

Middle Republican NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/Insuff Water - IWM - MRNRD		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. Have 100% of all acres to be treated by the new EQIP funded irrigation system been irrigated for at least 2 years out of the previous 5 years?	15 Point(s)

<p>3. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced or HIGH INTENSITY soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>110 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an INTERMEDIATE or MEDIUM intensity soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>50 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an BASIC soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>25 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 85.14%-96.0%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>32 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 72.235%-85.139%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>30 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 60.061%-72.235%? Questions 96-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>26 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 48.758%-60.061%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>24 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 38.336%-48.758%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>21 Point(s)</p>

11. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 28.644%-38.336%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	19 Point(s)
12. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 19.816%-28.644%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	16 Point(s)
13. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 11.969%-19.816%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
14. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 5.051%-1.969%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	10 Point(s)
15. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 0.00%-5.051%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation

Ranking Score

<p>Efficiency:</p> <p>Local Issues:</p> <p>State Issues:</p> <p>National Issues:</p> <p>Final Ranking Score:</p>	
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/ Insufficient Water - MRNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/ Insufficient Water - MRNRD		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 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?	10 Point(s)

3. Have 100% of all acres to be treated by the new EQIP funded irrigation system been irrigated for at least 2 years out of the previous 5 years?	10 Point(s)
4. 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 land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	9 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 10-14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	7 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 5-9.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 1-4.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	3 Point(s)
8. Will this be the first time that EQIP or AWEP irrigated to dryland funds have been used on the <u>land being treated</u> ?	10 Point(s)
9. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 85.14%-96.0%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; <u>Answer only once.</u>	20 Point(s)
10. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 72.235%-85.139%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	18 Point(s)
11. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 60.061%-72.235%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	16 Point(s)

12. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 48.758%-60.061%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
13. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 38.336%-48.758%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	12 Point(s)
14. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 28.644%-38.336%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	10 Point(s)
15. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 19.816%-28.644%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 Point(s)
16. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 11.969%-19.816%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	6 Point(s)
17. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 5.051%-1.969%? Questions 89-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	4 Point(s)
18. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 0.00%-5.051%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	2 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a sub-surface drip irrigation system?	65 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from pivot irrigation to a sub-surface drip irrigation system?	57 Point(s)

21. 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)
22. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in gravity irrigation system efficiency improvements?	5 Point(s)
23. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the sprinkler irrigation system efficiency improvements?	10 Point(s)
24. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Irrigation Water Management on all irrigated cropland in the contract?	5 Point(s)
25. 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 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	19 Point(s)
26. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
27. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	11 Point(s)
28. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 Point(s)
29. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	5 Point(s)

<p>30. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>2 Point(s)</p>
<p>31. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 1 - 4.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>1 Point(s)</p>
<p>32. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 5.0 - 9.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>2 Point(s)</p>
<p>33. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 10.0 - 14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>3 Point(s)</p>
<p>34. 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 perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>4 Point(s)</p>

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 - MRNRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Soil Erosion - MRNRD		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 a reduction of ephemeral gully erosion utilizing no-till and/or cover crops as a facilitating practice?	99 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a reduction of ephemeral gully erosion utilizing mulch-till and/or cover crops as a facilitating practice?	78 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in adequate treatment of all ephemeral gully erosion within a contiguous plan unit?	31 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the reduction of sheet and rill and ephemeral gully erosion by conversion of cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlife land, rangeland, and pastureland) on 5% or greater of all cropland contract acres? (typical practices; 380, 512, 550,612, 643, 645) If answered YES then NO for 6.	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the reduction of sheet and rill and ephemeral gully erosion by conversion of cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlife land, rangeland, and pastureland) on 10% or greater of all cropland contract acres? (typical practices; 380, 512, 550, 612, 643, 645) If answered YES then NO for 5.	11 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in meeting quality criteria for all types of soil erosion on cropland contract acres?	31 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in water runoff being filtered on 100% of all cropland contract fields utilizing new filter strips and/or field borders? If answered YES then NO for 9.	24 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in water runoff being filtered on greater or equal to 25% of cropland fields utilizing new filter strips and/or field borders? If answered YES then NO for 8.	15 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the reduction of ephemeral gully erosion on a field that has not received this treatment by structural practices in the past?	15 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the reduction of ephemeral gully erosion on a field designated as Highly Erodible (HEL) for water erosion. If 11 YES, then NO for questions 12-18.	20 Point(s)

12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 0% to 0.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 & 13-18 are No.	5 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 1% to 1.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 - 12 & 13-18 are No.	6 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 2% to 2.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 - 13 & 15-18 are No.	7 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 3% to 3.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 - 14 & 16-18 are No.	8 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 4% to 4.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 - 15 & 17-18 are No.	9 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of 5 to 5.9% HEL soils. If Yes 11 - 16 & 18 are No.	10 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in erosion reduction in a field(s) that contain(s) a weighted average of equal to or greater than 6% HEL soils. If Yes 11-17 are No.	11 Point(s)
19. If approved, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract since (FY2010-FY2014)?	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 - MRNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition - MRNRD		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 a conversion from season long grazing to a rotational grazing system with facilitating practices including invasive species control?	95 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in an improvement to an existing rotational grazing system with facilitating practices including invasive species control?	85 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a season long grazing with facilitating practices including invasive species control?	20 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in invasive species control utilizing prescribed burning as a facilitating control practice?	5 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement include expired CRP land being incorporated into the planned grazing system?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement include cropland being converted to permanent perennial cover which is to be integrated into a planned grazing system?	125 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in completion of a conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of conservation practices to all grazing land contract acres which provide reliable water sources with adequate capacity while improving distribution and degree of use?	21 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in meeting productivity, vigor and health quality criteria on all grassland in the contract?	15 Point(s)
11. Are you currently stocked at or be willing to stock at NRCS initial suggested stocking rates? (May require destocking)	7 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement only address one resource concern even though the resource inventory identified multiple resources concerns needing treatment.	-5 Point(s)
13. Does the application include livestock water facilities and/or related range improvements that are intended to only replace or upgrade existing facilities that are currently worn out or not functioning?	-50 Point(s)
14. Is the applicant willing to allow their treatment area to be utilized by local groups or agencies (NRCS, NRD, SWWMA, schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists etc)?	4 Point(s)

15. Has the applicant received a direct benefit from improvements directly funded by LB701, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Weed Management Area or other sources?	25 Point(s)
16. Is a portion of the treatment area being supported by other sources of funding such as LB701, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Weed Management Area funds or other conservation partnership activities?	11 Point(s)
17. Does the applicant have a signed treatment agreement with a local Weed Management Area?	11 Point(s)
18. Has the applicant attended a public education meeting regarding Invasive Plant Species Control sponsored by an NRD, Weed Management Area, NRCS or other conservation partner within the last three years?	6 Point(s)
19. If approved, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract since (FY2010-FY2014)?	10 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being restored or enhanced?	5 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 - LS Production Limitation - MRNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - LS Production Limitation - MRNRD		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 a conversion from season long grazing to a rotational grazing system with facilitating practices?	100 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in an improvement to an existing rotational grazing system with facilitating practices?	93 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a season long grazing with facilitating practices?	31 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement include expired CRP land being incorporated into the planned grazing system?	3 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement include cropland being converted to permanent perennial cover which is to be integrated into a planned grazing system?	149 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in meeting productivity, vigor and health quality criteria on all grassland in the contract?	31 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of conservation practices to all grazing land contract acres that provides reliable water sources with adequate capacity and distribution?	33 Point(s)
9. Does the application include livestock water facilities and/or related range improvements that will replace or upgrade existing facilities that are currently worn out or not functioning.	-50 Point(s)
10. If approved, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract since (FY2010-FY2014)	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
OAI - Middle Republican NRD - IWM**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: OAI - Middle Republican NRD - IWM		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. Have 100% of all acres to be treated by the new EQIP funded irrigation system been irrigated for at least 2 years out of the previous 5 years?	15 Point(s)

<p>3. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced or HIGH INTENSITY soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>110 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an INTERMEDIATE or MEDIUM intensity soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>50 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an BASIC soil moisture monitoring system on 100% of the irrigated acres under contract? Only answer YES for one questions 3-5.</p>	<p>25 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 85.14%-96.0%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>32 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 72.235%-85.139%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>30 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 60.061%-72.235%? Questions 96-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>26 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 48.758%-60.061%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>24 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 38.336%-48.758%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>21 Point(s)</p>

11. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 28.644%-38.336%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	19 Point(s)
12. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 19.816%-28.644%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	16 Point(s)
13. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 11.969%-19.816%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
14. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 5.051%-1.969%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	10 Point(s)
15. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 0.00%-5.051%? Questions 6-15 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 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
 OAI - Middle Republican NRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: OAI - Middle Republican 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. 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 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated cropland?	10 Point(s)

3. Have 100% of all acres to be treated by the new EQIP funded irrigation system been irrigated for at least 2 years out of the previous 5 years?	10 Point(s)
4. 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 land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	9 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 10-14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	7 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 5-9.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	5 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 1-4.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land? Questions 4-7 only one question applies; Answer only once.	3 Point(s)
8. Will this be the first time that EQIP or AWEP irrigated to dryland funds have been used on the <u>land being treated</u> ?	10 Point(s)
9. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 85.14%-96.0%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; <u>Answer only once.</u>	20 Point(s)
10. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 72.235%-85.139%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	18 Point(s)
11. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 60.061%-72.235%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	16 Point(s)

12. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 48.758%-60.061%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
13. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 38.336%-48.758%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	12 Point(s)
14. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 28.644%-38.336%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	10 Point(s)
15. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 19.816%-28.644%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 Point(s)
16. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 11.969%-19.816%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	6 Point(s)
17. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 5.051%-1.969%? Questions 89-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	4 Point(s)
18. Is the land that will be treated through EQIP irrigated by a well that is located in an area that has a Stream Depletion Factor between 0.00%-5.051%? Questions 9-18 only one question applies; Answer only once.	2 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a sub-surface drip irrigation system?	65 Point(s)
20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from pivot irrigation to a sub-surface drip irrigation system?	57 Point(s)

21. 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)
22. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in gravity irrigation system efficiency improvements?	5 Point(s)
23. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the sprinkler irrigation system efficiency improvements?	10 Point(s)
24. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Irrigation Water Management on all irrigated cropland in the contract?	5 Point(s)
25. 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 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	19 Point(s)
26. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	14 Point(s)
27. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	11 Point(s)
28. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	8 Point(s)
29. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.	5 Point(s)

<p>30. 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? Questions 25-30 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>2 Point(s)</p>
<p>31. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 1 - 4.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>1 Point(s)</p>
<p>32. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 5.0 - 9.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>2 Point(s)</p>
<p>33. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 10.0 - 14.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>3 Point(s)</p>
<p>34. 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 perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Questions 31-34 only one question applies; Answer only once.</p>	<p>4 Point(s)</p>

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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