

## Nebraska NRCS Statewide EQIP Rankings FY16

<b>Fund Pool</b>	<b>Page</b>
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	2
FY16 High Tunnel System BFR	6
FY16 High Tunnel System SD	10
FY16 High Tunnel System	14
FY16 On-Farm Energy	18
FY16 Organic Certified	22
FY16 Organic Transition	29
NE Forestry Initiative - BFR	34
NE Forestry Initiative - SD	38
NE Forestry Initiative	42
Prescribed Burn Plan	46
Tribal Initiative	50
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - BFR	56
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - SD	63
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN	70
WQ Degradation Excess Path/Manure AFO	77
State Water Quality Initiative - Long Pine Creek	83
State Water Quality Initiative - Long Pine Creek BFR	87
State Water Quality Initiative - Long Pine Creek SD	91

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary  
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)?	5 Point(s)
2. Is this the first CAP 102 application for this site and owner?	325 Point(s)
3. If answered "no" to 2 and have a previous CAP, does a resource concern or situation as described in questions 4 through 11 currently exist for this application?	50 Point(s)
4. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO received notification from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the current manure storage system and/or nutrient management systems does not meet state and/or NPDES requirements?	15 Point(s)
5. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO expanded or modified the capacity (increased), the type of livestock, and/or manure storage structures where a NRCS CNMP was not developed or modified?	15 Point(s)
6. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO purchased and/or leased additional ground for the application of the manure and/or wastewater? ( The applicant must have direct control over the leased ground.)	15 Point(s)
7. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO modified the nutrient management from manure nitrogen-based to phosphorus-based rates?	15 Point(s)
8. If answered "no" to 2, is the AFO planning to apply for an animal mortality facility?	15 Point(s)
9. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO changed tillage management systems?	15 Point(s)
10. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO changed the method of manure application (i.e. from injection / incorporation to broadcast with no incorporation; application via gravity to sprinkler)?	15 Point(s)
11. If answered "no" to 2, has the AFO changed ownership?	15 Point(s)
12. If answered "no" to 2 and have a previous CAP, are there no newly identified resource concerns existing for this current application?	-100 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	144 Point(s)
2. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)

3. Is the applicant who is applying for EQIP considered to be a historically underserved participant? (limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmer/rancher)	80 Point(s)
4. 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?	91 Point(s)
5. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project available for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	30 Point(s)
6. Does the applicant who is applying for a EQIP CAP have a previously completed CAP Plan without new resource concerns?	-70 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

**Application Ranking Summary  
FY16 High Tunnel System BFR**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 High Tunnel System BFR		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>Answer ALL of the following criteria that apply regarding the project's impact on addressing resource concerns. Maximum points 250.</p>	
<p>1. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. c The Schedule of Operations includes practices or supports the use of existing practices (such as; cover crops, residue management, and residue and tillage management) which will result in a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>1. d The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing seasonal high tunnel in order to address soil erosion.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address excess nutrients and organics in surface water.</p>	
<p>2. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>2. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address harmful levels of pesticides in surface water.</p>	
<p>3. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>3. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in non-profit, community gardens type programs. If yes, do not answer questions 2 and 3.	67 Point(s)
2. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in for-profit community supported agricultural (CSA) type ventures. If yes, do not answer questions 1 and 3.	52 Point(s)
3. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized for personal consumption. If yes, do not answer questions 1 and 2.	43 Point(s)
4. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where annually planted, labor intensive, high value specialty crops such a vegetables or greens are currently grown.	39 Point(s)
5. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where Perennial labor intensive,high value specialty crops such as berries, nuts or woody ornamentals are currently grown.	28 Point(s)
6. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where traditional agronomic crops such as corn, wheat or soybeans are currently grown.	21 Point(s)
7. If approved is this the applicant's first EQIP contract?	21 Point(s)
8. 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.	-21 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

**Application Ranking Summary  
FY16 High Tunnel System SD**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 High Tunnel System SD		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
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8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
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**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
<p>Answer ALL of the following criteria that apply regarding the project's impact on addressing resource concerns. Maximum points 250.</p>	
<p>1. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. c The Schedule of Operations includes practices or supports the use of existing practices (such as; cover crops, residue management, and residue and tillage management) which will result in a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>1. d The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing seasonal high tunnel in order to address soil erosion.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address excess nutrients and organics in surface water.</p>	
<p>2. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>2. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address harmful levels of pesticides in surface water.</p>	
<p>3. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>3. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

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4. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where annually planted, labor intensive, high value specialty crops such a vegetables or greens are currently grown.	39 Point(s)
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6. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where traditional agronomic crops such as corn, wheat or soybeans are currently grown.	21 Point(s)
7. If approved is this the applicant's first EQIP contract?	21 Point(s)
8. 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.	-21 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary  
FY16 High Tunnel System**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 High Tunnel System		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
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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)
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Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
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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
<p>Answer ALL of the following criteria that apply regarding the project's impact on addressing resource concerns. Maximum points 250.</p>	
<p>1. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to improve plant productivity, health and vigor.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>1. c The Schedule of Operations includes practices or supports the use of existing practices (such as; cover crops, residue management, and residue and tillage management) which will result in a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI) score as determined by RUSLE II.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>1. d The Schedule of Operations includes supporting practices necessary to support a new or existing seasonal high tunnel in order to address soil erosion.</p>	45 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address excess nutrients and organics in surface water.</p>	
<p>2. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>2. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce excess nutrients and organics in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)
<p>Answer ONE of the following criteria that apply regarding the projects ability to address harmful levels of pesticides in surface water.</p>	
<p>3. a The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body? (TMDL, 303d, etc.).</p>	65 Point(s)
<p>3. b The Schedule of Operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to reduce harmful levels of pesticides in surface water from a field that adjoins a non-impaired water body?.</p>	25 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in non-profit, community gardens type programs. If yes, do not answer questions 2 and 3.	67 Point(s)
2. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized in for-profit community supported agricultural (CSA) type ventures. If yes, do not answer questions 1 and 3.	52 Point(s)
3. If the applicant is approved, the Seasonal High Tunnel will be utilized for personal consumption. If yes, do not answer questions 1 and 2.	43 Point(s)
4. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where annually planted, labor intensive, high value specialty crops such as vegetables or greens are currently grown.	39 Point(s)
5. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where Perennial labor intensive, high value specialty crops such as berries, nuts or woody ornamentals are currently grown.	28 Point(s)
6. If approved, the applicant for a Seasonal High Tunnel will place the tunnel within cropland where traditional agronomic crops such as corn, wheat or soybeans are currently grown.	21 Point(s)
7. If approved is this the applicant's first EQIP contract?	21 Point(s)
8. 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.	-21 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary  
FY16 On-Farm Energy**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 On-Farm Energy		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>If the application is for the 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 State-level questions.</p>	
<p>1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other State-level questions. If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	400 Point(s)
<p>With regard to applications containing energy efficiency practices (answer one of the following):</p>	
<p>2. a The application contains two or more core practices.</p>	100 Point(s)
<p>2. b The application contains at least one core practice and additional supporting practices.</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>2. c The application contains only supporting practices.</p>	0 Point(s)
<p>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by (select all that apply):</p>	
<p>3. a Implementing irrigation practices that reduce energy and reduce aquifer overdraft?</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>3. b Implementing practices that recycle or reuse water?</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>Air Quality - Does the application contain projects that improve air quality by (answer one of the following):</p>	
<p>4. a Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by 100,000 pounds or more?</p>	100 Point(s)
<p>4. b Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by at least 75,000 pounds but less than 100,000 pounds?</p>	75 Point(s)
<p>4. c Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by at least 50,000 pounds but less than 75,000 pounds?</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>4. d Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by at least 25,000 pounds but less than 50,000 pounds?</p>	20 Point(s)
<p>4. e Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by at least 10,000 pounds but less than 25,000 pounds?</p>	10 Point(s)

4. f Implementing energy practices that have been evaluated to reduce on-farm generated carbon dioxide (CO2) by less than 10,000 pounds?	0 Point(s)
Use the “Energy Cost Efficiency Worksheet” to calculate the estimated energy cost efficiency value for the conservation practices in the EQIP Plan/Schedule of Operations. Answer one of the following questions:	
5. a Is the estimated energy cost efficiency 50 percent or more?	100 Point(s)
5. b Is the estimated energy cost efficiency between 30 and 50 percent?	50 Point(s)
5. c Is the estimated energy cost efficiency less than 30 percent?	25 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.	250 Point(s)
3. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	19 Point(s)
5. Has the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance ever been awarded a grant or loan from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP) for energy efficiency improvements in the last 3-5 years? If no, points are earned.	125 Point(s)
6. For the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance and has been awarded a grant from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP) for energy efficiency improvements, was the grant payment for any of the same activities being applied for in this application? If no, points are earned.	70 Point(s)
7. For the applicant who is applying for EQIP On -Farm Energy assistance and has been awarded a grant from the Rural Energy Awareness Program (REAP) for energy efficiency improvements, was the grant payment for any of the same activities being applied for in this application? If yes, points are earned.	-25 Point(s)
7. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project being utilized for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	21 Point(s)
8. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource, Beginning Farmer/Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged status?	40 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  
FY16 Organic Certified**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 Organic Certified		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>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 state priority category.</p>	
<p>1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	400 Point(s)
Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
<p>2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?</p>	60 Point(s)
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
<p>3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?</p>	60 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
<p>4. a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?</p>	35 Point(s)
<p>4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?</p>	35 Point(s)
Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points	
<p>5. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?</p>	20 Point(s)
<p>5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?</p>	20 Point(s)
Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
<p>6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?</p>	50 Point(s)
Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	

7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40 Point(s)
7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10 Point(s)

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
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.	
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.	250 Point(s)
2. 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)
Soil Erosion Issues: Maximum 60 points	
3. Soil Erosion Issues: Will the organic cropping system you intend to implement using EQIP include conservation practices such as contour buffer strips, terraces, grassed waterways, cross wind trap strips or field windbreaks to control water and or wind erosion to less than soil loss tolerance (T) on all contracted acres?	37 Point(s)
Soil Health: Maximum 60 points	
4. Soil Health Issues: Will the planned crop rotation combined with the planned tillage systems and other supporting practices (i.e., contouring, strip cropping, etc.) achieve a positive soil conditioning index?	32 Point(s)

Crop Diversity (Choose only one)	
5. Crop Diversity Issues: Will the organic cropping system you intend to implement using EQIP result in an increase in crop diversity by including more than two different crops? If yes do not answer Questions 6 and 7	20 Point(s)
6. Crop Diversity Issues: Will the organic cropping system you intend to implement using EQIP result in an increase in crop diversity by including more than two different crops and a cover crop? If yes do not answer Questions 5 and 7	32 Point(s)
7. Crop Diversity Issues: Will the organic cropping system you intend to implement using EQIP result in an increase in crop diversity by including two or more different crops and two or more years of a perennial grass or legume? If yes do not answer Questions 5 and 6	41 Point(s)
Fish and Wildlife Resources:	
8. Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues: Will the organic cropping system you intend to implement using EQIP include field borders and conservation buffers in lieu of or in addition to required setbacks?	26 Point(s)
9. Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues: Will the planned conservation practices (e.g., filter and buffer strips, hedge rows, windbreaks, etc.) include pollinator plant species for organic production systems?	16 Point(s)
Grazing Management:	
10. Will the organic grazing system you intend to implement using EQIP meet the requirements of the Prescribed Grazing standard (528) and result in improved utilization and management of the forage resource?	28 Point(s)
Water Quality:	
11. Does the EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient Management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	27 Point(s)
12. Does the EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 595 Integrated Pest Management?	16 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  
FY16 Organic Transition**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY16 Organic Transition		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>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 state priority category.</p>	
<p>1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.</p>	400 Point(s)
Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points.	
<p>2. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one or more soil quality or enhancing practice(s) that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?</p>	60 Point(s)
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points	
<p>3. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?</p>	60 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points.	
<p>4. a Does the EQIP Schedule of operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on “non-cropland” acreage?</p>	35 Point(s)
<p>4. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?</p>	35 Point(s)
Degraded Habitat : Maximum of 90 points	
<p>5. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm?</p>	20 Point(s)
<p>5. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?</p>	50 Point(s)
<p>5. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat?</p>	20 Point(s)
Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points.	
<p>6. Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system and/or conserve soil moisture?</p>	50 Point(s)
Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points	

7. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	40 Point(s)
7. b Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7. c Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10 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.	250 Point(s)
2. Domestic Animal Resource Issues: EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs.	43 Point(s)
3. Domestic Animal Resource Issues: EQIP plan includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies to FOTG quality criteria standards.	36 Point(s)
4. EQIP plan includes implementation of practices to assure adequate clean off-stream domestic livestock drinking water sources are available in the treatment unit and meets FOTG quality criteria standards.	34 Point(s)
5. Domestic Animal Resource Issues: EQIP plan includes implementation of practice 511 Forage Harvest Management to address NOP requirements for management of feed supplements and forage supplies.	37 Point(s)
6. Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues: EQIP plan includes implementation of practices that include pollinator-friendly plant species in the crop rotation system.	19 Point(s)
7. Fish and Wildlife Resource Issues: EQIP plan includes implementation of conservation practices that include pollinator plant species for organic production systems (e.g., filter and buffer strips, hedge rows, windbreaks, etc.).	19 Point(s)
8. Plant Condition: EQIP plan includes practices that will result in management of vegetation and surface residues to FOTG quality criteria standards.	62 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  
NE Forestry Initiative - BFR**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> NE Forestry Initiative - BFR		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for soil conservation? (666, 643, 472, 612, 338)	39 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for water quality? (666,643, 472)	28 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for wildlife habitat? (666, 643, 472, 338)	28 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the improvement or restoration of a declining forest community? (666, 643, 472, 338)	36 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the improved health and vigor of existing windbreaks/shelterbelts? (650, 472)	43 Point(s)
7. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved air quality? (380,612, 472)	19 Point(s)
8. Will the forestry treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved energy conservation? (380,472)	27 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of habitat for “at risk” or “threatened or endangered” aquatic or wildlife species? (643)	23 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include at least two of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 3) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 4) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	48 Point(s)
11. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved protection of soil from erosion? (380, 612, 472)	27 Point(s)
12. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved livestock protection? (380, 472)	31 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP be included in a Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the Nebraska Forest Service?	51 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	33 Point(s)
3. 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?	80 Point(s)
4. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
5. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project being utilized for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	43 Point(s)
6. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska’s Forestry Special Initiative by providing financial assistance?	46 Point(s)
7. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	53 Point(s)
8. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	20 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary  
NE Forestry Initiative - SD**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> NE Forestry Initiative - SD		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for soil conservation? (666, 643, 472, 612, 338)	39 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for water quality? (666,643, 472)	28 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement of existing forestland for wildlife habitat? (666, 643, 472, 338)	28 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the improvement or restoration of a declining forest community? (666, 643, 472, 338)	36 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the improved health and vigor of existing windbreaks/shelterbelts? (650, 472)	43 Point(s)
7. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved air quality? (380,612, 472)	19 Point(s)
8. Will the forestry treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved energy conservation? (380,472)	27 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection, restoration, development, or enhancement of habitat for “at risk” or “threatened or endangered” aquatic or wildlife species? (643)	23 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include at least two of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 3) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 4) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	48 Point(s)
11. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved protection of soil from erosion? (380, 612, 472)	27 Point(s)
12. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved livestock protection? (380, 472)	31 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP be included in a Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the Nebraska Forest Service?	51 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	33 Point(s)
3. 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?	80 Point(s)
4. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
5. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project being utilized for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	43 Point(s)
6. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska’s Forestry Special Initiative by providing financial assistance?	46 Point(s)
7. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	53 Point(s)
8. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	20 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

**Application Ranking Summary  
NE Forestry Initiative**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> NE Forestry Initiative		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
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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)
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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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
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11. Will the conservation tree/shrub planting(s) you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved protection of soil from erosion? (380, 612, 472)	27 Point(s)
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13. Will the treatment(s) you intend to implement using EQIP be included in a Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the Nebraska Forest Service?	51 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	33 Point(s)
3. 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?	80 Point(s)
4. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25 Point(s)
5. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project being utilized for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	43 Point(s)
6. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska’s Forestry Special Initiative by providing financial assistance?	46 Point(s)
7. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	53 Point(s)
8. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	20 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

**Application Ranking Summary  
Prescribed Burn Plan**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Prescribed Burn Plan		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 questions in this section.	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 lands in the contract?	81 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	31 Point(s)
4. 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)
5. 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?	31 Point(s)
6. 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?	81 Point(s)
7. 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)
8. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	25 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 state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Is plant rest/recovery time 80% or more of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)?	70 Point(s)
3. Is plant rest/recovery time 60% to 79% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)?	45 Point(s)
4. Is plant rest/recovery time 40% to 59% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)?	35 Point(s)
5. Is plant rest/recovery time 20% to 39% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)?	25 Point(s)

6. Is plant rest/recovery time 19% or less of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)?	15 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in one full year deferment (January 1- November 30th)?	85 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a prescribed burn being implemented?	125 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary  
Tribal Initiative

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Tribal Initiative		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 questions in this section.	400 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 lands in the contract?	35 Point(s)
3. Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15 Point(s)
4. 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)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 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?	9 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)?	25 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?	31 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?	15 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on all contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	47 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)	14 Point(s)

13. 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)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of no-till on 100% of the land in the contract?	13 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a tree and/or shrub planting for conservation purposes?	16 Point(s)
16. 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?	51 Point(s)
17. 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?	18 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	36 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.	25 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.	20 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.	15 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.	250 Point(s)

2. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or an entity that had one)	17 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in treatment of a targeted resource issue within a Local Work Group identified natural resources area of concern?	33 Point(s)
4. Will at least one of the following primary practices ( 412, 512, 600 or 620) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an eligible Erosion (Sheet and Rill, Ephemeral, Wind) local resource concern?	25 Point(s)
5. Will at least one of the following primary practices (382, 516,595 340,328, 528 or 614) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an eligible Livestock Production Limitation or Soil Quality local resource concern?	25 Point(s)
6. Will at least one of the following primary practices (328, 430, 441, 442 or 449) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an eligible Excess/Inefficient Water local resource concern?	25 Point(s)
7. Will at least one of the following primary practices (314, 666) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an eligible Degraded Plant local resource concern?	25 Point(s)
8. Will the following primary practice (590) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an Excess Nutrients in Surface and Ground Water statewide resource concern?	25 Point(s)
9. Will at least one of the following primary practices (313, 316, 350, 632, 620, 634, 521A-D, 362, 582) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids, or Compost statewide resource concern?	25 Point(s)
10. Will the following primary practice (645) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address a Inadequate Habitat fir Fish and Wildlife resource concern?	25 Point(s)
11. Will at least one of the following primary practices (380, 650) be utilized as the preferred treatment used with EQIP to address an forestry related resource concern?	25 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  
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - BFR**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - BFR		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>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 questions in this section.</p>	<p>400 Point(s)</p>
<p>2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to routinely grazed grasslands that will include all three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method) or if not routinely grazed, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include both of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; and 2) only one "disturbance grazing" (high intensity with &gt;2X stocking rate - short duration of &lt;30 days) event during the contract period with rest from grazing during the remainder of the contract period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?</p>	<p>44 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include only two but not all three, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization ; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will include either of the following developments: 1) conversion of non-native grassland (i.e. smooth brome) to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres); or 2) conversion of cropland to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres)?</p>	<p>22 Point(s)</p>

<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include all three of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>41 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include only two, but not all three, of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>26 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Does the riparian area being improved support an at-risk aquatic species or is it classified as a cold-water stream?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include a minor hydrology enhancement (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.) plus at least two of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing; 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; or 5) water level management?</p>	<p>42 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include any two of the following development / management techniques: 1) minor hydrology enhancements (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.); 2) prescribed grazing; and 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; 5) water level management; or 6) prescribed burning?</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Is the wetland being improved one of the following types of wetlands: (Rainwater Basin playa, Central Platte floodplain or riverine, Eastern Saline wetland, Missouri River floodplain or riverine, Todd Valley playa, or fen)?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>

11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include at least three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	44 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include only two, but not three or more, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving annual rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	17 Point(s)
13. Is the woodland being improved a native stand located within one of the four Focus Areas for the Nebraska Forest Legacy Program?	9 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in either the conversion of cropland to wildlife habitat or the significant enhancement of existing wildlife habitat AND is located in a cropland dominated landscape (>75% cropland within a 1 mile radius)?	44 Point(s)
15. Will the wildlife habitat area outlined in Question 14 above provide an area of permanent habitat in one contiguous block that is larger than 5 acres and has an average width of 100 feet or greater?	13 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of an at risk plant species?	25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will involve the removal of invading woody species currently at low density and considered an “operation and maintenance” level of infestation? (Target species include Eastern red cedar, Siberian elm, Russian olive, etc.)	11 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
2. 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.	250 Point(s)

3. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-30 Point(s)
4. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project by providing financial assistance?	45 Point(s)
5. 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?	32 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be adjacent to or directly benefit (e.g. in the watershed of) a permanently protected conservation land such as GRP, WRP, WMA's or equivalent?	9 Point(s)
7. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	10 Point(s)
8. Complete habitat development within the first two years of the agreement?	12 Point(s)
9. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 14 to 20 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	51 Point(s)
10. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 8 to 13 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	31 Point(s)
11. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 7 or less in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	21 Point(s)
12. Does the application for irrigation re-use pit filling include 2 or more pits?	17 Point(s)
13. Will the area of the removed irrigation re-use pit be planted to permanent wildlife habitat (native grasses, forbs, and/or shrubs)? (It is acceptable to allow crop production on this area but additional points are awarded if it is planted to permanent wildlife habitat)	12 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement address specific needs and opportunities of those habitats located within one of the 40 Biologically Unique Landscapes (BUL) identified within the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project?	40 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  
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - SD**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN - SD		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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
<p>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 questions in this section.</p>	<p>400 Point(s)</p>
<p>2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to routinely grazed grasslands that will include all three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method) or if not routinely grazed, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include both of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; and 2) only one "disturbance grazing" (high intensity with &gt;2X stocking rate - short duration of &lt;30 days) event during the contract period with rest from grazing during the remainder of the contract period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?</p>	<p>44 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include only two but not all three, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization ; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will include either of the following developments: 1) conversion of non-native grassland (i.e. smooth brome) to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres); or 2) conversion of cropland to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres)?</p>	<p>22 Point(s)</p>

<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include all three of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>41 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include only two, but not all three, of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>26 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Does the riparian area being improved support an at-risk aquatic species or is it classified as a cold-water stream?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include a minor hydrology enhancement (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.) plus at least two of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing; 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; or 5) water level management?</p>	<p>42 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include any two of the following development / management techniques: 1) minor hydrology enhancements (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.); 2) prescribed grazing; and 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; 5) water level management; or 6) prescribed burning?</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Is the wetland being improved one of the following types of wetlands: (Rainwater Basin playa, Central Platte floodplain or riverine, Eastern Saline wetland, Missouri River floodplain or riverine, Todd Valley playa, or fen)?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>

11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include at least three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	44 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include only two, but not three or more, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving annual rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	17 Point(s)
13. Is the woodland being improved a native stand located within one of the four Focus Areas for the Nebraska Forest Legacy Program?	9 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in either the conversion of cropland to wildlife habitat or the significant enhancement of existing wildlife habitat AND is located in a cropland dominated landscape (>75% cropland within a 1 mile radius)?	44 Point(s)
15. Will the wildlife habitat area outlined in Question 14 above provide an area of permanent habitat in one contiguous block that is larger than 5 acres and has an average width of 100 feet or greater?	13 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of an at risk plant species?	25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will involve the removal of invading woody species currently at low density and considered an “operation and maintenance” level of infestation? (Target species include Eastern red cedar, Siberian elm, Russian olive, etc.)	11 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
2. 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.	250 Point(s)

3. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-30 Point(s)
4. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project by providing financial assistance?	45 Point(s)
5. 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?	32 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be adjacent to or directly benefit (e.g. in the watershed of) a permanently protected conservation land such as GRP, WRP, WMA's or equivalent?	9 Point(s)
7. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	10 Point(s)
8. Complete habitat development within the first two years of the agreement?	12 Point(s)
9. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 14 to 20 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	51 Point(s)
10. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 8 to 13 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	31 Point(s)
11. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 7 or less in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	21 Point(s)
12. Does the application for irrigation re-use pit filling include 2 or more pits?	17 Point(s)
13. Will the area of the removed irrigation re-use pit be planted to permanent wildlife habitat (native grasses, forbs, and/or shrubs)? (It is acceptable to allow crop production on this area but additional points are awarded if it is planted to permanent wildlife habitat)	12 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement address specific needs and opportunities of those habitats located within one of the 40 Biologically Unique Landscapes (BUL) identified within the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project?	40 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  
Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Wildlife Initiative Nebraska - WIN		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to routinely grazed grasslands that will include all three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method) or if not routinely grazed, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include both of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; and 2) only one "disturbance grazing" (high intensity with >2X stocking rate - short duration of <30 days) event during the contract period with rest from grazing during the remainder of the contract period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?	44 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to grasslands that will include only two but not all three, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization ; and 3) annual rest from grazing on a portion (minimum of 20%) of the enrolled acres for a 12 month period or light grazing (less than 40% use documented by an acceptable monitoring method)?	19 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will include either of the following developments: 1) conversion of non-native grassland (i.e. smooth brome) to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres); or 2) conversion of cropland to native grassland habitat (minimum of 10 acres)?	22 Point(s)

<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include all three of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>41 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to riparian areas adjacent to streams that will include only two, but not all three, of the following enhancement methods: 1) structural practices to reconstitute natural stream course including reconnecting oxbows and backwaters and removal/modification of barriers such as culverts and diversions; 2) vegetative development in buffer zone including planting of herbaceous and woody species or removal of non-native species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, phragmites, etc.; and 3) vegetative management in buffer zone including prescribed burning or grazing management using fencing and off-site water development?</p>	<p>26 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Does the riparian area being improved support an at-risk aquatic species or is it classified as a cold-water stream?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include a minor hydrology enhancement (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.) plus at least two of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing; 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; or 5) water level management?</p>	<p>42 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to wetlands that will include any two of the following development / management techniques: 1) minor hydrology enhancements (ditch plug, dike, sediment removal, etc.); 2) prescribed grazing; and 3) tillage; 4) site-specific herbicide application; 5) water level management; or 6) prescribed burning?</p>	<p>19 Point(s)</p>
<p>10. Is the wetland being improved one of the following types of wetlands: (Rainwater Basin playa, Central Platte floodplain or riverine, Eastern Saline wetland, Missouri River floodplain or riverine, Todd Valley playa, or fen)?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>

11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include at least three of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	44 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological improvement to native woodlands that will include only two, but not three or more, of the following management techniques: 1) prescribed burning; 2) prescribed grazing that does not exceed 50% utilization and with a minimum of 20% of the enrolled area receiving annual rest for a 12 month period; 3) selective thinning for forest stand improvement; 4) inter-planting of desired native species to improve diversity; 5) development of micro-habitat components such as snags, brush piles, and forest openings?	17 Point(s)
13. Is the woodland being improved a native stand located within one of the four Focus Areas for the Nebraska Forest Legacy Program?	9 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in either the conversion of cropland to wildlife habitat or the significant enhancement of existing wildlife habitat AND is located in a cropland dominated landscape (>75% cropland within a 1 mile radius)?	44 Point(s)
15. Will the wildlife habitat area outlined in Question 14 above provide an area of permanent habitat in one contiguous block that is larger than 5 acres and has an average width of 100 feet or greater?	13 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of an at risk plant species?	25 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the ecological habitat improvement to grasslands that will involve the removal of invading woody species currently at low density and considered an “operation and maintenance” level of infestation? (Target species include Eastern red cedar, Siberian elm, Russian olive, etc.)	11 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
2. 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.	250 Point(s)

3. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-30 Point(s)
4. Are other conservation partners assisting with the EQIP project to implement objectives of Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project by providing financial assistance?	45 Point(s)
5. 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?	32 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be adjacent to or directly benefit (e.g. in the watershed of) a permanently protected conservation land such as GRP, WRP, WMA's or equivalent?	9 Point(s)
7. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	10 Point(s)
8. Complete habitat development within the first two years of the agreement?	12 Point(s)
9. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 14 to 20 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	51 Point(s)
10. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 8 to 13 in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	31 Point(s)
11. Does the irrigation re-use pit proposed for removal using EQIP funds rank as a 7 or less in the assessment by the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture?	21 Point(s)
12. Does the application for irrigation re-use pit filling include 2 or more pits?	17 Point(s)
13. Will the area of the removed irrigation re-use pit be planted to permanent wildlife habitat (native grasses, forbs, and/or shrubs)? (It is acceptable to allow crop production on this area but additional points are awarded if it is planted to permanent wildlife habitat)	12 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement address specific needs and opportunities of those habitats located within one of the 40 Biologically Unique Landscapes (BUL) identified within the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project?	40 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  
WQ Degradation Excess Path/Manure AFO**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> WQ Degradation Excess Path/Manure AFO		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located within 0.5 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	60 Point(s)
2. Is the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located: 0.6 to 1.0 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? If taken do not answer 1& 3. (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	25 Point(s)
3. Is the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP being applied to an existing livestock operation located: Greater than 1.0 miles of surface water, including any streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marches, wetlands, water courses, waterways, springs or canal systems, natural or artificial? (An existing AFO to be properly abandoned and relocated could also score these points.)	25 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in an increased ground water protection? Example: upgrading to flexible member liner for proposed earthen storage facility; removing the potential for runoff by moving all livestock into confinement, bedded pack or slatted flow facilities; or closure of existing waste control structure.	40 Point(s)
5. Is the existing livestock operation considered a small or medium AFO?	38 Point(s)
6. Is the existing livestock operation or manure storage structure(s) in an NRD determined Ground Water Management Phase II or III areas?	27 Point(s)
7. For the AFO portion of the operation, is the entire existing livestock operation (maximum operating capacity) in total confinement 100% throughout the 12 month period?	15 Point(s)
8. Will the producer be utilizing a Vegetative Treatment Area (VTA) ?	21 Point(s)
9. Is the replacement of existing livestock operation, building, or storage structures for the construction of new building or structures due to a resource concern.	33 Point(s)
10. Is there a planned animal compost facility for mortality in this EQIP project?	13 Point(s)
11. Is there a animal compost facility for mortality (that meets compost standards for 316) already being utilized at the existing livestock operation?	5 Point(s)

12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in site-specific nutrient management for better nitrogen utilization (i.e. application timing and placement closer to crop uptake, grid sampling, variable rate applicators, GPS based) for all the cropland under ownership and/or operational controlled (leased/easement) ground as outlined in the CNMP following 590 standard?	25 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in site-specific nutrient management for phosphorus (i.e. P-based application rates of manure, field rotation of manure application, manure transfers/exports) far all the cropland under ownership and/or operational control (lease/rented) as outlined in the CNMP following 590 standards?	64 Point(s)
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in the installation of additional and/or new land treatment practices )i.e. 328, 329, 345, 330, 332, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 447, 600, or 638) being applied to 24-50% of the owned (controlled) land applicatiion sites?	16 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in the installation of additional and/or new land treatment practices )i.e. 328, 329, 345, 330, 332, 362, 386, 390, 391, 393, 412, 447, 600, or 638) being applied to 51-100% of the owned (controlled) land applicatiion sites?	25 Point(s)
16. Will the applied effluent, wastewater, washwater and/or runoff water from the manure storage structures via irrigation equipment be applied on land application sites that are or will be IWM compliant?	13 Point(s)
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation minimize air quality issues (dust from the operation/buildings or gases from the waste storage facility) using the appropriate practice(s)? (i.e. waste facility cover, methane recovery, bio-filters, shelterbelt)	10 Point(s)
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in complete abandonment or relocation of the operation due to a resource concern? If yes do not answer the next question.	10 Point(s)
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on the existing livestock operation result in a partial abandonment or relocation of the operation due to a resource concern?	5 Point(s)
21. Does the operation own or operate adequate cropland for the manure nutrients excreted and stored on site?	10 Point(s)

22. Does the operation own or operate adequate cropland, pasture or hay ground for the manure nutrients excreted and stored onsite? If hay or pasture ground is needed to apply the manure and makes up 1-33% of the total acres, subtract points.	-19 Point(s)
23. Does the operation own or operate adequate cropland, pasture or hay ground for the manure nutrients excreted and stored onsite? If hay or pasture ground is needed to apply the manure and makes up 34-66% of the total acres, subtract points.	-30 Point(s)
24. Does the operation own or operate adequate cropland, pasture or hay ground for the manure nutrients excreted and stored onsite? If hay or pasture ground is needed to apply the manure and makes up 67-100% of the total acres, subtract points.	-45 Point(s)
25. If the applicant has a CNMP with pastureland for manure application, is the pastureland accessible for land application equipment?	14 Point(s)

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Would the applicant who is applying for EQIP be receiving their first contract if successfully approved? (applicant has never been associated with another EQIP contract or entity that had one).	24 Point(s)
2. 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 defensible meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-44 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP identified in an air quality assessment which will result in improved air quality?	7 Point(s)
4. 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?	13 Point(s)
5. Is the treatment(s) implemented in this EQIP project available for demonstration purposes to local groups (schools, 4-H clubs, landowner tours, extensions specialists)?	20 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP for the existing livestock operation result in 50% of the cropland under ownership and leased (as outlined in the CNMP) being certified organic?	15 Point(s)
7. Does the applicant who is applying for the EQIP have a completed certified CNMP.	125 Point(s)
8. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP have a Nebraska NRCS Ranking-Ready CNMP but not a certified CNMP?	90 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](#)

**Application Ranking Summary  
State Water Quality Initiative**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> State Water Quality Initiative		<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
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	250 Point(s)
<p>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?</p>	15 Point(s)
<p>2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>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)?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</p>	
<p>3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.</p>	15 Point(s)
<p>3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?</p>	10 Point(s)
<p>3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?</p>	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 for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100 Point(s)
3. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application	125 Point(s)
4. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)
5. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the SWQI primary resource concerns?	50 Point(s)
6. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Will Cover Crop be utilized on the offered cropland acres	25 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of a single conservation practice?	6 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of multiple conservation practices?	10 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on crop land determined to be Highly Erodible (HEL) for either wind or water erosion?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of Conservation Buffers (filter strips, field borders, or riparian forest buffers)?	23 Point(s)

7. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of land in expiring CRP contracts to continuous no till farming (no tilling the first crop into existing sod and continuous no till for the life of the contract)?	20 Point(s)
8. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of cropland to grass?	25 Point(s)
9. If irrigated cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of gravity irrigation to low pressure center pivot irrigation?	34 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from a conventional tillage system or every other year tillage to continuous no till farming?	20 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of structural practices for reduction of soil erosion?	20 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the development of a nutrient management plan with application of nutrients based on land grant university recommendations (if manure is applied, it is included in the nutrient management plan).	31 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on rangeland result in livestock access to streams being managed on the offered acres? (riparian area fenced, alternate water sources developed to eliminate watering from the stream, cattle crossing developed if needed, rotational grazing).	26 Point(s)

**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:  Local Issues:  State Issues:  National Issues:  <b>Final Ranking Score:</b>
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<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  
State Water Quality Initiative - BFR**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> State Water Quality Initiative - BFR		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100 Point(s)
3. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application	125 Point(s)
4. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)
5. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the SWQI primary resource concerns?	50 Point(s)
6. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Will Cover Crop be utilized on the offered cropland acres	25 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of a single conservation practice?	6 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of multiple conservation practices?	10 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on crop land determined to be Highly Erodible (HEL) for either wind or water erosion?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of Conservation Buffers (filter strips, field borders, or riparian forest buffers)?	23 Point(s)

7. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of land in expiring CRP contracts to continuous no till farming (no tilling the first crop into existing sod and continuous no till for the life of the contract)?	20 Point(s)
8. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of cropland to grass?	25 Point(s)
9. If irrigated cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of gravity irrigation to low pressure center pivot irrigation?	34 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from a conventional tillage system or every other year tillage to continuous no till farming?	20 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of structural practices for reduction of soil erosion?	20 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the development of a nutrient management plan with application of nutrients based on land grant university recommendations (if manure is applied, it is included in the nutrient management plan).	31 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on rangeland result in livestock access to streams being managed on the offered acres? (riparian area fenced, alternate water sources developed to eliminate watering from the stream, cattle crossing developed if needed, rotational grazing).	26 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  
State Water Quality Initiative - SD**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> State Water Quality Initiative - SD		<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)
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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)
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>	
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 for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100 Point(s)
3. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed AND ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application	125 Point(s)
4. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)
5. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the SWQI primary resource concerns?	50 Point(s)
6. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application for development of a TSP-prepared 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 questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Will Cover Crop be utilized on the offered cropland acres	25 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of a single conservation practice?	6 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of multiple conservation practices?	10 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on crop land determined to be Highly Erodible (HEL) for either wind or water erosion?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of Conservation Buffers (filter strips, field borders, or riparian forest buffers)?	23 Point(s)

7. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of land in expiring CRP contracts to continuous no till farming (no tilling the first crop into existing sod and continuous no till for the life of the contract)?	20 Point(s)
8. If cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of cropland to grass?	25 Point(s)
9. If irrigated cropland, will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of gravity irrigation to low pressure center pivot irrigation?	34 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from a conventional tillage system or every other year tillage to continuous no till farming?	20 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of structural practices for reduction of soil erosion?	20 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the development of a nutrient management plan with application of nutrients based on land grant university recommendations (if manure is applied, it is included in the nutrient management plan).	31 Point(s)
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP on rangeland result in livestock access to streams being managed on the offered acres? (riparian area fenced, alternate water sources developed to eliminate watering from the stream, cattle crossing developed if needed, rotational grazing).	26 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