

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2019 - Improving Working Lands for Monarch Butterflies (Draft)

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 the 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.	400
2		Based on the NRCS "Midwest Butterfly Habitat Ranking Index" map, the project area is located in the following priority areas (select only one):	
	1	High (highest priority per the map)	150
	2	Medium (2nd highest priority)	50
	3	Low (3rd highest priority)	25
3		National conservation practices in the project area include (select only one):	
	1	Planting mix includes two or more species of milkweed (Asclepias spp)	150
	2	Planting mix includes one species of milkweed	50
	3	Management of existing habitat will increase existing milkweed and floral resources	25
4		Proximity to existing monarch habitat (i.e., natural areas, CRP, prairies, or protected easements). Select only one:	
	1	Protected areas are located immediately adjacent to project area	100
	2	Protected areas are located within 0.5 miles of project area	50
	3	Non-protected natural area is within 0.5 miles of project area	25
		Maximum Points: 400	Total Points
			1025

Local Issues:

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The application is for the 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.	250
2		Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat Cover/Shelter	
	1	Will practices be implemented to provide a minimum of 40 PLS seeds per square foot with at least 20 seeds per square foot of diverse wildlife-friendly forbs which includes at least three flowering species from each of the three bloom periods and at least two species of milkweed (refer to Iowa Job Sheet Pollinator Habitat) and using the Iowa Native Seeding Calculator?	75
	2	Will at least one planned practice be implemented on a natural community habitat (prairie, glade, or savanna) planning unit within the offered tract to create or restore monarch habitat?	60
	3	Will at least one planned practice result in establishment of a monarch plot (>1/2 acre in size) planted per every 40 acres of an offered non-forested planning unit within the offered tract to the recommended monarch seed mix (refer to Iowa Job Sheet Pollinator Habitat) and using the Iowa Native Seeding Calculator?	50
	4	Will at least one planned practice be implemented within the I-35 Corridor Focal Area as shown on the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project Map?	30
	5	Will at least one planned practice be implemented within an Iowa Bird Conservation Area as shown on the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project Map?	20
	6	Will at least one practice improve the availability of nectaring plants for migrating monarchs by planting the recommended monarch seed mix (refer to Iowa Job Sheet Pollinator Habitat Table 2 Native Forbs - a minimum of 25% of Forb component is comprised of highly attractive plants identified by bold print) and using the Iowa Native Seeding Calculator?	15
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	500