

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Application Ranking Summary  
Republican River WS - Soil Health**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> Republican River WS - Soil Health	
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>	

**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.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	

3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
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 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)

Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
Soil Condition. Answer only ONE of the following questions (1-3), if applicable.	
1. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on 75% or more of the contracted acres?	50 Point(s)
2. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on 50-74% of the contracted acres?	30 Point(s)
3. Does this contract include conversion from existing tillage operations to a No-till or Strip till system (329) on < 50% of the contracted acres?	10 Point(s)
Soil Condition	
4. Will the contracted practice(s) result in diversification of the cropping system?	50 Point(s)
5. Will the contracted practice(s) include Prescribed Grazing (528) to reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition?	50 Point(s)

6. Will the contracted practice(s) include Waste Recycling (633) to protect or improve the quality of natural resources and the environment?	50 Point(s)
<b>Soil Erosion</b>	
7. Through this contract, will cover crops (CPS 340) be added to the crop rotation?	50 Point(s)
8. Will the contracted practice(s) result in establishment of perennial vegetation on lands that were annually cropped?	20 Point(s)
<b>Nutrient Application. Answer only ONE of the following questions (9-11), if applicable.</b>	
9. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on > 75% of the contracted acres?	50 Point(s)
10. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on 50 - 75% of the contracted acres?	30 Point(s)
11. Does the contracted conservation treatment improve the application timing and method of nutrient application on <50% of the contracted acres?	10 Point(s)
<b>Soil Erodibility. Answer only ONE of the following questions (12-15), if applicable.</b>	
12. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) >30? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	40 Point(s)
13. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) > 18 - 30? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	30 Point(s)
14. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) 13 - 18? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	20 Point(s)
15. Is the Erosion Factor (I divided by T) < 12? (based on the 1/1/90 frozen HEL list)	10 Point(s)
<b>Soil Erodibility</b>	
16. Will the contracted practice(s) include Contour Buffer Strips (332) to reduce sheet and rill erosion?	15 Point(s)
17. Will the contracted practice(s) include Stripcropping (585) to reduce wind and water erosion?	15 Point(s)
<b>Other</b>	
18. If selected for funding, will this be the applicant's first EQIP implementation contract?	10 Point(s)

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
Conversion to perennial cover. Answer only ONE of the following questions (1-2), if applicable.	
1. Will 50% or more of the cropland acres under this project be converted to perennial vegetation?	100 Point(s)
2. Will less than 50% of the cropland acres under this project be converted to perennial vegetation?	75 Point(s)
Soil Condition	
3. Will the participant implement a No-till/Strip-till/Direct Seed (329) system on 100% of the annually cropped acres?	50 Point(s)
4. Will the project include a conservation Crop Rotation (328) which includes a variety of species (grasses, broadleaves, cool season and warm season) or a multi-species Cover Crop (340)?	30 Point(s)
5. Will the participant plant a summer Cover Crop (340) in lieu of a cash crop under this project?	25 Point(s)
6. Will the participant plant a winter Cover Crop (340) or plant alfalfa following a low residue crop in rotation (328) under this project?	20 Point(s)
Conservation tree/shrub planting. Answer only ONE of the following questions (7-9), if applicable.	
7. Will the project include planting of 5 or more rows of trees and/or shrubs?	25 Point(s)
8. Will the project include planting of 3-4 rows of trees and/or shrubs?	15 Point(s)
9. Will the project include planting of 1-2 rows of trees and/or shrubs?	10 Point(s)

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.