

Central Platte NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - Excess/ Insuffi Water - CENTRAL BFR**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/ Insuffi Water - CENTRAL BFR		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.	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
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 to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	14 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	15 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered or candidate species as identified in the State wildlife plan (Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in an invasive plant species which has been identified as a statewide concern?	11 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	5 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habitat being created or improved? Practice applied result in plantings which include milkweed species among a diverse mix of flowering plants. (Practice 327 Conservation Cover, Pollinator criteria as noted in 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management)	9 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	11 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on recently expired CRP, maintaining the CRP cover for the purpose of wildlife habitat, grazing or haying?	31 Point(s)
15. Will the irrigation system improvement you intend to implement using EQIP result in estimated water savings of at least 40% if located within an over appropriated river basin?	19 Point(s)

16. If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	16 Point(s)
18. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 20 and 21.	15 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 21.	10 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 20.	5 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 to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)

<p>2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non- irrigated cropland? The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>150 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 15% or more of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3 - 8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 13-14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3-8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 11-12.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3-8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>13 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 9-10.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3-8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>11 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 7-8.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3-8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.</p>	<p>9 Point(s)</p>

8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 3-6.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? For questions 3-8 only one question applies; answer only once. The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD.	7 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a low pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system?	25 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a sub-surface drip irrigation system?	30 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in sprinkler irrigation system efficiency improvements?	15 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a micro irrigation system?	11 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point? For questions 13-16 only one question applies; answer only once.	30 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) of 270 degrees but less than 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point? For questions 13-16 only one question applies; answer only once.	12 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) of 180 degree but less than 270 degree rotation at the center pivot point? For questions 13-16 only one question applies; answer only once.	5 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a linear travel path or less than a 180 degree rotation at the center pivot point? For questions 13-16 only one question applies; answer only once.	1 Point(s)

17. Have all acres, to be treated by an EQIP funded irrigation system, been irrigated at least 2 of the previous 5 years?	5 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	17 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an intermediate soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	11 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a flow meter equipped with electronic index and telemetry on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	5 Point(s)
21. Will site-specific nutrient management (grid soil sampling, variable rate application, GPS based) be implemented no NRCS standards and specifications?	6 Point(s)
22. Will nutrient management be implemented with deep soil sampling per NRCS standards and specifications?	3 Point(s)

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:	
NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - Excess/ Insuff Water - IWM - CPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/ Insuff Water - IWM - CPNRD		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.	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
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 to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered or candidate species as identified in the State wildlife plan (Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in an invasive plant species which has been identified as a statewide concern?	11 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	5 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habitat being created or improved? Practice applied result in plantings which include milkweed species among a diverse mix of flowering plants. (Practice 327 Conservation Cover, Pollinator criteria as noted in 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management)	9 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	11 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on recently expired CRP, maintaining the CRP cover for the purpose of wildlife habitat, grazing or haying?	31 Point(s)
15. Will the irrigation system improvement you intend to implement using EQIP result in estimated water savings of at least 40% if located within an over appropriated river basin?	9 Point(s)

16. If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	26 Point(s)
18. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 20 and 21.	15 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 21.	10 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 20.	5 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 to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)

2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern for water quality (Phase II area identified in CPNRD Groundwater Quality Management Plan)?	25 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern for water quality (Phase III area identified in CPNRD Groundwater Quality Management Plan)?	35 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern for water quantity (areas identified with groundwater declines greater than 25% of the acceptable decline in CPNRD Groundwater Quantity Management Plan)?	35 Point(s)
5. Have all acres, to be treated by an EQIP funded conservation practice(s), been irrigated at least 2 of the previous 5 years?	5 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	270 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a flow meter equipped with electronic index and telemetry on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	15 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in at least 3% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?	15 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

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

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - Soil Erosion - CPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Soil Erosion - CPNRD		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.	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
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 to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered or candidate species as identified in the State wildlife plan (Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in an invasive plant species which has been identified as a statewide concern?	11 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	5 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habitat being created or improved? Practice applied result in plantings which include milkweed species among a diverse mix of flowering plants. (Practice 327 Conservation Cover, Pollinator criteria as noted in 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management)	9 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	11 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on recently expired CRP, maintaining the CRP cover for the purpose of wildlife habitat, grazing or haying?	31 Point(s)
15. Will the irrigation system improvement you intend to implement using EQIP result in estimated water savings of at least 40% if located within an over appropriated river basin?	9 Point(s)

16. If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	26 Point(s)
18. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 20 and 21.	15 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 21.	10 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 20.	5 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 to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 3 YES	40 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	20 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 5 YES	30 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Pest Management on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 7 YES	10 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Pest Management on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	5 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on all contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	40 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 67 – 99.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	20 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 33 – 66.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	10 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in upland wildlife being created, restored or enhanced?	10 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	30 Point(s)

13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an intermediate soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	5 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in adequate treatment of all ephemeral and gully erosion control?	30 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 16 YES	20 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	10 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a flow meter equipped with telemetry on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	10 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Multi-Species (minimum of 3 species) Cover Crop on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 19 YES	20 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Multi-Species (minimum of 3 species) Cover Crop on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	10 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop on NHEL cropland acres that will be utilized for supplemental forage according to an approved grazing plan in combination with no-tillage operations to terminate the cover crop or prior to planting the subsequent cash crop in the rotation?	10 Point(s)

21. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a late summer/fall seeded Cover Crop consisting of at least 2 plant species, with at least one species that will scavenge nitrogen and at least one species that will overwinter to provide spring growth, on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 22 YES	20 Point(s)
22. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a late summer/fall seeded Cover Crop consisting of at least 2 plant species, with at least one species that will scavenge nitrogen and at least one species that will overwinter to provide spring growth, on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	10 Point(s)
23. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop following all cash crops on all cropland contract acres in all years of the contract?	10 Point(s)
24. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop on all cropland contract acres for 3 consecutive years?	10 Point(s)
25. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a Cover Crop that includes termination through non mechanical means (termination without tillage operations)?	10 Point(s)

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:	
NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition - CPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition - CPNRD		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.	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
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 to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered or candidate species as identified in the State wildlife plan (Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in an invasive plant species which has been identified as a statewide concern?	11 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	5 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habitat being created or improved? Practice applied result in plantings which include milkweed species among a diverse mix of flowering plants. (Practice 327 Conservation Cover, Pollinator criteria as noted in 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management)	9 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	11 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on recently expired CRP, maintaining the CRP cover for the purpose of wildlife habitat, grazing or haying?	31 Point(s)
15. Will the irrigation system improvement you intend to implement using EQIP result in estimated water savings of at least 40% if located within an over appropriated river basin?	9 Point(s)

16. If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	26 Point(s)
18. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 20 and 21.	15 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 21.	10 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 20.	5 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 to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in adequate treatment of all ephemeral and gully erosion control?	25 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on all contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	30 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 67 – 99.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	20 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 33 – 66.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from season long grazing system to RMS rotation system with facilitating practices?	53 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from season long grazing system to rotation system with facilitating practices?	33 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from rotation grazing system to RMS rotation system with facilitating practices?	40 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from rotation grazing system to rotation grazing system with facilitating practices?	26 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Deferred Grazing according to the Access Control (472) conservation practice standard on 50% or more of the established grazing land contract acres to provide for adequate fuel load to allow for application of Prescribed Burning?	26 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in at least 5% of the total grassland contract acres being managed primarily for wildlife habitat with limited livestock grazing allowed during the growing season?	13 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Prescribed Burning on 50% or more of the contract acres?	34 Point(s)

13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Prescribed Burning on 25% or more of the contract acres?	20 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern?	40 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Brush Management, Prescribed Burning, Herbaceous Weed Control, and/or Forest Stand Improvement to control invasive species on 100% of the contract acres where invasive species is a resource concern?	20 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Brush Management, Prescribed Burning, Herbaceous Weed Control, and/or Forest Stand Improvement to control invasive species on 75% of the contract acres where invasive species is a resource concern?	10 Point(s)

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:	
NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date:

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Grassland - Production Limitation - CPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - Production Limitation - CPNRD		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.	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
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 to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered or candidate species as identified in the State wildlife plan (Nebraska Natural Legacy Project)?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in an invasive plant species which has been identified as a statewide concern?	11 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the collection and use of livestock manure or city sludge from a CNMP for beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	5 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habitat being created or improved? Practice applied result in plantings which include milkweed species among a diverse mix of flowering plants. (Practice 327 Conservation Cover, Pollinator criteria as noted in 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management)	9 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	11 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on recently expired CRP, maintaining the CRP cover for the purpose of wildlife habitat, grazing or haying?	31 Point(s)
15. Will the irrigation system improvement you intend to implement using EQIP result in estimated water savings of at least 40% if located within an over appropriated river basin?	9 Point(s)

16. If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	26 Point(s)
18. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 20 and 21.	15 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 21.	10 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 19 and 20.	5 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 to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in adequate treatment of all ephemeral and gully erosion control?	25 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on all contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	40 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 67 – 99.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	30 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on 33 – 66.9 % of the contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	20 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from season long grazing system to RMS rotation system with facilitating practices?	53 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from season long grazing system to a rotation system with facilitating practices?	33 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from rotation grazing system to RMS rotation system with facilitating practices?	40 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from rotation grazing system to rotation grazing system with facilitating practices?	26 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Deferred Grazing according to the Access Control (472) conservation practice standard on 50% or more of the established grazing land contract acres to provide for adequate fuel load to allow for application of Prescribed Burning?	26 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in at least 5% of the total grassland contract acres being managed primarily for wildlife habitat with limited livestock grazing allowed during the growing season?	13 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Prescribed Burning on 50% or more of the contract acres?	34 Point(s)

13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Prescribed Burning on 25% or more of the contract acres?	20 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern?	40 Point(s)

Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
OAI - Central Platte NRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: OAI - Central Platte NRD	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.	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
1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? If YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS 2-5 BASED UPON DEPLETION FACTOR AND YES TO QUESTION 6. IF ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 IS NO, ANSWER QUESTIONS 2-5 NO	200 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland and located in an area where at least 90% of the consumptive use will show up as a depletion (Based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study Groundwater Model), to the Platte River, within 50 years. IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS 3-5 YES	5 Point(s)

<p>3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland and located in an area where at least 70% of the consumptive use will show up as a depletion (Based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study Groundwater Model), to the Platte River, within 50 years. IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS 4-5 YES.</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland and located in an area where at least 50% of the consumptive use will show up as a depletion (Based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study Groundwater Model), to the Platte River, within 50 years. IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 5 YES.</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland and located in an area where at least 30% of the consumptive use will show up as a depletion (Based on the Cooperative Hydrology Study Groundwater Model), to the Platte River, within 50 years.</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 15% or more of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTIONS 7 -11 NO.</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 13-14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?</p>	<p>18 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 11-12.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?</p>	<p>16 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 9-10.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?</p>	<p>14 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 7-8.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?</p>	<p>11 Point(s)</p>

11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 3-6.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?	7 Point(s)
12. Have all acres, to be treated by an EQIP funded irrigation system, been irrigated at least 2 of the previous 5 years?	5 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a micro-irrigation (SDI) or sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a linear travel path or 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	40 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with greater than a 270 degree but less than 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	30 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a 270 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	20 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with greater than a 180 degree but less than 270 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	15 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under span (radius) with a 180 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	3 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with less than a 180 degree rotation at the center pivot point?	2 Point(s)
19. If the applicant who is applying for OAI Focus Area funded EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)

20. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Veteran, Limited Resource status?	4 Point(s)
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Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a microirrigation (SDI) or low pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system?	80 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within the OAI Focus Area identified natural resources area of concern for water quality (Phase II area identified in a NRD Groundwater Quality Management Plan)?	10 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within the OAI Focus Area identified natural resources area of concern for water quality (Phase III area identified in a NRD Groundwater Quality Management Plan)?	15 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within the OAI Focus Area identified natural resources area of concern for water quantity (areas identified with groundwater declines greater than 25% of the maximum acceptable decline in a NRD Groundwater Quantity Management Plan)?	15 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within the OAI Focus Area identified natural resources area of concern for water quantity (Groundwater Management Areas 9, 16, and 20 in the CPNRD Groundwater Quantity Management Plan)?	15 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue the OAI Focus Area identified natural resources area of concern for water quantity (areas designated as over appropriated by the State of Nebraska)?	20 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	30 Point(s)

8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an intermediate soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	5 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a flow meter equipped with electronic index and telemetry on 100% of the irrigated contract acres?	20 Point(s)
10. Does the predominant soils on the potential contract acres have a High soil leaching potential (based on the WinPST Program)?	14 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 12 YES	4 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	3 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 14 YES	4 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	3 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a fall seeded Cover Crop consisting of at least 2 plant species, with at least one species that will scavenge nitrogen and at least one species that will overwinter to provide spring growth, on all cropland contract acres? IF YES, ALSO ANSWER QUESTION 16 YES	8 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of a fall seeded Cover Crop consisting of at least 2 plant species, with at least one species that will scavenge nitrogen and at least one species that will overwinter to provide spring growth, on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	4 Point(s)

Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:

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

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