

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2013 - FY13 Certified Organic

(Released 11/14/2012)

Description:

National Organic Initiative (NOI) - Certified Organic - FY2013.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Grazed Forest, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 1000.000

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Number	Question	Points
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
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10

7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
Total Points		500

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
	1	a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is ?Yes?, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is ?No?, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
2		Soil Quality: Answer all questions that apply for a maximum of 45 points.	
	2	a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter compaction, etc.?	45
	2	b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one soil quality or enhancing practice that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	25
3		Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points	
	3	a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	45
4		Water Quality: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points	
	4	a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes 595 Integrated Pest Management?	45
	4	b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on ?non-cropland? acreage?	20
	4	c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	45
5		Plant Condition: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points	
	5	a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering farm?	30
	5	b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	30
	5	c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated	30

		Pest Management?	
6		Water Conservation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points	
	6	a Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system?	25
	6	b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	25
7		Domestic Animals: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points	
	7	a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing AND/OR 512 Pasture & Hayland Planting for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	30
	7	b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20
	7	c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10
		Maximum Points: Total Points	825

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		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 local priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transitioning Plan (138)? IF answer is "YES", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2		Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
	2	a. Improve the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone, up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPA's (within zone)?	50
	2	b. Improve the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	30
3		Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
	3	Increase groundwater recharge or decrease water withdrawal in a state identified STRESSED BASIN, HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER?	20
4		Soil Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
	4	a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW erosion?	30
	4	b. Stabilize BANK EROSION from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels?	20
5		Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
	5	a. Improve the sustainability of GRASS-FED animal agriculture?	30
	5	b. Enhancement of local food production and locally marketed products?	20

6		Conservation Partnerships – Will the proposed project result in:	
	6	Formation of partnerships among agencies (i.e. MDAR, DCR, NHESP, USFWS) to support financial and /or technical assistance?	30
7		Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Considerations:	
	7	a. The applicant has never before been selected for funding through EQIP.	20
	7	b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contract funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill?	-25
	7	c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active conservation program contract?	-50
	7	d. NRCS has TERMINATED a conservation program contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause?	-100
		Maximum Points: Total Points	325