

# Nemaha NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Cropland - NNRD

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Cropland - NNRD	<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)

<p>2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in multiple resource concerns being addressed on all EQIP contract acres by utilizing at least three (3) management and/or vegetative conservation practices on cropland that has fully addressed all soil erosion resource concerns?</p>	<p>60 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. Will all cropland acres requiring treatment in the EQIP project area include a small grain or perennial legume in rotation that will allow all structural practices (362, 412, 600, 620, 638) to be installed and certified between May 1st and October 1st of the first and/or second year of the contract? [Contract acres can be scheduled for treatment in both years if planned crop rotation allows]</p>	<p>60 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a fall seeded high residue Cover Crop (340) [cereal rye, triticale, or winter wheat] being seeded on all disturbed areas following new construction of structural practices (362, 378, 410, 600, 638)? [structures must be built AND seeding completed by Oct. 15]</p>	<p>40 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in all EQIP contract acres requiring treatment having terraces (600) built on HEL cropland that currently has no terraces present (functioning or not)?</p>	<p>80 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the construction of Grassed Waterway(s) (412) or grade stabilization practices (362, 410, etc.) to treat active gully erosion on cropland acres within 1/4 mile and draining into a perennial stream (excluding ponds)? [If underground outlets are included in this application, answer NO to this question unless only included to outlet waterway(s)]</p>	<p>60 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Field Borders (386), Filter Strips (393), or Riparian Forest Buffers (391) being established or expanded on at least one eligible area to address water quality? [Minimum 30' buffer width required]</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a multi-species Cover Crop (340) being implemented for a minimum of three years on at least one eligible area to address soil health (50% of the contract area minimum)?</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>

<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in pollinator habit (645) being established on at least two locations [Minimum 20' wide blocks, 1/2 acre size each], OR restoration of rare &amp; declining species habitat (647) being established on at least one area [1 acre minimum], OR native vegetation (612, 644, 645) being established on at least one area of existing cropland for wildlife habitat? [minimum 60' wide blocks, 1 acre minimum]</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Nutrient Management (590) or Integrated Pest Management (595) being implemented on at least one area to address water quality (50% of contract area minimum)?</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP include management practice(s) that specifically address groundwater quality (590, 595, 633) on all applicable cropland acres located in a Phase II NRD groundwater area?</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a low pressure sprinkler or sub-surface drip irrigation system on at least 75% of the irrigated cropland acres?</p>	<p>20 Point(s)</p>
<p>13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP convert any existing terraces and grass waterways that are fully functional to storage terraces with underground outlets?</p>	<p>-20 Point(s)</p>

**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>

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

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Grassland - NNRD

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Grassland - NNRD	<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

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**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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 cover 100% of the land area you <u>control that is infested by invasive plants?</u>	44 Point(s)
3. Will the more than 50% of the contracted area receiving your intended treatment involve plants on a stream, river, perennial tributary, wetland, or <u>other riparian area?</u>	27 Point(s)
4. If the answer to question 2 is yes, does the treatment area you intend to implement include a perennial tributary within fully or over-appropriated basins of the North Platte, South Platte, Republican, Niobrara, or Platte Rivers as defined by the Nebraska Department of Natural <u>Resources?</u>	22 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP directly benefit a Federal or State listed, threatened, endangered, or candidate <u>species?</u>	25 Point(s)

6. Does the conservation plan address more than two different treatment methods for invasive plant control in an Integrated Pest Management Plan?	21 Point(s)
7. Will the residue of woody invasive plants be further processed by mechanical means for use as an energy source such as pellets or chips for burning?	26 Point(s)
8. Will the residue of woody invasive plants be further processed for another secondary use such as for landscape mulching or composting?	15 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the main stem river channel additionally include side channels or direct tributaries within 1 mile of the North Platte, South Platte, Republican, Niobrara, or Platte Rivers?	10 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP target phragmites, saltcedar, russian olive, eastern redcedar, purple loostrife, or hybrid cattail?	20 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP involve thinning and pruning of woody species and include grazing and forage management?	17 Point(s)
12. 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 or haying?	14 Point(s)
13. 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 species of concern (Category 2, state or county listed noxious weed) within the Invasive Plant Watch List for Nebraska? ( <a href="http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/invasiveplants.htm">http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/invasiveplants.htm</a> )	21 Point(s)
14. 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)
15. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	13 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
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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 Prescribed Grazing System using a rotational grazing system with facilitating practices on all grazing land in the EQIP contract?	50 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the improvement of an established Prescribed Grazing System by implementing facilitating practices on all grazing land in the EQIP contract?	50 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in deferred grazing (4/1 - 7/15) on 25% or more of the established grazing land in the contract to allow for recovery from drought, over-grazing, or woody species control?	30 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in rest from grazing on a portion (minimum 25%) of the enrolled acres for a 12-month period?	30 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 1/2 acre pollinator habitat blocks (645) being established on at least two locations [minimum 20' wide blocks], OR restoration of rare & declining species habitat (647) being established on at least one area? [Pollinator habitat establishment no eligible for cost share on native grasslands]	30 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the control of Sericea lespedeza on the majority of the grassland in the contract?	50 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in seeding a multi-species Cover Crop (340) on cropland acres for the purpose of forage production on the contract acres to improve grazing land management of pasture/range in the current operation? [Utilizing 340 and 528 for grazing as part of a NRCS approved prescribed grazing system]	30 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of cropland OR non-native grassland (i.e. smooth brome, tall fescue) to native grassland habitat?	50 Point(s)

10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in implementation of practices on land currently participating in another federal, state or local land improvement program (LB701, NET funds, Weed Mgt. Area funds, etc.) that addresses the same resource concerns?	50 Point(s)
11. Is the area included in this EQIP application in a biologically unique landscape area such as those identified in the Nebraska Legacy program?	30 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

**Final Ranking Score:**

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

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