

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY18 Organic Transition

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: FY18 Organic Transition		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. 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 Local-level questions. If answer is "No," proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does the proposed project lie adjacent to a Montana 303(d)-list identified water body where nutrients are listed as the cause of impairment using the NRCS Determination Tool?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will practices in this application only be applied on cropland that is currently in annual crop production?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the application include practices that address soil erosion as a resource concern? Conservation Cover (327), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management-No Till (329), Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management (345), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Field Border (386), Irrigation Water Management (449), Mulching (484), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528) Strip-cropping (585), or Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)? Select only ONE of the following options from 4a, 4b, or 4c:	
4. a) 3 or more practices listed above.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b) 2 practices listed above.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c) 1 practice listed above.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Does the application directly benefit soil health with any of the following practices? Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management-No Till (329), Cover Crop (340), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Nutrient Management (590), Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (610)? Select only ONE of the following options 5a or 5b:	
5. a) 2 or more practices listed above.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b) 1 practice listed above.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: