

## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2017 - NWQI-Badger Creek Project

#### National Priorities:

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. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
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
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
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
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)?	10
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
Total Points		500

## State Issues:

### 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 1.1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the State priority category.	
	1	Is the program application for the development of a TSP prepared 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 questions in this section.	400
2		Water Quality – EPA Watersheds:	
	1	Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or listed as impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list, or specified as a critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
3		Geographic Impacts:	
	1	Are more than 75 percent of the acres treated: i. Located within a NWQI watershed, AND ii. Do they have at least one core conservation practice planned on them?	125
4		Collaborative Efforts:	
	1	Are core conservation practices planned for the applicant's treated acres within an existing non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
5		Effort to address watershed impairments:	
	1	Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the NWQI primary resource concerns?	50
6		High Risk Soils:	
	1	Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified Hydrologic Group D (high runoff) or Group A (high infiltration)?	50
		Maximum Points: 400    Total Points	800

## Local Issues:

### 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 1.1 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 TSP prepared 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.	250
2		Addressing Specific Impairments.	
	1	Will nutrient management 590 be implemented in conjunction with erosion control practices to control the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from fields?	40
	2	Will a cover crop be utilized on at least 25 percent of the offered acres?	30
	3	Will practices to exclude livestock from all streams on the offered acres be implemented with this application?	30
3		Addressing Soil Factors that Influence Water Quality.	
	1	Will the application of conservation practices result in an SCI greater than or equal to 0.3 on over 75 percent of the offered acres?	50
4		Addressing Streams Issues.	
	1	Are planned conservation practices within ¼ mile of a blue line stream on a USGS topographic map within the impaired watershed?	50
5		Utilizing a Systems Approach.	
	1	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on greater than or equal to 75% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	50
	2	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 26% and 74% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	25
	3	Will the implementation of practices in this application result in the existence of a conservation system where there is at least one practice in each of the avoid, trap, and control categories on between 1% and 25% percent of the offered acres? (Can only answer yes to one of questions 5.1-5.3)	10
		Maximum Points: 250    Total Points	535