

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

FY 2013 EQIP General-SD

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: FY 2013 EQIP General-SD		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.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
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?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
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)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed of drinking water supply reservoir, surface water quality or water conservation issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity")	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a groundwater area mapped GAA or community wellhead and ground water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Based upon RIGIS data, is the operation located in a watershed affecting class SA waters impacted by agriculture and water quality issues are being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Based upon the 2008 303d list is the operation located within 300 feet of the impaired waterbody or tributary thereto or is hydrologically connected that is directly impaired by nutrients (dissolved oxygen or excessive algal growth), pesticides, turbidity or other agricultural pollutants such as bacteria/pathogens and the particular water quality issue(s)) is being addressed with proposed practices? (the practice must be listed in the EQIP Handbook -Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is the site located within 1000 feet of cold water fishery or Special Resource Protection Waters (SRPW) where water quality and/or water conservation practices are needed to improve and/or protect one of the identified SRPW categories listed. The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will soil erosion or soil conservation practices have a positive effect on prime farmland soils or a soil of statewide importance as listed by Rhode Island NRCS?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Are public areas (public roads, school, etc.) or non-farm residences contiguous to cropland where air quality practices will be implemented? The practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Air Qualit	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will planned practices enhance protection and are within 1000 feet of T & E species or State listed species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will planned practices address control of noxious and invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Is the land permanently protected through a conservation easement, purchase of development rights or other mechanism?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Has the applicant previously successfully addressed a resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

12. Will planned practices address water quality and/or water quantity resource concerns that are within 300 feet of a private well or other surface waters/wetlands? The planned practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook - Practices that have a positive effect on Surface Water Quality or Water Quantity.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Has the applicant previously developed a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and is going to implement it under this contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Will the project enhance or contribute to habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation through this EQIP Contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Cropland	
1. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the applicant currently have and implement an approved Irrigation Water Management Plan including record keeping?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does the applicant currently use no-till or reduced tillage methods resulting in improved soil quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement nutrient and pest management through the EQIP contract. (Record keeping is required for applicants currently implementing nutrient and pest management to answer yes.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement a 35 foot riparian buffer (herbaceous or woody) on all water bodies through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Pasture	
8. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement nutrient and pest management through the EQIP contract. (Record keeping is required for applicants currently implementing nutrient and pest management to answer yes.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Does the applicant currently have and implement an approved Grazing Management Plan including record keeping?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Will practices be installed to exclude livestock from riparian areas and wetlands or vernal pools?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement a 35 foot riparian buffer (herbaceous or woody) on all water bodies through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Livestock	
14. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. Will practices be applied to improve water quality? (Practices must be listed in the EQIP Handbook.)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Will practices be installed to exclude livestock from riparian areas and wetlands or vernal pools?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. Will a heavy use area be stabilized to prevent erosion and or water quality resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Does the applicant currently, or will the applicant implement a 35 foot riparian buffer (herbaceous or woody) on all water bodies through the EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Forest	
20. Is the applicant installing practices that will create or enhance pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. If this application is approved for funding, will this be the applicants first EQIP contract?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Has the applicant implemented any approved forest management practices identified in an existing Forest Management or Stewardship Plan? (Applicant must present records of past forest management activities) (See EQIP Handbook)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Has the applicant participated in the Coverts program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Are adjacent lands implementing forest management practices that are benefitting wildlife and forest health?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

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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