

Upper Republican NRD EQIP Rankings FY2016

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary
Cropland - URNRD

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Program: EQIP 2014 | Ranking Date: | Application Number: |
| Ranking Tool: Cropland - URNRD | | 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) |
| 2. Will all cropland acres in the application be planted to permanent herbaceous vegetation? | 30 Point(s) |

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| 3. Will a conventional or mulch till cropping system be converted to a Continuous no-till system with a crop rotation that contains at least two different crop types and cover crops for soil health will be implemented on all cropland acres in the application? | 20 Point(s) |
| 4. Will a conventional or mulch till cropping system be converted to a Continuous no-till system with a crop rotation that contains at least two different crop types without cover crops for soil health? Do not answer yes if you answered question #3 yes. | 10 Point(s) |
| 5. Will cover crops for soil improvement and/or livestock forage be implemented on all acres in the application? Do not answer yes if you answered yes to question #3 or if cover crops are implemented as ground prep for a seeding or for erosion control after a low residue crop that is required for HEL compliance. | 10 Point(s) |
| 6. Will terraces and/or diversions be installed on cropland with a Land Capability Class of 3 or higher? | 30 Point(s) |
| 7. Will terraces and/or diversions be installed to adequately control 100% of the ephemeral and gully erosion present on all cropland acres in this application? | 25 Point(s) |
| 8. Will grassed waterways, field borders, filter strips, pollinator habitat or areas of perennial herbaceous vegetation be planted to control erosion, filter water and/or provide wildlife habitat? | 25 Point(s) |
| 9. Will playa wetlands be treated to restore wetland functions and values as outlined in a wetland restoration plan? | 15 Point(s) |
| 10. Will a windbreak be planted or a windbreak renovation implemented for energy savings, erosion control and/or wildlife habitat that contains multiple species that are not locally invasive? | 25 Point(s) |
| 11. Will irrigated cropland acres in the application be converted permanently from irrigated cropland to any dryland land use (cropland, grazingland or wildlifeland)? | 40 Point(s) |
| 12. Will irrigated cropland temporarily be converted to a temporary dryland landuse (cropland, grazingland or wildlifeland). | 10 Point(s) |
| 13. Will irrigated cropland temporarily be converted to a temporary dryland landuse (cropland, grazingland or wildlifeland). | 10 Point(s) |
| 14. Will the end gun be removed (existing system) or not installed (new system)? | 15 Point(s) |

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| 15. Will a flood irrigation system be converted to a low-pressure sprinkler system or to a Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) system? | 30 Point(s) |
| 16. Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to a Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) system? | 5 Point(s) |
| 17. Will a high pressure sprinkler system be converted to a lower pressure sprinkler system? | 25 Point(s) |
| 18. Will intermediate or advanced irrigation water management be cost-shared for three consecutive years? Do not answer yes to this question if only basic irrigation water management is cost-shared. | 40 Point(s) |
| 19. Will Enhanced or Advanced Precision Nutrient Management be implemented to NRCS standards and specifications? | 15 Point(s) |
| 20. Will Basic Nutrient Management be implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications? | 5 Point(s) |
| 21. For applications that contain practices that address water quantity resource concerns, is 50% or more of the application located within the Rapid Response area or the area of critical groundwater decline as shown on the URNRD Priority area map? | 25 Point(s) |

Ranking Score

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| 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 - URNRD

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|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Program: EQIP 2014 | Ranking Date: | Application Number: |
| Ranking Tool: Grassland - URNRD | | 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) | |
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| 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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| 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 all grazingland in the application that is not currently being managed to meet wildlife habitat concerns be managed for wildlife habitat according the Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Standard (645)? A Rangeland Habitat Evaluation worksheet (NE-CPA-35) will be completed that shows an improvement in condition with the planned condition being 0.5 or greater | 20 Point(s) |
| 3. Will a season long grazing system be converted to a rotational grazing system by installing facilitating practices? If utilizing newly seeded land or expried CRP, answer yes to this question. | 60 Point(s) |
| 4. Will an existing rotational grazing system be enhanced by installing additional watering facilities (614) and accociated (516,642) practices? | 30 Point(s) |
| 5. Will an existing rotational grazing system be enhanced with additional cross fencing (382) that will result in implementation of a prescribed grazing system that results in increased rest with at least 3 pastures? | 25 Point(s) |
| 6. Will a season long grazing system be enhanced by installing facilitating practices? | 20 Point(s) |
| 7. Will grassy invasive species such as; (annual brome grasses, other annual grasses and/or smooth brome grass) be controlled through chemical treatment or chemical treatment and reseeding or prescribed burning? | 35 Point(s) |
| 8. Will woody invasive species be controlled by mechanical, chemical and/or biological methods and/or prescribed burning? | 30 Point(s) |
| 9. Will practices which control erosion be implemented? | 10 Point(s) |
| 10. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in invasive species being managed in riparian areas. | 30 Point(s) |
| 11. 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? | 5 Point(s) |
| 12. Is a portion of the treatment area being supported by other sources of funding such as LB701, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Weed Management Area funds or other conservation partnership activities? | 20 Point(s) |
| 13. Will a minimum of 0.5 acres of pollinator habitat be established. | 45 Point(s) |

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| 14. Will a windbreak or tree and shrub planting be planted or a windbreak renovation implemented that contains multiple species that are not locally invasive? | 40 Point(s) |
| 15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wetlands being restored or enhanced? | 30 Point(s) |

Ranking Score

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