

# Tribal Ranking Questions

## National Issue Questions

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.

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)?
- 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?

Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)

- 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?

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?
- 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?

Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)

- 5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?
- 5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?

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.
- 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?

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?
- 7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?

Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)

- 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?

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?

<b>State Issue Questions</b>
If the application is for the 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 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 development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
Practices in this application address a concentrated source of pollutants located within what distance of a watercourse/waterbody ( A lake, reservoir, pond, river, continuously flowing stream (solid or dashed line on a topographic map), NRCS GIS 100hydrok layer, or NYS DEC or Tribal designated wetland. Only use these tools for the definition of a waterbody)? If multiple water quality resource concerns exist, award the points based on the closest concern. Select only one:
2. 0-99' of a watercourse/waterbody
3. 100-199' of a watercourse/waterbody
4. 200-299' of a watercourse/waterbody
5. 300-399' of a watercourse/waterbody
6. 400'+ of a watercourse/waterbody
Does this application include practices which address erosion concerns on: (Note: If this application includes multiple fields/areas, use the dominant slope as per the Soil Survey, based on acreage)? Select only one:
7. Slopes >12% (greater than C slopes)
8. Slopes 8-12% (C slopes)
9. Slopes 2-8% (B slopes)
10. Slopes <2% (A slopes)
Answer "Yes" or "No" to Questions 11-14:
11. Does this application include practices to control sediment laden runoff directly entering a C(T) or higher classified stream (or tribally designated and regulated equivalent)?
12. Will the treatment implemented result in the protection, restoration development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for State, Federally, or Tribal listed threatened and endangered wildlife species? Use the Environmental Mapper, on DEC's Website or in Tribal documents (copies maintained with application), to answer this question. If area receives a "hit" refer to NRCS biologist.
13. Will all practices planned in this application be completed within three years of the obligation date?
14. Does this application support documented American Indian Nation/Tribal conservation priorities?
What percentage of acres included in this contract are on HEL soils? You may answer "Yes" to only one of the following:
15. 75 - 100%
16. 50 - 74%
17. 25 - 49%
18. <25%

<b>Local Issue Questions</b>
If the application is for the 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 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 Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)
Does this application include cover crops, residue management, enhanced nutrient management (higher than basic nutrient management), or prescribed grazing on fields where these practices have never been implemented? Select only one:
2. Practices being applied on greater than or equal to 25% of acres in the application
3. Practices being applied on greater than or equal to 50% of acres in the application
4. Practices being applied on greater than or equal to 75% of acres in the application
Answer "Yes" or "No" to Questions 5-11:
5. Does this application contain a practice with the intent to restore habitat that is currently threatened by any of the important exotic invasive species (insect, disease or plant) recognized by NYS DEC or the Tribe? (Such as Forest Stand Improvement that will directly contribute to the state's Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM) guidelines for slowing the spread of Emerald Ash Borer)
6. Are practices included in the application located within 500 feet of a NYS or Tribally classified/protected stream or other mapped waterbody?
7. Does this application include structural practice(s) which address classic or ephemeral gully erosion?
8. Is the application establishing or maintaining native grass habitat (native cool or warm season grasses) on the contracted acres?
9. If this application includes shrubland practices, does project site contain a mix of non-hydric and hydric soils OR does site contain or is adjacent to a riparian area (wetland, intermittent and perennial streams, lakes)?
10. Does the project site consist of less than 10% invasive species? (reference Invasive Species List(s)?)
11. Does this application include TOTAL exclusion of ALL livestock from ALL water courses or waterbodies (watercourse/waterbodies as defined in the Prioritization worksheet) Exception: exclusion does not include controlled access to a portion of the water body for watering purpose or controlled cattle crossings.