Document in file the specie(s) name(s) and a copy of what the habitat improvement will be.(Answer Yes to one of questions 3.1 - 3.2)	45
4		Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius	
	1	Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of Forestland EQIP Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is more than 60 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.5)	55
	2	Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of Forestland EQIP Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is 40 - 60 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.5)	35
	3	Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of Forestland EQIP Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is 20 - 39 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.5)	25

	4	Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of Forestland EQIP Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is 5 - 19 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.5)	15
	5	Percentage of Forestland within One Mile Radius Circle Measured from the Center of Forestland EQIP Application Site (1 mile radius circle is ~ 2000 acres) is less than 5 percent. (Answer Yes to one of questions 4.1 - 4.5)	0
5		Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated	
	1	Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated - Forestland is > 150 acres. This is for forestland not savanna. Count the total contiguous forestland acres, not just the acres on the tract owned by the EQIP applicant. (Linear areas must average at least 66 feet wide to be counted as forest for this category.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	60
	2	Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated - Forestland is > 100 but < 150 acres. This is for forestland not savanna. Count the total contiguous forestland acres, not just the acres on the tract owned by the EQIP applicant. (Linear areas must average at least 66 feet wide to be counted as forest for this category.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	35
	3	Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated - Forestland is > 65 but < 100 acres. This is for forestland not savanna. Count the total contiguous forestland acres, not just the acres on the tract owned by the EQIP applicant. (Linear areas must average at least 66 feet wide to be counted as forest for this category.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	25
	4	Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated - Forestland is > 25 but < 65 acres. This is for forestland not savanna. Count the total contiguous forestland acres, not just the acres on the tract owned by the EQIP applicant. (Linear areas must average at least 66 feet wide to be counted as forest for this category.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	15
	5	Total Size of the Entire Forestland Area with Which the Project is Associated - Forestland is < 25 acres. This is for forestland not savanna. Count the total contiguous forestland acres, not just the acres on the tract owned by the EQIP applicant. (Linear areas must average at least 66 feet wide to be counted as forest for this category.) (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	0
	6	Total Size of the Oak Savanna Area being Managed - Savanna is > 40 acres. Savanna includes the entire area, both the tree-shrub areas and the associated open areas of prairie. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	60
	7	Total Size of the Oak Savanna Area being Managed - Savanna is >30 but < 40 acres. Savanna includes the entire area, both the tree-shrub areas and the associated open areas of prairie. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	35
	8	Total Size of the Oak Savanna Area being Managed - Savanna is > 15 acres but < 30 acres. Savanna includes the entire area, both the tree-shrub areas and the associated open areas of prairie. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	25
	9	Total Size of the Oak Savanna Area being Managed - Savanna is > 5 acres but < 15 acres. Savanna includes the entire area, both the tree-shrub areas and the associated open areas of prairie. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	15
	10	Total Size of the Oak Savanna Area being Managed - Savanna is < 5 acres. Savanna includes the entire area, both the tree-shrub areas and the associated open areas of prairie. (Answer Yes to one of questions 5.1 - 5.10)	0
6		Habitat Continuity	
	1	EQIP application site is adjacent to (contiguous with) a site under permanent protection by a conservation entity.	25
		Maximum Points: 350 Total Points	1075