Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Western Lake Erie Basin Initative (WLEB) Initiative
Program: EQIP 2018**,** Fiscal Year 2019
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.	250 Point(s)
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)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)

3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health :– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
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.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

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?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)	
1. Is 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 addressing the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
Are any of the following resource concerns identified on the farm, and the producer agrees to implement a conservation plan to meet the respective quality criteria? Award points under 2a-2h for the resource concerns identified on the offered acres that will be addressed with this application. Select all that apply.	
2. a. SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, & wind erosion - Sheet & Rill	4 Point(s)
2. b. SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, & wind erosion - Wind	2 Point(s)
2. c. SOIL EROSION - Concentrated flow erosion - Ephemeral Gullies	4 Point(s)
2. d. SOIL EROSION - Concentrated flow erosion - Classic Gullies	5 Point(s)

2. e. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION - Organic matter depletion	6 Point(s)
2. f. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION - Compaction	6 Point(s)
2. g. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface waters	12 Point(s)
2. h. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters	13 Point(s)
What are the soil test phosphorus levels (as verified by any sample size of any age on any of the offered acres), and will practices be included in the application to reduce phosphorus losses? Pick ONE of the following based on soil test results presented by the applicant:	
3. a. > 200 PPM	80 Point(s)
3. b. 100 - 200 PPM	40 Point(s)
3. c. No soil tests available	40 Point(s)
3. d. 40 - 100 PPM	20 Point(s)
3. e. < 40 PPM	0 Point(s)
Are there tile risers/catch basins/tile blow holes on the offered acres, and will the application include any of the following planned treatments? Award points under 4a-4d for the any/all practices that will be implemented with this application for the identified resource concerns. Select all that apply.	
4. a. Blind inlets meeting the Underground Outlet (620) standard.	15 Point(s)
4. b. The drainage area will be managed using annual no-till/strip-till meeting the 329 standard and annually-planted cover crops meeting the 340 standard.	20 Point(s)
4. c. Precision nutrient management with phosphorus injected meeting the 590 standard.	20 Point(s)
4. d. Application setbacks of 20 feet from the direct conduits will be followed.	5 Point(s)
Which of the following phosphorus (P) management strategies will be used for the majority of the P rate on at least 50% of the acres included in the application for all crops in the rotation? Pick ONE of the following P management strategies.	
5. a. P will be injected/banded in the summer following wheat harvest with a cover crop; or no P will be applied (i.e. - drawdown strategy).	60 Point(s)

5. b. P will be injected or broadcast and immediately incorporated, and a cover crop seeded.	40 Point(s)
5. c. P will be injected/banded at planting.	32 Point(s)
5. d. P will be injected/banded in the spring prior to planting.	20 Point(s)
5. e. P will be injected during fall strip-tillage operations.	8 Point(s)
5. f. P will be broadcast and incorporated within 48 hours.	4 Point(s)
5. g. None of the above.	0 Point(s)
Which of the following soil health management system practices are planned annually for the acres included in this application? Select all that apply.	
6. a. Cover crops meeting the 340 standard will be seeded on at least 25% of the offered acres.	20 Point(s)
6. b. Continuous no-till/strip-till meeting the 329 standard will be used on all crops on at least 25% of the offered acres.	16 Point(s)
6. c. Winter wheat or other cereal grain or legume/hay crop will be in the rotation on at least 10% of the offered acres.	12 Point(s)
6. d. Buffers or perennial vegetation will be established around all surface waters or other critical areas.	12 Point(s)
Which of the following practices will be implemented as part of this application to address the identified resource concerns? Select all that apply.	
7. a. 2-stage ditches meeting the Open Channel (582) standard	4 Point(s)
7. b. Denitrifying Bio-reactor meeting the 605 standard (not available in MI in 2016)	8 Point(s)
7. c. Nutrient-filtering wetlands meeting the Construction Wetland (656) standard (not available in MI in 2016)	8 Point(s)
7. d. Drainage water management meeting the 554 standard	8 Point(s)
7. e. Transitioning intensive tillage into "Seasonal No-Till" = at least 1 crop is produced with no-till (STIR < 20), and no crop in the rotation is conventionally tilled (STIR < 80)	4 Point(s)
7. f. Waste storage facility meeting the 313 standard	8 Point(s)

Percentage of the offered acres rated as high or moderately high for surface runoff (NRCS CEAP Soil Vulnerability Index). Pick the ONE response that reflects the percentage of acres.	
8. a. 100%	8 Point(s)
8. b. 51-100%	6 Point(s)
8. c. 26-50%	4 Point(s)
8. d. 1-25%	2 Point(s)
8. e. 0%	0 Point(s)
Percentage of the offered acres rated as high or moderately high for leaching (NRCS CEAP Soil Vulnerability Index). Pick the ONE response that reflects the percentage of acres.	
9. a. 100%	8 Point(s)
9. b. 51-100%	6 Point(s)
9. c. 26-50%	4 Point(s)
9. d. 1- 25%	2 Point(s)
9. e. 0%	0 Point(s)
Conservation Planning Priority: Select all that apply.	
10. a. Does the farm have a current conservation plan that was approved prior to March 1, 2016, and will this application result in the implementation of that plan?	12 Point(s)
10. b. Will this application result in the implementation of a previously-completed plan that meets NRCS Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) criteria?	8 Point(s)
Location:	
11. a. Are at least 50% of the offered acres within the Maumee River or the Portage River (Ohio) Watershed?	12 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is 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 addressing the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Will this application use EQIP funds to install underground outlets (620)?	25 Point(s)
3. Will this application use EQIP funds to install a structure for water control (587) and/or drainage water management (554)?	50 Point(s)

4. Will this application use EQIP funds to implement a cover crop consisting of non-winter-kill species on the acreage for 3 consecutive years?	50 Point(s)
5. Will this application use EQIP funds to implement a conservation crop rotation (328) that provides additional high residue?	25 Point(s)
6. Will this application use EQIP funds to implement nutrient management (590) for placement of nutrients below the soil surface for all phosphorous applications?	50 Point(s)
7. Will this application use EQIP funds to install conservation cover (327), filter strip (393), riparian herbaceous cover (390), or riparian forest buffer (391) adjacent to a stream, ditch, tile inlet, or sensitive area?	25 Point(s)
8. Will this application use EQIP funds to install a grassed waterway (412) to address gully erosion and/or protect/improve water quality?	25 Point(s)