

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM  
APPLICATION EVALUATION RANINT TOOL NATIONAL QUESTIONS  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

FY 2017 EQIP Ranking Questions	FY 2017 Points
1. 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.	
1a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? <u>If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions.</u> If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
<b>Answer "Yes" if this application is for a CAP. Answer "No" if this application does not include a CAP. If the answer is "Yes," answer all other national questions "No."</b>	
2. Water Quality Degradation–Will the proposed project improve water quality by (select all that apply):	
2a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
<b>Answer “Yes” if this application includes practices necessary to complete a CNMP.</b>	
2b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
<b>Answer “Yes” if this application includes practices necessary to complete a NMP.</b>	
2c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
<b>Answer “Yes” if the unit of concern is located in a high priority TMDL watershed for alachlor, atrazine, total suspended solids, siltation, total phosphorus, eutrophication, and dissolved oxygen (see Conservation Programs Geographic Information System Interface [CPGI]) <b>AND</b> the EQIP Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) <u>does not</u> include the following Conservation Practices (CPs): 578, 606, and 642.</b>	
2d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body?”	10
<b>Answer “Yes” if the unit of concern is located adjacent (&lt; 100 ft.) to a water body (lake, pond, or perennial stream as determined by the 1:24,000 scale hydrography layer) <b>AND</b> the EQIP CPO <u>does not</u> include the following CPs: 578, 606, and 642.</b>	

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2e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
Answer “Yes” if the CPO includes CP 316, or CP 317.	
3. Water Conservation–Will the proposed project conserve water by (select all that apply):	
3a Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft?	15
Answer “Yes” if the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area (see CPGI) <b>AND</b> the EQIP CPO includes practices which reduce aquifer overdraft.	
3b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
Answer “Yes” if the application includes an irrigation system being improved with an estimated net water savings of at least five percent <b>AND</b> any of the following CPs <u>are included</u> in the EQIP CPO: 328, 329, 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed watery plantings), 344, 345, 346, 430, 441, 442, 449, 512, and 550.	
3c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
Answer “Yes” if any part of the unit of concern is located within a state designated Quick Response Area, Local Enhanced Management Areas, and/or Intensive Groundwater Use Conservation Area.	
3d. 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
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 311, 328, 329, 330, 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 342, 345, 346, 386, 442, 449, 600, and 603.	
4. Air Quality–Will the proposed project improve air quality by (select all that apply):	
4a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 342, 366, 367, 380, 386, 391, 484, 550, 590, 612, 650, 657, 658, and 659.	
4b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 329, 338, 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 345, 372, 380, 528, 550, 590, 591, 592, and 643.	

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4c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), methane (CH <sub>4</sub> ), and nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 366, 367, 380, 390, 391, 528, 550, 590, 612, 643, 645, and 650.	
4d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 329, 332, 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 342, 345, 346, 380, 386, 391, 393, 422, 512, 528, 550, 612, 635, 643, 644, 650, 657, 658, and 659.	
5. Soil Health–Will the proposed project improve soil health by (select all that apply):	
5a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10
Answer “Yes” if the benchmark condition has soil erosion concerns at unacceptable levels and the EQIP CPO has the necessary CPs to address all forms of soil erosion bringing them equal to or below Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) National and State Resource Concern Planning Criteria levels on all fields in the offered area.	
5b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
Answer “Yes” if the planned practices meet FOTG National and State Resource Concern Planning Criteria for Soil Condition—Organic Matter Depletion (see organic matter matrix) OR address Soil Condition—Compaction resource concerns.	
6. Wildlife Habitat–Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by (select all that apply):	
6a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered (T&E), at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10
Award points if the EQIP CPO restores or enhances habitat for federally listed T&E, species at-risk, candidate, or fish and wildlife species of concern. Refer to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) ( <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/</a> ) for Kansas T&E and Species in Need of Conservation (SINC) and the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan ( <a href="http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Kansas-CWCP/Kansas-CWCP">http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Kansas-CWCP/Kansas-CWCP</a> ).	
6b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
Answer “Yes” if the CRP contract expired and is still in permanent cover.	

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6c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 380, 390, 391, 422, 472, 550, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 650, 656, 657, 658, 659, and 666.	
6d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs: 390, 391, 399, 472, 644, 645, 646, 656, 657, 658, and 659.	
7. Plant and Animal Communities–Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by (select all that apply):	
7a Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO includes either CP 314 or CP 315 and targets noxious or invasive plant species (see Noxious and Invasive Species list link through FOTG, Section II, or at: <a href="http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349">http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349</a> ).	
7b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
Answer “Yes” if EQIP CPO includes CP595 and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and procedures are followed.	
8. Energy Conservation–Will the proposed project reduce energy use by (select all that apply):	
8a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
Answer “Yes” if the EQIP CPO <u>includes</u> any of the following CPs 329, 340 (excluding cover crops for grassed waterway plantings), 345, 346, 372, 374, 380, 430, 441, 442, 449, 484, 512, 516, 533, 590, 650, 670, and 672.	
8b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) or energy audit, which meet American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) S612 criteria?	10
Answer “Yes” if an AgEMP CAP 128 or equivalent Energy Audit has been previously completed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) and the EQIP CPO includes at least one practice identified to increase on-farm energy efficiency.	
9. Business Lines–Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP CPO” result in:	
9a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
As determined by the conservation planner.	
<b>Total Maximum Points</b>	<b>250</b>