

**Application Ranking Summary  
Beginning Farmer**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Beginning Farmer

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>
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.
<b>Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)</b>
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?
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)?
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?
<b>Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)</b>
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
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?
<b>Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)</b>
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
<b>Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)</b>
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?
<b>Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)</b>
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?
<b>Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)</b>
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?
<b>Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)</b>
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?
<b>Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:</b>
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions
Answer "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:
1. a. Application includes EQIP planned practices that were recommended in a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP).
1. b. Planned EQIP practice(s) include installing buffers on perennial or intermittent streams, wetland, sinkholes, or permanent waterbodies and/or limiting or excluding livestock access to streams.
1. c. EQIP planned practice(s) on offered cropland acres include a conservation practice(s) that will improve soil quality, reduce sheet and rill, and/or reduce gully erosion from the existing condition.
1. d. Does this EQIP application include a planned practice on offered acres that provides increased, permanent, herbaceous vegetation cover of forage that is preferred by livestock as compared to the existing land cover?
1. e. Will the practice benefit federally listed threatened or endangered species?
1. f. Is the County associated with this application included in the StrikeForce Initiative?
1. g. For operations of 10 acres or more, the participant has a current Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act Plan (AWQA), or for forestland, a Forest Stewardship Plan/Forest Management Plan (CAP106), that includes the Best Management Practices (BMP) or land use for which they are requesting financial assistance.
1. h. Is the majority of the treated acres included in either a well head protection area or karst area as identified by DOW?
1. i. Is the majority of the treated acres included in either a DOW identified watershed or high quality waters/classified stream?

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions
Answer "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:
1. a. Will the participant plan on implementing all practices within the first three years of the contract?
1. b. Are high animal concentration areas creating an environmental problem any time of the year, and the proposed project will address the resource concern(s)?
1. c. Will the participant be willing to develop an RMS level conservation plan on their entire operation (plan will be developed during the active life span of the approved contract)?
1. d. Will planned fencing be applied around woods, streams, wetlands, or karst areas?
1. e. Does this application include practices that address excessive erosion?
1. f. Does this application include establishment of wildlife friendly plants such as native grasses/forbs, trees and/or shrubs?
1. g. Will the applicant implement any of the following soil health benefitting conservation practices on the land offered for enrollment (not already adopted and must be included in the contract): 328, 329, 340 (single or multi-species)?

**Land Use;**  
**Associated Agriculture Land;**  
**Crop;**  
**Farmstead;**  
**Forest;**  
**Pasture;**

<b>Resource Concerns</b>
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
Excess Water: Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding
Excess Water: Seasonal High Water Table
Excess Water: Seeps
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Moisture Management
Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Feed and Forage
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Shelter
Livestock Production Limitation: Inadequate Water
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
Soil Quality Degradation: Compaction
Soil Quality Degradation: Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals
Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
Soil Quality Degradation: Subsidence
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
Water Quality Degradation: Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transported to Groundwater
Water Quality Degradation: Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transported to Surface Water

**Practices**

Access Control
Access Road
Animal Mortality Facility
Brush Management
Composting Facility
Conservation Cover
Cover Crop
Critical Area Planting
Diversion
Fence
Field Border
Firebreak
Forage and Biomass Planting
Grade Stabilization Structure
Grassed Waterway
Heavy Use Area Protection
Herbaceous Weed Control
Integrated Pest Management
Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Irrigation Water Management
Lined Waterway or Outlet
Livestock Pipeline
Mulching
Nutrient Management
Pond
Prescribed Burning
Prescribed Grazing
Pumping Plant
Residue Mgmt-No-Till
Riparian Forest Buffer
Riparian Herbaceous Cover
Roof Runoff Structure
Roofs and Covers
Spring Development
Stream Crossing
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Subsurface Drain
Terrace
Trails and Walkways
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Underground Outlet
Vegetated Treatment Area
Waste Storage Facility
Waste Transfer
Waste Treatment Lagoon
Water and Sediment Control Basin
Water Well
Watering Facility