

**Application Ranking Summary
MRBI-Upper Buck Creek**

Program: EQIP 2014
Ranking Tool: MRBI-Upper Buck Creek

National Priorities Addressed

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?

State Issues Addressed

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 state priority category.
1. a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If the answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
Answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions:
2. a. 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)?
2. b. Are more than 75 percent of the acres treated located within a MRBI watershed AND do they have at least one core conservation practice planned on them?
2. c. Planned practice(s) include one or more Core Practices and one or more Supporting Practices.
2. d. Are more than 75% of the acres treated located within a priority area within the Upper Buck Creek watershed?
2. e. 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.
2. f. For operations of 10 acres or more, the applicant has a current Agriculture Water Quality Act Plan (AWQA), or for forestland, a Forest Stewardship or Forest Management Plan (CAP 106) that includes the Best Mangement Practices (BMPs) or land unit they are requesting financial assistance for.

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
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 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local level questions.
1. a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If the 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.
Answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions:
2. a. Does this application exclude livestock from water sources on the entire farming operation?
2. b. Does this application exclude livestock from at least one water source within the farming operation?
2. c. Does this application include cropland conversion to grassland?
2. d. Does this application include cover crops?
2. e. Does this application include buffers (Vegetative Treatment Area, Riparian Buffers and/or Field Borders)?
2. f. Does this application include Prescribed Grazing?
2. g. Are planned practices in the impaired watershed within 1/4 mile of a stream identified on the Strahler Stream Order ArcGIS layer?
2. h. Does this application include practices recommended in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?

Land Use:

Associated Agriculture Land;

Crop;

Farmstead;

Pasture;

Resource Concerns
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
Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
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

Practices

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