

Twin Platte NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

Fund Code	Page
Cropland - Irrigation	2
Cropland - Soil Erosion	12
Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition	19
Grassland - Livestock Production Limitation	26

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - Excess/ Insufficient Water - TPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/ Insufficient Water - TPNRD		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

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

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

Local Issues Addressed

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

<p>If your application is for an irrigation system improvement select only 1 answer in questions 2 - 11 below.</p>	
<p>2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a micro irrigation system?</p>	<p>12 Point(s)</p>
<p>3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a linear travel path or 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>22 Point(s)</p>
<p>4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with greater than a 270 degree but less than 360 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with a 270 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>13 Point(s)</p>
<p>6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with greater than a 180 degree but less than 270 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>10 Point(s)</p>
<p>7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under span (radius) with a 180 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of a sprinkler irrigation system that applies water under a span (radius) with less than a 180 degree rotation at the center pivot point on cropland?</p>	<p>3 Point(s)</p>
<p>9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from gravity irrigation to a surge irrigation system?</p>	<p>10 Point(s)</p>

<p>10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from surge irrigation to a low pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system?</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion from high pressure sprinkler irrigation to a low pressure sprinkler irrigation system?</p>	<p>3 Point(s)</p>
<p>Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land (cropland, wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Eligible acres must not be acres used to mitigate or offset irrigated acres through agreements with the Natural Resource District. Select only 1 answer for questions 12 - 15.</p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"> </p>
<p>12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 100% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land (cropland, wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Eligible acres must not be acres used to mitigate or offset irrigated acres through agreements with the Natural Resource District</p>	<p>85 Point(s)</p>
<p>13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 30% - 99.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land (cropland, wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Eligible acres must not be acres used to mitigate or offset irrigated acres through agreements with the Natural Resource District.</p>	<p>15 Point(s)</p>
<p>14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 5% - 29.9% of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land (cropland, wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Eligible acres must not be acres used to mitigate or offset irrigated acres through agreements with the Natural Resource District.</p>	<p>10 Point(s)</p>

<p>15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in 0.1% - 4.9% or less of the total contract acres being converted from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land (cropland, wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland)? Eligible acres must not be acres used to mitigate or offset irrigated acres through agreements with the Natural Resource District.</p>	<p>5 Point(s)</p>
<p>If your application is for a system improvement - will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management on 100% of the irrigated contract acres? Select only 1 answer for questions 16 - 18.</p>	
<p>16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced or high intensity soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?</p>	<p>6 Point(s)</p>
<p>17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an intermediate or medium intensity soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?</p>	<p>4 Point(s)</p>
<p>18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a basic soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?</p>	<p>2 Point(s)</p>
<p>These questions are applicable to applications for IWM only. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management on 100% of the irrigated contract acres? Select only 1 answer for questions 19 - 21.</p>	
<p>19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an advanced or high intensity soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?</p>	<p>60 Point(s)</p>

20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using an intermediate or medium intensity soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?	40 Point(s)
21. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of irrigation water management using a basic soil moisture monitoring system 100% of the irrigated contracted acres?	15 Point(s)
Utilize the WinPST program to determine soil leaching potential:	
22. Does the predominant soils on the potential contract acres have a High soil leaching potential?	20 Point(s)
23. Does the predominant soils on the potential contract acres have an Intermediate, Low, or Very Low soil leaching potential?	10 Point(s)
Utilize NE Dept of Natural Resources Natural Resources and Natural Resources District maps:	
24. Is the field or acres in which you would implement EQIP located in the over appropriated area?	15 Point(s)
25. Is the field or acres in which you would implement EQIP located in the fully appropriated area?	10 Point(s)
26. Is the field or acres in which you would implement EQIP not located in either the over appropriated or fully appropriated area?	5 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Soil Erosion - TPNRD		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

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

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

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, or pastureland) established on all cropland in the contract?	70 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a rotation with 100% continuous no-till system (329) on 100% of cropland in the contract?	50 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a rotation with 100% continuous no-till system (329) on 50% of cropland in the contract?	20 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in water runoff from all cropland being trapped or filtered with practices such as Field Borders, Filter Strips, Riparian Forest Buffers, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Grassed Waterway, Diversion or Terrace, Water and Sediment Control Basin?	35 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management (590) on 100% of cropland in the contract?	10 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management (590) on 50% of cropland in the contract?	5 Point(s)
8. If cropland, will a multi-species (4 or more species) cover crop (340) mixture be planted for soil quality and soil health benefits?	40 Point(s)
9. If cropland, will a multi-species (2 - 3 species) cover crop (340) mixture be planted for soil quality and soil health benefits?	35 Point(s)
10. If cropland, will a single species cover crop (340) mixture be planted for soil quality and soil health benefits?	5 Point(s)
11. Will the treatment planned in the contract result in energy reduction, erosion control or livestock protection through a windbreak/shelterbelt establishment (380) (minimum length needed to protect area of concern and minimum planned height of 20ft)? Other conifers will be planted, not eastern red cedar	30 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment planned in the contract result in energy reduction, erosion control or livestock protection through a windbreak/shelterbelt establishment (380) (minimum length needed to protect area of concern and minimum planned height of 20ft)? Planting includes Eastern Red Cedar	15 Point(s)

13. Will the treatment planned in the contract result in energy reduction, erosion control or livestock protection through a windbreak renovation (650) (minimum length needed to protect area of concern and minimum planned height of 20ft)?	25 Point(s)
14. Will the conservation plan you plan to implement through EQIP include at risk species habitat management/improvement – wildlife plan (with written concurrence of a wildlife biologist) developed to manage and improve habitat with direct benefit to an at-risk species? At risk species are federal and state listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species listed in the FOTG. (644, 645)	30 Point(s)
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Wetland Restoration (657) – (Wetland functions and values restored as outlined in a wetland plan)?	20 Point(s)
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in ----- Wetland Enhancement (659) – (Wetland functions and values enhanced as outlined in a wetland plan)?	10 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition - TPNRD		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

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

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

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)?	
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)

Grazingland (upland) Brush Management/Invasive Species:	
2. Will the management plan include treatment of invasive vegetation on greater than 5 acres?	120 Point(s)
3. If plan includes prescribed burning (338), would this be the first time the applicant(s) have implemented this practice on any land they have operated/owned?	15 Point(s)
4. If your plan includes mechanical brush management, do you plan to utilize prescribed burning as a follow-up management tool on this land after this EQIP contract would expire?	25 Point(s)
5. If your grazingland has a significant amount of invasive specie encroachment, do you plan to implement brush management practices prior to implementation of grazing facilitating practices (water development, fence, etc)?	5 Point(s)
Riparian Areas - Will the treatment you plan to implement using EQIP effectively:	
6. Control invasive woody and herbaceous species on the main stem river channel, side channel, or direct tributaries within .5 miles of the North Platte and South Platte Rivers on greater than 50% of associated riparian land in the operation?	90 Point(s)
7. Control invasive woody and herbaceous species on the main stem river channel, side channel, or direct tributaries within .5 to 1.0 miles of the North Platte and South Platte Rivers on greater than 50% of associated riparian land in the operation?	60 Point(s)
8. Control invasive woody and herbaceous species on the main stem river channel, side channel, or direct tributaries within greater than 1 mile of the North Platte and South Platte Rivers on greater than 50% of associated riparian land in the operation?	30 Point(s)
9. Control invasive woody and herbaceous species along streams and wetlands (other than those applicable to questions 7 - 9 above) on greater than 50% of associated riparian land in the operation?	30 Point(s)

10. Include implementation of an integrated invasive management plan that includes livestock grazing (528)?	15 Point(s)
Grazingland with Wildlife Habitat as the primary objective - Will the treatment you plan to implement using EQIP:	
11. Result in permanent cover managed primarily for wildlife habitat with no livestock grazing during the nesting season on at least 30% of the grassland in the contract?	10 Point(s)
12. Include at-risk species habitat management/improvement – wildlife plan (with written concurrence of a wildlife biologist) developed to manage and improve habitat with direct benefit to an at-risk species? At risk species are federal and state listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species listed in the FOTG. (644, 645)	10 Point(s)
Grazingland Facilitating Practices - Will the management plan include:	
13. Water facility improvements in an existing/planned grazing unit that presently has no water development?	5 Point(s)
14. Meeting productivity, vigor and health quality criteria on all grassland in the contract?	10 Point(s)
15. Does the application include livestock water facilities/related range improvements that will replace or upgrade existing facilities that are currently worn out or not functioning?	-25 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

Return to Top

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Grassland - LS Production Limitation - TPNRD**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - LS Production Limitation - TPNRD		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining <u>questions in this section.</u>	250 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the protection and improvement to the resource base on all grazing <u>lands in the contract?</u>	24 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality with the use of either no-till or a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	16 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved water quality?	14 Point(s)
5. Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource status?	24 Point(s)

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

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

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)?	
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)

Grazing Strategy - Will the management plan you intend to implement using EQIP result in grazing management that results in:	
2. A season long grazing system is converted to a rotational system with facilitating practices?	130 Point(s)
3. A rotational system with facilitating practices on all grazingland in the contract?	95 Point(s)
4. A season long grazing system with facilitating practices on all grazingland in the contract?	30 Point(s)
5. Meeting productivity, vigor and health quality criteria on all grassland in the contract?	11 Point(s)
6. Include at least one full grazing season (4/1 - 11/1) of deferment to recover from drought, hail, wildfire, or overgrazing on one or more of the pastures in the summer grazing system?	30 Point(s)
Grazingland Facilitating Practices - Will the management plan include:	
7. Water facility improvements in an existing/planned grazing unit that presently has no water development?	15 Point(s)
8. Does the application include livestock water facilities/related range improvements that will replace or upgrade existing facilities that are currently worn out or not functioning?	-50 Point(s)
Grazingland (upland) Brush Management/Invasive Species:	
9. Will the management plan include treatment of invasive vegetation on greater than 5 acres?	20 Point(s)
10. If plan includes prescribed burning, would this be the first time the applicant(s) have implemented this practice on any land they have operated/owned?	7 Point(s)
11. If your plan includes mechanical brush management, do you plan to utilize prescribed burning as a follow-up management tool on this land after this EQIP contract would expire?	5 Point(s)
12. If your grazingland has a significant amount of invasive specie encroachment, do you plan to implement brush management practices prior to implementation of grazing facilitating practices (water development, fence, etc)?	2 Point(s)

Windbreak Establishment/Renovation - Wildlife Habitat - Will the conservation practice you plan to implement through EQIP provide:	
13. Incidental wildlife benefits including herbaceous cover establishment and native woody cover establishment?	10 Point(s)
14. Energy reduction and livestock protection through a windbreak/shelterbelt establishment (380) (minimum length needed to protect area of concern and minimum planned height of 20ft) or windbreak renovation (650)? Includes use of conifers other than eastern red cedar.	6 Point(s)
15. Energy reduction and livestock protection through a windbreak/shelterbelt establishment (380) (minimum length needed to protect area of concern and minimum planned height of 20ft) or windbreak renovation (650)? Includes Eastern Red Cedar.	4 Point(s)
Grazingland with Wildlife Habitat as the primary objective - Will the treatment you plan to implement using EQIP:	
16. Result in permanent cover managed primarily for wildlife habitat with no livestock grazing during the nesting season on at least 30% of the grassland in the contract?	10 Point(s)
17. Include at-risk species habitat management/improvement – wildlife plan (with written concurrence of a wildlife biologist) developed to manage and improve habitat with direct benefit to an at-risk species? At risk species are federal and state listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species listed in the FOTG. (644, 645)	10 Point(s)
Riparian Grazing Areas - Will the treatment you plan to implement using EQIP effectively:	
18. Control invasive woody and herbaceous species in areas adjacent to rivers on all land in the contract?	25 Point(s)
19. Treat degraded surface water quality along streams or wetlands due to livestock pressure?	25 Point(s)
Wetlands on Grazinglands - Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in:	

20. Wetland Restoration (657) – (Wetland functions and values restored as outlined in a wetland plan)?	10 Point(s)
21. Wetland Enhancement (659) – (Wetland functions and values enhanced as outlined in a wetland plan)?	5 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

Return to Top