

**Natural Resources Conservation
Service**

**Application Ranking Summary
Shortleaf Pine Initiative**

Program: EQIP 2014	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Shortleaf Pine Initiative		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.	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. 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
1. Is this application for burn only site prep or no site prep and shortleaf planting? If the answer to this question is "Yes" then the answer to questions 2 and 3 is "No".	150 Point(s)
2. Is this application for site prep (very light, light or medium) and shortleaf planting? If the answer to this question is "Yes" then the answer to questions 1 and 3 is "No".	75 Point(s)
3. Is this application for site prep (heavy) and shortleaf planting? If the answer to this question is "Yes" then the answer to questions 1 and 2 is "No".	25 Point(s)
4. Is this application on property where an upland hardwood stand clear-cut was completed within the last year and are you willing to plant a low density shortleaf pine stand? (This will result in a mixed hardwood/shortleaf stand, no chemical site prep should be used.)	150 Point(s)
5. Is there an existing stand of shortleaf pines where Forest Stand Improvement practices could be used? (Example of practices are prescribed burn, crop tree release, controlling undesirable species, pre-commercial thinning favoring shortleaf, commercial thinning to a 60 basal area.)	200 Point(s)
6. Does this application pertain to land that is contiguous to a protected area such as a National Forest, Military Base, National Wildlife Refuge, State Forest, Heritage Reserve, or land protected by perpetual easement (WRP, FRPP, GRP, etc.)?	50 Point(s)
7. Is the field (acreage to be planted) where the practice instillation will take place located within a state designated priority county? See map in 2017 EQIP Handbook.	100 Point(s)
8. Will offered area connect two or more blocks of shortleaf pine?	25 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the landowner willing to manage an existing stand of Shortleaf by implementing forest stand improvement practices (practice 666)?	175 Point(s)
2. Is the landowner willing to establish shortleaf on a cutover site?	75 Point(s)

Land Use:

Crop;

Forest;

Pasture;

Resource Concerns	Practices
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Firebreak
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Forest Stand Improvement
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Herbaceous Weed Control
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Prescribed Burning
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Establishment

Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:
National Issues:
Final Ranking Score:

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:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: