

## South Platte NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

<b>Fund Code</b>	<b>Page</b>
Cropland	2
Grassland	9

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Cropland - SPNRD

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Cropland - SPNRD	<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)

2. Will the treatment result in all ephemeral and gully erosion being controlled (600-terraces, others)? OR will a flood irrigation system be converted to either a Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) system or low-pressure sprinkler system?	44 Point(s)
3. Will all cropland acres in the application be planted to permanent vegetation (512, 550, 643, 645)? OR will at least 50% of the irrigated acres in the application be converted to either permanent or temporary dryland?	52 Point(s)
4. Will greater than 50% of the cropland acres in the application be planted to permanent vegetation (512, 550, 643, 645)? Do not answer yes to this question if you answered yes to #2. OR will a high pressure irrigation system be converted to a lower pressure irrigation system?	32 Point(s)
5. Will structural practices be applied to land in a rotation with more than 30% residue cover at planting?	52 Point(s)
6. Will structural practices be applied with a crop rotation with 2 or more crops being grown?	44 Point(s)
7. Will the crop rotation have legumes in the rotation to provide nutrients needed for the crop as determined by soil sampling results?	20 Point(s)
8. Will the crop rotation include at least 25% small grains?	10 Point(s)
9. Will there be carbon sequestration benefits for cropland rotation with 100% no-till?	12 Point(s)
10. Will a field border be planted to permanent vegetation to trap or filter water and sediment runoff? OR will water-conserving practice(s) (449, 329) be implemented within a defined well-head protection area?	20 Point(s)
11. Will a windbreak/shelterbelt be planted or improved which includes at least 2 rows of shrubs in the new planting?	24 Point(s)
12. Will a windbreak/shelterbelt be planted or improved that does not include at least 2 rows of shrubs in the new planting?	12 Point(s)
13. Will permanent cover be managed for wildlife with limited grazing allowed during the growing season (no more than 40% use during March 15 – October 15)?	12 Point(s)
14. Will playa wetland functions be restored on a PC/FW/FWP?	12 Point(s)
15. Will playa wetlands functions be enhanced by planting a buffer around the wetland?	12 Point(s)

16. Will an integrated pest management plan be implemented that utilizes biological control agents and/or spot treatment for control of invasive species?	32 Point(s)
17. Will an end gun be removed or not installed on the new irrigation system?	10 Point(s)

**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>

[Return to Top](#)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Grassland - SPNRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - SPNRD		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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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)
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3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
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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)
2. Will all cropland acres in the application be planted to permanent vegetation (512, 550, 643, 645)?	40 Point(s)

3. Will greater than 50% of the cropland acres in the application be planted to permanent vegetation (512, 550, 643, 645)? Do not answer yes to this question if you answered yes to #4.	20 Point(s)
4. Will a windbreak/shelterbelt be planted or improved that does not include at least 2 rows of shrubs in the new planting?	12 Point(s)
5. Will a windbreak/shelterbelt be planted or improved that includes at least 2 rows of shrubs?	20 Point(s)
6. Will permanent cover be managed for wildlife with limited grazing allowed during the growing season (no more than 40% use during March 15 – October 15)?	12 Point(s)
7. Will a season long grazing system be converted to a rotational grazing system by installing facilitating practices (614, 642, 516, 382) and have utilization levels and stocking rates at NRCS recommended levels? If seeding cropland and utilizing this land in a rotation, select this question.	96 Point(s)
8. Will a rotational grazing system be enhanced by installing facilitating practices (614, 642, 516, 382) and have utilization levels and stocking rates at NRCS recommended levels?	72 Point(s)
9. Will a season-long grazing system be enhanced by installing facilitating practices (614, 642, 516, 382) and have utilization levels and stocking rates at NRCS recommended levels? If seeding cropland and utilizing this land in a season-long system, select this question.	52 Point(s)
10. Will a water source be installed in a pasture where none currently or has ever existed?	20 Point(s)
11. Will an integrated pest management plan be implemented that utilizes biological control agents and/or spot treatment for control of invasive species?	32 Point(s)
12. Is the land located within the Kimball Grasslands Biologically Unique Landscape (BUL)?	24 Point(s)

**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>

Return to Top