

Upper Niobrara-White NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - Excess/Insufficient water - UNWNRD**

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| Program: EQIP 2014 | Ranking Date: | Application Number: |
| Ranking Tool: Cropland - Excess/Insufficient water - UNWNRD | | 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) | |

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| 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) |

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| 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) |

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| 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) |

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| 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) |

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| 2. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in irrigated cropland being converted to non-irrigated perennial vegetation for grazing, haying or wildlife on all contracted acres? The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD. | 60 Point(s) |
| 3. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in irrigated cropland being converted to non-irrigated dryland cropland? The reduction in irrigated acres will not be transferred and will be permanently decertified with the NRD. | 50 Point(s) |
| 4. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement within NRD's Subarea 4 or 6 using EQIP result in improved irrigation efficiency or reduction of irrigated acres permanently decertified with the NRD? | 30 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 to a micro-irrigation system? | 40 Point(s) |
| 6. Soil Suitability rating of all soils associated with proposed micro-irrigation system equals 0. | 5 Point(s) |
| 7. 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 drop system (new pivot)? | 30 Point(s) |
| 8. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from gravity irrigation to sprinkler (side roll) irrigation on all irrigated cropland in the contract? | 20 Point(s) |
| 9. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in irrigation system efficiency improvements (drops, surge valves, flow meters) on all irrigated cropland in the contract? | 15 Point(s) |
| 10. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of soil moisture sensors to achieve Irrigation Water Management (Real Time Measurement) on all irrigated cropland in the contract | 25 Point(s) |

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| 11. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in Irrigation Water Management (Periodic Measurement) on all irrigated cropland in the contract? | 15 Point(s) |
| 12. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in converting 15% or more of the current irrigated acres in contract to non-irrigated perennial vegetation (example Pivot Corners)? | 25 Point(s) |
| 13. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in converting 14.9% or less of the current irrigated acres in contract to grassland in the contract? | 10 Point(s) |
| 14. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in a reduction of your current NRD certified irrigated acres by 5% or more on the contract acres? | 10 Point(s) |
| 15. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in a reduction of your current NRD certified irrigated acres by 2.5% but less than 5% on the contract acres? | 5 Point(s) |
| 16. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in site specific (grid soil sampling, variable rate applicators, GPS based) nutrient management on all cropland in the contract? | 15 Point(s) |
| 17. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in the implementation of less water-intensive agriculture resulting in a change in crop rotation? | 30 Point(s) |
| 18. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of multiple practices of 4 or more practices? | 10 Point(s) |
| 19. Will the water conservation practice you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of multiple practices greater than 2 to less than 4 practices? | 5 Point(s) |

Ranking Score

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| 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 - UNWNRD

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|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Program: EQIP 2014 | Ranking Date: | Application Number: |
| Ranking Tool: Cropland - UNWNRD | Applicant: | |
| Final Ranking Score: | Address: | |
| Planner: | Telephone: | |
| Farm Location: | | |

National Priorities Addressed

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| 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) | |

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| 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) |

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| 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 |
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| 1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other 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) |

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| 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) |

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|---|--------------|
| 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 permanent vegetation being established on 50% or greater of acres in the contract? | 84 Point(s) |

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| 3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in permanent vegetation being established on 25% to 49% of acres in the contract? | 49 Point(s) |
| 4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a rotation with 100% no-till on all cropland in the contract? (with exception to corners or incidental acres of cropland in the contract that will be retired/converted to permanent vegetation). | 56 Point(s) |
| 5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in reducing erosion to "T" or less on all cropland HEL map units in the contract? | 31 Point(s) |
| 6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of practices on all cropland HEL map units in the contract? | 26 Point(s) |
| 7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the establishment of wildlife habitat (conversion from cropland) using Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on 15% or greater of the contract acres? | 31 Point(s) |
| 8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the establishment of wildlife habitat (conversion from cropland) using Upland Wildlife Habitat Management on at least 5% or more of the contract? | 19 Point(s) |
| 9. 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- closed outlet only, Water and Sediment Control Basin? | 23 Point(s) |
| 10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the development of a Nutrient and Pest Management Plan on all acres in the contract? | 16 Point(s) |
| 11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in all cropland having nutrient management and/or pest management incorporated with site specific (soil sampling, grid, variable rate applicators, GPS) methods? | 20 Point(s) |
| 12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in riparian area management adjacent to streams and lakes established according to NRCS recommended levels within all riparian area in the contract? | 18 Point(s) |

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| 13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetland restoration on existing wetlands that are PC, FW and/or FWP | 19 Point(s) |
| 14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP include herbaceous cover establishment and/or native woody cover establishment? | 8 Point(s) |

Ranking Score

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

Application Ranking Summary
Grassland - UNWNRD

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

National Priorities Addressed

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| 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) | |

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| 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) |

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| 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) |

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| 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) |

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| 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. 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. | 5 Point(s) |

Local Issues Addressed

| Issue Questions | Responses |
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| 1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. | 400 Point(s) |
| 2. Is plant rest/recovery time 80% or more of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? | 60 Point(s) |
| 3. Is plant rest/recovery time 60% to 79% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? | 50 Point(s) |

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| 4. Is plant rest/recovery time 40% to 59% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? | 30 Point(s) |
| 5. Is plant rest/recovery time 20% to 39% of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? Is plant rest/recovery time 80% or more of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? | 15 Point(s) |
| 6. Is plant rest/recovery time 19% or less of the growing season (4/1-10/1-Winter pastures not included)? | 7 Point(s) |
| 7. Will 80% or more of the acres in contract have dependable water supply within NRCS distance and quantity guidelines by the end of the contract period (Rough terrain = .5 mile;Rolling = .75 mile; Level = 1 mile)? | 19 Point(s) |
| 8. Will 60% to 79% of the acres in contract have dependable water supply within NRCS distance and quantity guidelines by the end of the contract period (Rough terrain = .5 mile;Rolling = .75 mile; Level = 1 mile)? | 14 Point(s) |
| 9. Will 40% to 59% of the acres in contract have dependable water supply within NRCS distance and quantity guidelines by the end of the contract period (Rough terrain = .5 mile;Rolling = .75 mile; Level = 1 mile)? | 10 Point(s) |
| 10. Will 20% to 39% of the acres in contract have dependable water supply within NRCS distance and quantity guidelines by the end of the contract period (Rough terrain = .5 mile;Rolling = .75 mile; Level = 1 mile)? | 8 Point(s) |
| 11. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in alternative Water sources to address the issue of unreliable water? | 10 Point(s) |
| 12. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in renewable energy water sources? | 10 Point(s) |
| 13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP specifically treat erosion caused by concentrated flow or livestock trailing? | 5 Point(s) |
| 14. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a prescribed burn being implemented? | 20 Point(s) |
| 15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in installation of 4 or more practices addressing the resource concern? | 13 Point(s) |
| 16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in installation of 2 to 3 practices addressing resource concern? | 8 Point(s) |

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| 17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in permanent cover managed primarily for wildlife habitat and with managed grazing allowed during the growing season on at least 25% of the land in the contract? | 15 Point(s) |
| 18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Forest Fuel Treatment(666) on forest land within contracts? | 25 Point(s) |
| 19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in integrated pest management such as addressing invasive species and/or cheat grass with managed grazing as well as other methods on all the acres in the contract? | 8 Point(s) |
| 20. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in grazing management of riparian areas, streams and lakes that will promote native woody and herbaceous plant community vigor and wildlife habitat? | 10 Point(s) |
| 21. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in Restoration, Wetlands created (658) and/or Wetland enhancement (659) where wetland functions and values are enhanced as outlined in wetlands plan? | 15 Point(s) |
| 22. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP include herbaceous cover establishment and native woody cover establishment? New Windbreaks need to be greater than 500 linear feet. | 7 Point(s) |
| 23. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP include herbaceous cover establishment and native woody cover establishment? New Windbreaks less than or equal to 500 linear feet. | 4 Point(s) |
| 24. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conversion of cropland field to permanent grass cover for the purpose of grazing/haying. No more than 25% of funding will be associated with practices applied to the incidental acres | 7 Point(s) |
| 25. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP be applied on acres burned in 2012 wildfires? | 8 Point(s) |

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| 26. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in an improvement to an existing rotational grazing system with facilitating practices including invasive species control? | 12 Point(s) |
| 27. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a grazing operation with facilitating practices including invasive species control? | 5 Point(s) |
| 38. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in one full year deferment (January 1- November 30th)? | 5 Point(s) |

Ranking Score

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| 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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