

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Program: <i>EQIP 2008, Fiscal Year 2012</i>	
Ranking Tool: <i>Air Quality</i>	

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15 Point(s)
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10 Point(s)
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5 Point(s)
6. e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
7. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Assist in producing energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, biofuel, etc)?	10 Point(s)

Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10 Point(s)
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>250</i>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Reduce on-farm use of fossil fuels?	20 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce on-farm methane emissions?	15 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce on-farm electricity use from the grid, indirectly reducing demand for fossil fuel power plants?	10 Point(s)
2. Energy Conservation – Has the applicant installed energy conservation measures prior to this project application?	
2. a. Installed major energy conservation components typically associated with the farm sector prior to an energy audit (i.e. condensers, motors, controls, plate coolers, refrigeration)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduced energy use by > 75%?	20 Point(s)
2. c. Reduced energy use by 51-75%?	15 Point(s)
2. d. Reduced energy use by 26-50%?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Reduced energy use by 5-25%?	5 Point(s)
3. Business Lines: Conservation Implementation – Does the project meet the following conditions?	
3. a. The design phase of the project is substantially complete and an installer's quote has been	30 Point(s)
3. b. Applicant has secured or leveraged other funding to cover at least 33% of the project cost?	20 Point(s)
4. Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
4. a. The applicant has never before participated in EQIP through a funded contract.	25 Point(s)
4. b. The applicant has CANCELLED two or more Conservation Program Contracts funded through the 2002 or 2008 Farm Bill.	-20 Point(s)
4. c. The applicant is currently OUT OF COMPLIANCE on an active Conservation Program Contract.	-50 Point(s)
4. d. NRCS has TERMINATED a Conservation Program Contract held by the applicant for non-compliance or cause.	-100 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>125</i>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Reduce annual direct/on-farm CO2 emissions by > 5 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements?	20 Point(s)
1. b. Reduce annual direct/on-farm CO2 emissions by 3-5 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements?	15 Point(s)
1. c. Reduce annual direct/on-farm CO2 emissions by >1 and <3 U.S. tons through energy efficiency improvements?	10 Point(s)

1. d. Reduce annual indirect/off-farm CO2 emissions by > 50 U.S. tons through renewable energy production?	20 Point(s)
1. e. Reduce annual indirect/off-farm CO2 emissions by 20-50 U.S. tons through renewable energy production?	10 Point(s)
1. f. Reduce annual indirect/off-farm CO2 emissions by 5-20 U.S. tons through renewable energy production?	5 Point(s)
2. Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Reduce or replace the targeted energy use by >75%?	20 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce or replace the targeted energy use by 50-75% or more?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce or replace the targeted energy use by 25-50% or more?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reduce or replace the targeted energy use by >5% and <25%?	5 Point(s)
Does the applicant meet the following conditions?	
3. a. The applicant does NOT fall within an area serviced by REAP.	25 Point(s)
3. b. The applicant is serviced by a municipal utility that does not participate in the CEC program and the project is not PV.	15 Point(s)
3. c. The applicant is serviced by a municipal utility that does not comply with nor is deemed comparable to Netmetering legislation 225 CMR 18.00.	10 Point(s)
<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>100</i>