

Upper Elkhorn NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/Insufficient Water - UENRD		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 water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP improve irrigation efficiency by converting an existing gravity irrigation system to a low pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system?	70 Point(s)
3. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in irrigated cropland being converted to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (wildlife land, rangeland, or pastureland)?	49 Point(s)
4. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in irrigated cropland being converted to non-irrigated dryland cropland?	15 Point(s)
5. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP maximize irrigation efficiency by converting an existing sprinkler or gravity irrigation system to a micro irrigation system?	10 Point(s)
6. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in net water conserved (using Water Conserved Calculator) greater than 4.9 inches per acre?	17 Point(s)
7. Will the water conservation practices you intend to implement using EQIP be on irrigated land that is located in the Lower Niobrara NRD or Upper Elkhorn NRD LB483 10/50 Expansion Area or the Bazile Management Area?	17 Point(s)
8. Will the water conservation practices you intend to implement using EQIP be on cropland whose slope does not exceed two percent on at least 90% of the area?	5 Point(s)
9. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP improve irrigation efficiency by converting an existing sprinkler irrigation system to a low pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system? (Must meet eligibility criteria of impact sprinklers on top of pipe and operating pressure of 80 psi or higher at base of pivot).	100 Point(s)
10. Will the conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in water savings by installing intermediate or advanced soil moisture sensors and a flow meter for improved irrigation water management and irrigation scheduling?	85 Point(s)

11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of pest management and/or nutrient management?	16 Point(s)
12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in soil health benefits with the use of cover crops and/or no-till?	16 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:

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - UENRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Cropland - UENRD		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 all ephemeral & gully erosion being adequately controlled?	70 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in water runoff from all cropland being trapped or filtered with such practices as: Field Borders, Filter Strips, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Grassed Waterway, Diversion, Terrace, Underground Outlets or Water and Sediment Control Basins?	45 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in all contract acres of the contract being planted to permanent vegetation?	50 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in soil health being improved with the use of cover crops?	50 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a crop rotation with 100% no-till on all cropland acres in the contract?	75 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Pest Management (integrated pest management, pesticide assessments) and Nutrient Management on all cropland in the contract?	15 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the establishment of wildlife habitat using Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on 5% or more of the total contract acres?	40 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the establishment of wildlife habitat using Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on less than 5% of the total contract acres?	15 Point(s)
10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in all cropland currently eroding above T to be treated to a level at T or below?	40 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

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

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland - Degraded Plant Condition - UENRD		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)
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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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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:	
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10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced?	9 Point(s)
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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)

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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 grazing management using a rotation system with facilitating practices?	60 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a season long grazing with <u>facilitating practices</u> ?	15 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in grassland health and vigor being addressed with either of the following practices: Brush Management or Forest Stand <u>Improvement</u> ?	70 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in full season grazing deferment and prescribed burning to combat invasive woody encroachment or to enhance native grassland?	100 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in permanent cover managed primarily for wildlife habitat with no livestock grazing during the entire calendar year on at least 5% of the grassland in the contract?	50 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of brush management only on areas determined as either <u>low or medium infestation</u> ?	30 Point(s)
8. Has the applicant who is applying for EQIP tried unsuccessfully two consecutive years or more to obtain an EQIP contract and has never been in noncompliance or behind schedule on a previous <u>EQIP contract</u> ?	35 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conservation practices being implemented on land expiring from CRP?	40 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Grassland Production Limitation - UENRD

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Grassland Production Limitation - UENRD		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 grazing management using a rotation system with facilitating practices?	60 Point(s)

3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in grazing management using a season long grazing management system with facilitating practices?	15 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in grassland health and vigor being addressed with one or more of the following practices: brush management, fencing, or range seeding?	25 Point(s)
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in soil erosion concerns being addressed with one or more of the following practices: critical area planting, diversion, grade stabilization structure or underground outlet?	95 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in full season grazing deferment and prescribed burning to combat invasive woody encroachment and to enhance native grassland or involve full season grazing deferment in order to allow grazinglands to recover following wildfire?	50 Point(s)
7. Has the applicant who is applying for EQIP tried unsuccessfully two consecutive years or more to obtain an EQIP contract and has never been in noncompliance or behind schedule on a past EQIP contract?	75 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in inadequate livestock water being addressed with one or more of the following practices: livestock well, livestock pipeline, tank, pond or livestock dugout?	50 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conservation practices being implemented on land expiring from CRP?	30 Point(s)

Ranking Score

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

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

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