

2005 EQIP Ranking Summary Sheet – NRCS MT Madison County

APPLICANT'S NAME _____ FIELD OFFICE _____

PLANNER _____ DATE _____

FARM/TRACT NUMBERS _____ CONTRACTED ACRES _____

Check One:

Single Land-use application:

Multiple Land-use application:

(Circle land-use below)

LAND USE	Priority (If applicable)	Project Cost	Environmental Points	EQIP Contract Cost
Statewide AFO/CAFO (submit to State Office)	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
Grazing Land	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
Dryland Cropland (If Hayland, what %)	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
Irrigated Land (If Hayland, what %)	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
Forest Land	_____	\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
Additional Conservation Benefits Points		\$ _____	_____	\$ _____
TOTALS		\$ _____	_____	\$ _____

Cost-Benefits Points

(Total Project Cost/Total Env. Points) \$ _____ / _____ = _____

National Priorities met by this contract: (check all that apply)*

(* all resource concerns must be accounted for in ProTracts, including any National Priorities checked)

- _____ 1. Reduction in non-point source pollutants in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDL's, where available, as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and the conservation of ground and surface water resources.
- _____ 2. Reduction of emissions that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- _____ 3. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable high levels (>T) on agricultural land.
- _____ 4. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

NRCS Designated Conservationist: _____ Date: _____

ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION BENEFITS

(APPLICABLE FOR ALL LAND USES CONTRACTED, EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED)

Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005

These additional conservation benefits points are applicable once per application, whether a single landuse application or a multiple landuse application.

		Points
1. Buffers that address identified resource concerns (Circle each one to be installed) <i>(Practices receiving buffer points here cannot receive points in the AFO/CAFO section)</i> Practices with at least a <u>15-year lifespan</u> : ♦ Riparian Forest Buffer (391) and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).	25 points each	
Practices with at least a <u>10-year lifespan</u> : ♦ Contour Buffer Strips (332), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), and Field Border (386).	20 points each	
Practices with at least a <u>5-year lifespan</u> : ♦ Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C) and Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603).	15 pts. each	
2. Buffer Protection Protection of any of the above new or existing buffers from livestock grazing by fencing (382). (The buffer must meet one of the listed practice standards before points may be awarded.)	10 points max	
3. Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Treatment planned will provide connectivity to other wildlife habitat.	5	
4. Wildlife Habitat for Significant Wildlife Species Treatment directly impacts and addresses T&E, and Candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, or species of special concern (including sage grouse). Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) must be contracted.	25	
5. Ground Water Quality Protection of ground water through Well Decommissioning (351).	20	
6. Waste Utilization Treatment includes land treatment practice(s) to prevent runoff on fields where manure and organic by-products are applied based on a Montana NRCS nutrient budget: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management (329), Cover Crop (340) and Waste Utilization (633). (These points only awarded in non-AFO/CAFO applications).	25	
7. Streambank Stabilization The stabilization of stream banks for improved water quality and stream health through Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) or Stream Channel Stabilization (584).	25	
8. Impaired Watersheds Treatment directly benefits a 303d-listed stream segment (in the direct drainage of, or upstream of, a 303d-listed stream segment). (These points only awarded in non-AFO/CAFO applications).	20	
9. Pollinator Friendly Practices Sequentially blooming pollinator friendly plants are planted in pastures, field borders, buffers, or other areas and provide flowering plants throughout the growing season. Mix must be approved by NRCS (Example practices are 391, 332, 393, 390, 386, 512 or 550).	20	
10. Leveraged Funds Other entities are supplying additional funding – leveraging EQIP funding \$500 or greater. Written commitments required.	15	
11. Locally Led Efforts Proposed contracted acres are located in a designated geographic region or watershed that: 1) has an active and coordinated locally led conservation effort that has met at least once in the last 12 months, and; 2) has completed a conservation needs assessment.	10	
12. Predator Deterrent Practices Predator deterring practices are contracted. These include power fences, an animal mortality facility, or use of a herder. (316, 382, or 528)	25	

TOTAL ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION BENEFITS POINTS

List Practices to be contracted: _____

(Transfer total Additional Conservation Benefits points for all land use(s) to the summary sheet)

**Statewide Ranking Criteria for AFO/CAFO
Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005**

Applications for livestock waste handling facilities will be ranked against each other at the state level for cost-share assistance through EQIP. Applications with a Priority 1 will be funded first. Priority 2 applications will be funded next, and so on. The point section below is for breaking ties within each priority. For example, it is possible to have a Priority with 0 points to get funded before a lower Priority with 100 points. For all applications the following criteria apply:

- Any EQIP contract supplying cost-share for a waste storage or waste treatment facility is required to include implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.
- State Waters are identified as any body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground. This section does not apply to irrigation waters where the waters are used up within the irrigation system and said waters are not returned to any other state waters.

PRIORITY SECTION – RECORD PRIORITY AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

- PRIORITY 1** DEQ and/or Tribal EPA has determined that the operation is out of compliance with state regulations, but the operator is not yet under court order to comply.
- PRIORITY 2** Cooperator has been given notice that they may be out of compliance.
- PRIORITY 3** Treatment of an AFO so that it does not become a CAFO; i.e., eliminates point source discharges and direct access of the livestock to state and tribal waters and ensures that the AFO does not become a significant contributor of pollution. Includes facilities for storage of wastes to minimize discharge from the operation.
- PRIORITY 4** Treatment of a CAFO that reduces or eliminates impacts to State or Tribal waters. [Same examples and conditions as Priority 3 above].
- PRIORITY 5** Expansion and treatment of existing AFO/CAFO where waste handling facilities are inadequate for current number of animals.
- PRIORITY 6** Expansion and treatment of an existing AFO/CAFO where the waste handling facilities are inadequate for the proposed increase in number of animals.
- PRIORITY 7** Installation of a new AFO/CAFO waste facility.

POINT SECTION – TOTAL POINTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

A. Resource Concern: Water Quality – Surface Water Quality from the AFO/CAFO facility

Offer includes treatment of land where manure and organic by-products will be applied. On these fields, it is essential that runoff, leaching, and soil erosion be minimized to allow for plant uptake of the nutrients.	Points
1. Treatment includes the installation of a vegetative buffer between the AFO/CAFO facility and State or Tribal waters. Application of animal wastes will not occur in Filter Strips (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), and/or Field Border (386). Secondary treatment of animal wastes may occur in Wastewater Treatment Strips (635) following practice standards. (NOTE: buffer points cannot be duplicated in the Additional Conservation Benefits section).	75
2. AFO/CAFO facility where treatment directly benefits a 303d-listed stream segment (in the direct drainage of, or upstream of, a 303d-listed stream segment.) where the probable source and cause is related to animal feeding operations (303d stream points cannot be duplicated in the Additional Conservation Benefits section).	25

B. Resource Concern: Water Quality – Surface Water Quality from field applications of manure and organic by-products

AFO/CAFO facility.	Points
1. Treatment includes the installation of a vegetative buffer between the field where manure and organic by-products will be applied and State or Tribal waters where application of animal wastes will not occur. Applicable practices include Contour Buffer Strips (332), Filter Strips (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), and/or Field Border (386). (NOTE: buffer points cannot be duplicated in the Additional Conservation Benefits section).	60
2. Offer includes the proper disposal or application of wastes either by hauling to a composting facility or proper application to fields: Waste Utilization (633).	50
3. Treatment includes land treatment practice(s) to prevent runoff on fields where manure and organic by-products are applied based on a Montana NRCS nutrient budget: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management (329), and Stripcropping (585).	40

Circle one Priority: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 AFO/CAFO Points _____
List all practices to be contracted: _____

(Transfer Priority Level and AFO/CAFO points to summary sheet)

Madison Natural Resource Concerns EQIP Ranking Criteria FY05
Ranking Criteria for DRY CROPLAND
Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005

POINT SECTION – TOTAL POINTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

A. Resource Concern: Soil Loss - Erosion

Offer includes a <i>change</i> resulting in more residue on the surface or less soil loss to wind and water erosion.	Points
1. Offer includes a change from <i>conventional tillage</i> to a no-till system: Residue Management (329A).	60
2. Offer includes a change from <i>minimum tillage</i> to a no-till system: Residue Management (329A).	40
3. Wind Erosion: Permanent practices that treat wind erosion beyond tillage systems: Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650), Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603), and Stripcropping (585). (Note: Buffer points cannot be duplicated in the Additional Conservation Benefits section).	40
4. Water Erosion: Permanent practices that will reduce soil loss from water erosion beyond tillage systems: Filter Strips (393), Grassed Waterways (412), Water & Sediment Control Basin (638). (Note: Buffer points cannot be duplicated in the Additional Conservation Benefits section).	40

B. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Salinity

Offer includes the planned treatment of recharge areas contributing to saline discharge. An applicable practice is Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (610).	Points
1. Applied treatment to recharge areas by the application of <i>permanent vegetation</i> . (Number of acres x 0.5 points). Maximum of 110 points possible.	Maximum 110
2. Applied treatment to recharge areas by the application of <i>flex cropping</i> . (Number of acres x 0.1 points) Maximum 30 points possible.	Maximum 30
3. Recharge area will be treated where producer owns the recharge area but not the discharge area.	50

C. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Nutrient Management

Offer includes the planned proper application of nutrients to cropland through Nutrient Management (590).	Points
1. Precision ag methods for variable rate application of fertilizer.	60
2. Nutrient Management (590) application rate determined by soil analysis and nutrient budget.	40

D. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Conversion to Organic Crop Production

Offer includes the planned addressing nutrient and pest management through organic methods. Treatment plans for transition to become organic certified. Applicable practice includes Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and Pest Management (595).	Points
1. Use of organic methods of nutrient management and pest management.	60

E. Resource Concern: Soil Health – Tilt

Planned treatment will result in an improving soil condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System planned will provide for an index of >0.0 on the offered acres in order to receive points through the following practices: Residue Management (329), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), or Cover Crop (340).	Points
1. Improvement calculated from comparison of the before and after Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System to be applied and maintained during the contract period.	
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement >.10	40
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.05 to 0.10	30
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.01 to 0.049	20
◆ SCI improvement from negative factor to > 0.0	Points X 2

Dry Cropland Points _____ List all practices to be contracted: _____

(Transfer Priority Level and Dry Cropland points to summary sheet)

Madison Natural Resource Concerns EQIP Ranking Criteria FY05
Ranking Criteria for IRRIGATED LAND
Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005

POINT SECTION – TOTAL POINTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

A. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Nutrient Management

Offer includes the planned proper application of nutrients to cropland through Nutrient Management (590).		Points
1. Precision ag methods for variable rate application of fertilizer.	50	
2. Nutrient Management (590) application rate determined by soil analysis and nutrient budget.	30	

B. Resource Concern: Soil Health – Tilt

Planned treatment will result in an improving soil condition from the benchmark condition as determined from the Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System planned will provide for an index of >0.0 on the offered acres in order to receive points through the following practices: Residue Management (329), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), or Cover Crop (340).		Points
1. Improvement calculated from comparison of the before and after Soil Condition Index (SCI) Worksheet. System to be applied and maintained during the contract period.		
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement >.10	40	
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.05 to 0.10	30	
◆ Soil Condition Index (SCI) improvement 0.01 to 0.049	20	
◆ SCI improvement from negative factor to > 0.0	Points X 2	

C. Resource Concern: Water Quality and Water Quantity - Irrigation Efficiency (Structural)

Water conservation benefits are evaluated based on the last irrigation system used on the land. Increases in irrigation efficiency will not have a negative impact on late season instream flows (see ranking instructions). Conversion of a wheel line to a pivot will not be cost-shared.		Points
1. Conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where corners will not be flood irrigated: Irrigation System-Sprinkler (442).	40	
2. Applicant transfers all water conserved from an irrigation efficiencies project to instream use as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will enhance streamflow on a stream listed in the MFWP's "Dewatered Stream List during critical low flow periods = 40 points • Project will enhance streamflow on any other stream = 30 points 	40 max	
3. Fish screening system installed at stream diversion point.	40	
4. Conversion of a flood irrigation system to the use of surge valve with gated pipe, or addition of surge valve to an existing gated pipe system: Irrigation Water Conveyance (430).	30	
5. Conversion of a flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system where corners will continue to be flood irrigated: Irrigation System-Sprinkler (442).	5	
6. Conversion of an open ditch or lateral to underground pipe, gated pipe, lined conveyance system (i.e. concrete): Irrigation Water Conveyance (430) or (428). (Gated pipe used solely to replace contour ditches – max 5 points).	20	
7. Leveling of land for more efficient application of water – Irrigation Land Leveling (464).	10	
8. LWG Points: Contracted installation of diversions, headgates, and flow measuring devices.	30	

D. Resource Concern: Water Quality and Water Quantity – Irrigation Efficiency (Management)

Offer includes the planned treatment of improved management of irrigation water. IMPORTANT: The applied treatment must increase system efficiency by 15% or more.		Points
1. Acre/inches of water saved by conservation practice implementation in one year _____. Points equal acre/inches saved multiplied by 2.	Maximum 50	

E. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Conversion to Organic Crop Production

Offer includes the planned addressing nutrient and pest management through organic methods. Treatment plans for transition to become organic certified. Applicable practice includes Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and Pest Management (595).		Points
1. Use of organic methods of nutrient management and pest management.	60	

Irrigated Cropland Points _____
List all practices to be contracted: _____

(Transfer Priority Level and Irrigated Land points to summary sheet)

Madison Natural Resource Concerns EQIP Ranking Criteria FY05
Ranking Criteria for GRAZING LANDS
 (Rangelands, Pasture, Grazed Forest Lands, and Riparian Areas)
Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005

POINT SECTION – TOTAL POINTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

A. Resource Concern: Plant Health - Improper balance of livestock numbers with available forage production

Offer includes implementation of a Prescribed Grazing (528) system that balances forage production with livestock numbers for the period of the contract.		Points
1. 76-100% of grazing land under the operating unit is contracted for implementation; or	60	
50-75% of the grazing land under the operating unit is contracted for implementation.	40	
BONUS POINTS: If performing prescribed grazing to facilitate native prairie restoration or to improve and preserve sage grouse habitat.	15	

B. Resource Concern: Plant Health - Poor grazing distribution (Facilitating practices)

Offer includes the installation of fence(s) and/or a permanent source of water for domestic livestock to facilitate improved grazing distribution (points awarded for all that apply).		Points
1. Fences for riparian management to facilitate controlled access and improved grazing in riparian areas: Fence (382).	40	
2. Watering facility replaces watering access to State/Tribal Waters: Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), Spring Development (574), and Pond (378).	40	
3. Watering facility in uplands to facilitate improved livestock distribution: (same practices as #2 above).	30	
4. Fences or cross fences on uplands to facilitate improved upland grazing: Fence (382).	30	
5. Installation of a livestock access ramp to control access to State/Tribal Waters by livestock: Animal Trails and Walkways (575).	25	
6. Watering facility installed with considerations for wildlife access: Wildlife Watering Facility (648).	20	

C. Resource Concern: Plant Health - Poor Forage Condition

Offer includes treatment(s) to improved forage condition or accelerate grazing land renovation for grazing livestock and wildlife habitat.		Points
1. <i>Establishment</i> of improved pastures on cropland for spring and fall grazing (50 points) or for mid-summer grazing (40 points) : Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) and Range Planting (550).	Maximum 50	
2. <i>Renovation</i> of existing improved pastures for spring and fall grazing (30 points) or for mid-summer grazing (20 points): Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) and Range Planting (550).	Maximum 40	
3. Accelerated treatment of <i>native rangelands</i> : Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548).	40	
4. Accelerated treatment of <i>forest lands</i> by thinning trees to the Forest Stand Improvement (666) standard for grazing.	40	
5. Improved grazable forage production through the installation of a waterspreading system.	30	
6. Recovery period (2 year season-long deferment) for natural disaster (fire or drought) is planned. Points based on percent of total contracted private lands deferred times .5. Maximum points can not exceed 60 (no points if points awarded in section A).	% x .5 (i.e. 50%x.5)	

D. Resource Concern: Plant Health – Competition for resources from weeds

Offer includes the treatment of noxious weeds on grazing lands to reduce competition for resources with non-weed species and prevent the further spread of undesirable highly competitive species. Applicable practices include Pest Management (595) and Prescribed Grazing (528).		Points
1. Implementation of a complete Integrated Pest Management Plan.	60	
2. Temporal treatment (spot spray/single treatment) of <i>noxious weeds</i> .	50	
3. Biological control of noxious weeds (includes insects and/or domestic livestock (sheep/goats)).	60	

E. Resource Concern: Soil Health - Conversion to Organic Livestock Production

Offer includes the planned transition to become organic certified. Applicable practices include Nutrient Management (590) and Pest Management (595).		Points
1. Use of organic methods of nutrient management and pest management.	60	

Grazing Lands Points _____ List all practices to be contracted: _____
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(Transfer Priority Level and Grazing Land points to summary sheet)

Madison Natural Resource Concerns EQIP Ranking Criteria FY05
Ranking Criteria for FOREST LAND
Montana Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2005

POINT SECTION – TOTAL POINTS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE

A. Resource Concern: Forest Health – Healthy Trees and Soils

Offer includes planned forestry related treatment(s) that address the health of the tree population and associated soils. These practices are offered to the non-industrial private landowners that want to address the overall health of their forested lands.	Points
1. Planned treatment includes improvement to forest stand health utilizing pre-commercial thinning techniques in Forest Stand Improvement (666).	55
2. Erosion control measures on forest road systems through Forest Trails and Landings (655).	40

B. Resource Concern: Forest Health – Prevention or Recovery from Wildfires

Offer includes planned treatment related to the prevention or recovery from wildfires on forested lands.	Points
1. Reduction of Hazardous Fuels through Forest Stand Improvement (666), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) and/or Firebreaks (394).	
◆ Homesite on property is within or adjoins public lands on which fuel treatment/reduction project has recently been completed, is currently underway, or will begin within 1 year.	50
◆ Undeveloped property is within or adjoins public lands on which fuel treatment /reduction project has recently been completed, is currently underway, or will begin within 1 year.	40
◆ Location significant to impacting drinking water supplies or protecting public infrastructure.	35
◆ Other areas.	30
2. Post-Burn Recovery	
◆ Tree planting on land burned by wildfire within the past 3 years using Tree and Shrub Establishment (612).	35
◆ Critical Area Planting (342) erosion control measures on forested slopes impacted by wildfire within the past 1 year.	40

C. Resource Concern: Plant Health – Competition for resources from weeds

Offer includes the treatment of noxious weeds on forested lands to reduce competition for resources with non-weed species and prevent the further spread of undesirable highly competitive species. Applicable practices include Pest Management (595) and Prescribed Grazing (528).	Points
1. Implementation of a complete Integrated Pest Management Plan.	60
2. Temporal treatment (spot spray/single treatment) of <i>noxious weeds</i> .	40
3. Biological control of noxious weeds (includes insects and domestic livestock (sheep/goats)).	50
4. Weed control in forested area impacted by wildfire within the past 3 years.	Add 20

Forest Lands Points _____ List all practices to be contracted: _____

(Transfer Priority Level and Forest Land points to summary sheet)