

**Application Ranking Summary
Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative**

Program: EQIP 2014
Ranking Tool: Southeast KY Early Successional Habitat Initiative

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
1. Does this application include incorporating at least 50% of the offered acres to contiguous habitat improvement practices?
Answer the following questions related to Grassland:
2. a. Does this application include the removal of woody vegetation from a barren, glade or prairie remnant?
2. b. Does this application include establishing pollinator habitat?
2. c. Does this application include implementing a native grass/forb mixture planting or undesirable species control on 0-10% of the offered acres?
2. d. Does this application include implementing a native grass/forb mixture planting or undesirable species control on 10-25% of the offered acres?
2. e. Does this application include implementing a native grass/forb mixture planting or undesirable species control on 25-50% of the offered acres?
2. f. Does this application include implementing a native grass/forb mixture planting or undesirable species control on more than 50% of the offered acres?
2. g. Does this application include at least 9 species of forb enrichment in a grassland setting?
2. h. Will the application result in the conversion of all the offered acres from cropland, pasture, hayland or idle land to wildlife habitat.
2. i. Does this application include at least 1 acre of native grass field border at least 30' wide planned in a crop field or pasture field?
2. j. Does this application include a native hardwood tree planting on 5% of the offered acres?
2. k. Does this application include a native shrub planting in conjunction with native grass or undesirable species control? Shrub plantings must be within or adjacent to native grass or undesirable herbaceous species control practice.
2. l. Does this application include applying a practice in the Grassland Bird Conservation Area?
2. m. Does this application include applying a practice in the Bobwhite Quail Focus Area?
Answer the following questions related to Forestland:
3. a. Does this application include Patch Clearcut or Edge Feathering?
3. b. Does this application include Fence planned to exclude livestock from a woodland?
3. c. Does this application include Fence planned to exclude livestock from a woodland with a setback?
3. d. Does this application include applying a forestry related practice in the Forestland Bird Conservation Area?
3. e. If this application includes Brush Management (314) for invasive shrub treatment, does it also include other practices to benefit wildlife?
Answer the following questions related to Aquatic Habitat:
4. a. Does this application include Fence planned to exclude livestock from a stream or open throat karst basin?
4. b. Does this application include fence planned to exclude livestock from a stream or open throat karst basin with a setback?
4. c. Is livestock exclusion being planned on a stream noted to have aquatic listed species according to Aquatic Species List Section II of the FOTG?
4. d. Is stream or sink hole exclusion fence with setback being applied within an Aquatic Conservation Area (8-digit)?
4. e. Does this application include an ephemeral pool or shallow water area?
4. f. Does this application include at least 5 acres of native bottomland hardwood planting?
4. g. Is an ephemeral pool, shallow water area or bottomland hardwood planting being planned in an Amphibian Conservation Area or in the Copperbelly Watersnake Conservation Area?

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions
Answer "Yes" or "No" to the following questions:
1. a. Does this application include applying a practice in a Grouse Focus Area?
1. b. Are the offered acres adjacent to an established conservation area including Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), easement acres such as Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (ACEP), National Forests, etc.
1. c. Does this application address aquatic habitat improvements (for example livestock exclusion from streams)?
1. d. 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 Management Practices (BMPs) or land unit for which they are requesting financial assistance.

Land Use:

Associated Agriculture Land;

Crop;

Farmstead;

Forest;

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

Practices

Access Control
Brush Management
Conservation Cover
Critical Area Planting
Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fence
Field Border
Firebreak
Forest Stand Improvement
Heavy Use Area Protection
Herbaceous Weed Control
Livestock Pipeline
Mulching
Prescribed Burning
Riparian Forest Buffer
Riparian Herbaceous Cover
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
Spring Development
Stream Crossing
Structure for Water Control
Structures for Wildlife
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Underground Outlet
Water Well
Watering Facility
Wetland Creation
Woody Residue Treatment