# SEIZING A WATERSHED MOMENT

## Making EQIP Work for Water Quality in 10 Mississippi River Border States


# Wisconsin

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
**State Report 10 of 10**

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

## APPENDIX – STATE REPORTS

## WISCONSIN
## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

Wisconsin received an average of $19.1 million in EQIP funds for technical and financial assistance per year from 2003 to 2007, ranking it 5th out of the 10 states that border the Mississippi River for EQIP funds. Two-thirds of Wisconsin EQIP's funds are distributed to the state's 72 counties while the remaining third is spent on the Waste Storage / Alternative Waste Solutions funding category.

Applications to participate in EQIP are evaluated using multiple ranking sheets that include: (1) national priorities, (2) state issues, (3) local issues, and (4) and cost-efficiency score. Applications are evaluated using either the Waste Storage ranking criteria document or one of four Area ranking criteria documents, called "Application Ranking Summaries," for the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the Northwest, depending on where the applicant's operation is located. County-level applications compete against each other within each county while the Animal Waste Storage/Alternative Waste Solutions applications compete on a statewide basis.

The Wisconsin State Technical Committee (WSTC) provides input and recommendations to develop the list of eligible practices, cost share rates and limits, eligible resource concerns, and scoring criteria for waste storage. The Local Work Groups (LWG) provides input on the list of eligible practices for the countywide signups, county scoring criteria, and eligible resource concerns. Area Work Groups convene to establish the four Area Summaries.

### WISCONSIN EQIP WEBSITES

http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html

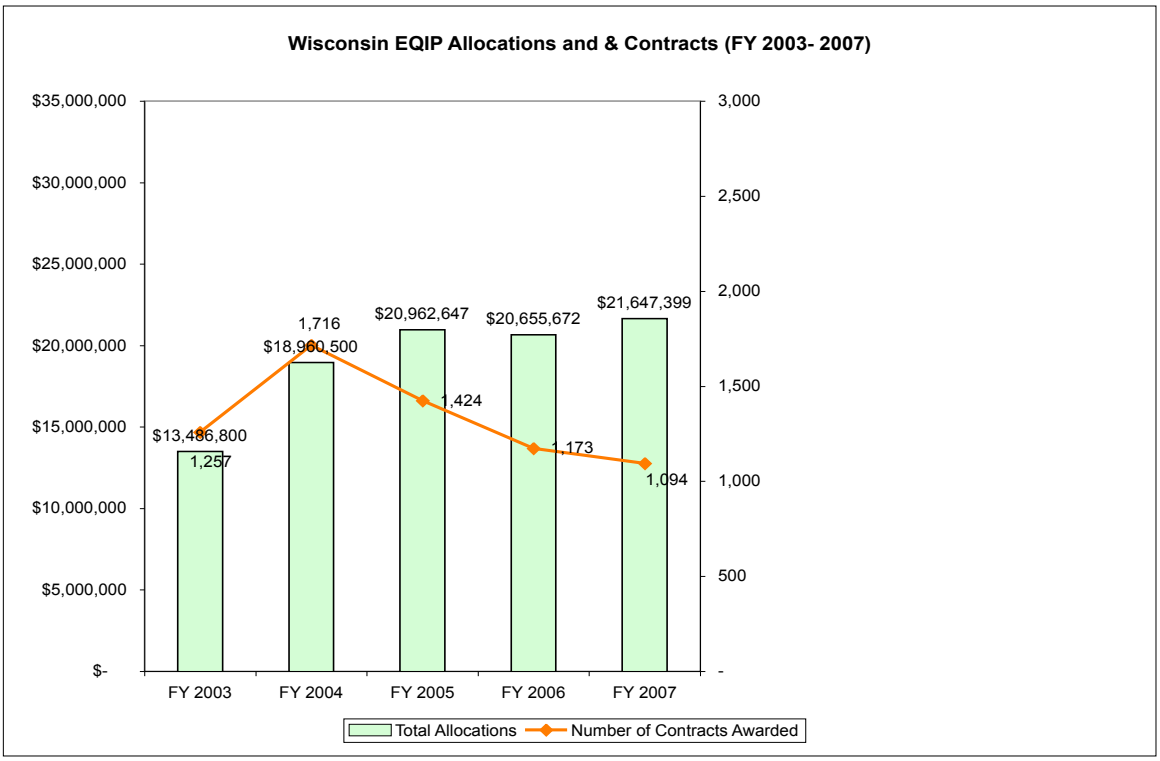
### CONTACTS

Jan C. Whitcomb, Economist
(608) 662-4422 extension 238
jan.whitcomb@wi.usda.gov

Don A. Baloun
Assistant State Conservationist
(608) 662-4422 extension 252
don.baloun@wi.usda.gov

## FUNDING AND REACH OF EQIP

EQIP funding is allocated to states using a national formula. The chart below shows the amount of financial and technical assistance Wisconsin has received from FY 2003 to 2007 and the number of contracts awarded each fiscal year. A total of 6,664 contracts have been entered into with producers between 2003 and 2007 providing $95.7 million and addressing nearly 1,407,572 acres in the state.




Source: EWG compiled annual data from EQIP's "Allocation" and "Contract" tables found on the USDA NRCS website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP/.

## KEY FACTORS ANALYSIS

We analyzed the following factors for indications of the extent to which EQIP in Wisconsin is focused on reducing sediment and nutrient loads to streams, lakes, and rivers: (1) the presence or absence of qualitative or quantitative goals for pollutant reductions, (2) methods used to allocate state-level funds to counties or other sub-state levels or to specific projects or priorities, and (3) the application ranking criteria used to select participants in EQIP. We relied primarily on the information and data presented on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) website to complete this analysis and followed up on our investigation with interviews of the state EQIP program managers.

## Goals

EWG did not find evidence to suggest that Wisconsin EQIP has a) established explicit quantitative or qualitative goals for EQIP to clean up agricultural sources of pollution, b) identified which lakes, streams, or tributaries are priorities for improvement, c) set a timetable to achieve those goals, or d) established a means to track progress toward the goals. Wisconsin's application ranking systems do create an implicit set of priorities for treating water quality, but measurable goals and timelines do not exist.

EWG recommends that Wisconsin EQIP set clear and specific goals for how much and what types of agricultural pollution need to be reduced, which lakes, streams or tributaries are priorities for improvement, and a timetable to achieve those goals. EWG also recommends that Wisconsin EQIP develop systems to track, evaluate, and report on the environmental performance of EQIP.

## Fund Allocation

Wisconsin distributes approximately two-thirds to three-fourths of its EQIP funding to its 72 county offices where farmers compete for EQIP funds within each county. Sign-up to develop Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for livestock operations is done through the local county sign-ups as well.

The remaining 25 to 33 percent is allocated to the Waste Storage/Alternative Waste Solutions funding category where farmers compete on a state-level basis. This funding category includes several different practices to separate liquid from solid waste, as well as the mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment of manure to reduce odor and nutrients and make handling easier. However, non-animal waste practices can still be funded from this account if applications for waste storage and alternative waste solutions include additional, no-animal waste practices. A map showing the locations and numbers of Waste Storage Structures applications in FY2008 is provided in the Appendix.

To allocate funds to the counties, Wisconsin uses a funding formula, which includes a base allocation (equal for all counties) and then the remaining funds are distributed to each county based on the:

- Percent of total state livestock numbers within a county (weighted 50 percent)
- Percent of total state cropland acres within a county (weighted 25 percent)
- Percent of total state highly erodible land acres within a county (weighted 25 percent).

EWG recommends that if funds are allocated directly to local jurisdictions, Wisconsin EQIP should use allocation formulas based primarily on natural resource and environmental factors rather than generic production factors to channel more funding

to localities with significant yet solvable environmental problems associated with agriculture.

Each county individually determines how they will allocate their funding. A random review of a few county EQIP programs indicates that some counties set funding allocation goals for each fiscal year. For example, Brown County Local Work Group (in the Northeast Area) decided to allocate its available 2008 EQIP funds in the following manner:

| | |
|---|---|
| Surface Water Quality | 55 percent |
| Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans | 30 percent |
| Groundwater Quality | 10 percent |
| Fish & Wildlife Habitat | 5 percent |

The Adams County LWG (in the Southeast Area) decided to allocate their 2008 funds in the following manner:

| | |
|---|---|
| Soil erosion, water quality-surface, water quality-ground, and streambank / shoreline degradation | 75 percent |
| Wildlife habitat, Invasive Plant Control | 25 percent |

EWG recommends that Wisconsin EQIP's best opportunity for improving water quality is to fund well-designed, watershed-based clean-up projects. This approach encourages multiple farmers within a watershed to reduce pollution to a specific lake, stream, or tributary to the Mississippi River.

The problem-solving advantages of this approach are well understood. They include focusing resources in specific locations to solve well-defined problems using a strategy that directs funding to those farmers within the watershed who can do the most to reduce pollution. Ideally, such water quality improvement projects include developing monitoring and evaluation systems to adjust the strategy and resource allocations based on the results that are being realized. Ramping up the emphasis in EQIP on such watershed-based clean-up projects would dramatically increase the effectiveness of the program.

EWG recommends that Wisconsin EQIP allocate 60 percent of its EQIP funds to watershed-based clean-up projects by 2012. Wisconsin EQIP should then allocate the remaining 40 percent of funds by 2012 to funding pools that target high priority natural resource and environmental problems. These state-level funding pools create important opportunities to focus EQIP on the most pressing designated problems. The funding pools allow EQIP managers to select the best applications from all the applications proposing to address the same natural resource or environmental problem.

## Application Ranking Criteria

Applications to participate in Wisconsin EQIP are evaluated using a single ranking sheet that includes: (1) national priorities, (2) state issues, (3) local issues, and (4) and a cost-efficiency score. Applications are evaluated using either the Waste Storage/Alternative Waste Solutions ranking criteria document or one of four Area ranking criteria documents (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest) depending on the location of the operation. All five of these documents ask Yes/No format questions and no points are shown online. Like other states, Wisconsin EQIP uses the national ProTracts ranking tool, which includes points for the questions and weights for each of the four sections. Applications that receive a greater total point score get a higher priority for participation in EQIP. See Box 1 for background information on the cost-efficiency score.

For each of the five ranking criteria documents, the National and State Issue sections are identical. In the Local issue section of the four "Area Local Work Group Application Ranking Summary" documents there are a different set and number of questions regarding the following resource concerns, however, not all resource concerns are identified in all four of the documents: Soil Erosion, Soil Condition, Water Quality, Water Quantity, Air Quality, Plant Condition, Domestic Animal, and Fish & Wildlife.

**Box 1. The Cost-Efficiency Score**

A cost-efficiency score is generated for each application to determine how effective the cost-shared practices will be at addressing the priority resource concerns (soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human). The cost-efficiency score is calculated by multiplying the practice(s)'

Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) value(s)
x Service life of the practice(s)
/ Average cost of installing and maintaining the practice(s)

NRCS maintains a national database of each practice's CPPE value. CPPE values range from -5 to + 5 reflecting the practice's ability to worsen or improve each resource concern. The CPPE value can be modified by the state or local jurisdiction to reflect the soil, weather, topographic, and other state or local conditions that may impact the effectiveness of the practice.

All 10 Mississippi River border states are using the NRCS Pro-Tracts Cost-Efficiency software to calculate a Cost-Efficiency score for each application. However, because the Cost-Efficiency score is embedded in the software, this step in the ranking process is not transparent since the state EQIP managers were unable to fulfill our request of reviewing the CPPE values given to practices funded by EQIP.

According to Jan Whitcomb, to develop the four Area Summary documents, each county Local Work Group (LWG) develops their list of concerns, and the Area ranking is

developed to address the combined county concerns and focus of that Area. The ranking tool is then available for review and comment by each LWG to ensure that their issues are addressed. The largest Area in Wisconsin has 21 counties but only 16 service centers while the smallest Area in Wisconsin has 10 counties.

The county-level applications, which use one of the four Area Level Application Ranking Summaries, are collected, scored, ranked, and selected at the county-level. The Animal Waste applications are also collected and scored at the county-level but are ranked and selected at the state level.

Jan Whitcomb explained that Wisconsin EQIP has a rough target of 20 to 30 percent of the total ranking score going to both the National priorities section and the Efficiency score. The remaining sections' points (State issues and Local issues sections) can be split up any way the four Area level groups see fit. This can however, vary on an individual application, but the overall average should be within those ranges.

To determine how much priority Wisconsin EQIP places on nutrient and sediment pollution and on geographic priority areas, since EWG was unable to receive a copy of a Summary sheet with points, we will comment only on the number and quality of questions that appear to give priority to these three issues. We chose to review the "Southwest Area Local Work Group Application Ranking Summary" because it includes counties that border the Mississippi River and we chose the "Statewide Animal Waste Application Ranking Summary" since animal waste can be a major source of nutrient pollution if not managed properly.

The lack of specificity in the ranking criteria made it difficult to conclude whether many ranking questions were aiming to select applicants that would reduce sediment and nutrient pollution and applicants located in priority areas. Those complications are described in Box 2.

Regarding emphasis on geographic priorities, a review of the FY 2008 Southwest Area Summary and the Animal Waste Summary (see Appendix) does not provide clear answers as to how much of a priority Wisconsin EQIP places on geographically important locations. Both Summary sheets have all five National Priority Questions. National Priorities Question 1 includes a reference to impaired watersheds:

> "Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds, groundwater contamination or point source contamination from confined animal feeding operations?"

This question does give some priority to an application located in an impaired watershed as part of a larger priority for addressing nonpoint and point source pollution.

**Box 2. The Lack of Specificity in Ranking Criteria**

The ranking criteria in all 10 Mississippi River border states lacked sufficient specificity for us to determine with real certainty the emphasis each state was giving in its ranking sheets to the reduction of sediment and nutrient pollution and to areas of geographic importance. For example, many ranking factors do not specify the particular source of natural resource or environmental problems, such as sediment or nutrient loss from cropland. Instead the ranking factors refer to more generic sources of problems, such as nonpoint source pollution.

In those cases where more specific types of pollutants like sediments or nutrients were cited, they were usually included in a longer list of pollutants, such as pathogens, pesticides, or excess salinity, making determination of the priorities implicit in the ranking criteria difficult. A similar lack of specificity hampered our ability to determine the emphasis placed on location of an application within a priority watershed or other geographic unit.

Despite these difficulties, it is clear that the factors used in ranking criteria and the priority assigned those factors through point allocations and multipliers are critical determinants of effectiveness of EQIP in reducing sediment and nutrient pollution.

Each of the State Issues sections in the "Southwest Area Summary" and the "Animal Waste Summary" include only administrative questions regarding the applicant's previous participation in EQIP and their record of completion of previous contracts, etc. That is, there are no State Issues section questions selecting participants that will conduct activities that will result in a reduction of nutrient or sediment pollution or select participants in geographic priority areas.

In the local issues section of the "Southwest Area Summary," three questions focus specifically on geographically related priorities:

> "Implementation of practices in this application will address ground water concerns within an Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Watershed."
>
> "Implementation of practices in this application will address ground water quality concerns within a 303d Watershed."
>
> "Identified ground or surface water concerns in this Unit of Government will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application. LWG must identify the locations, and identify in the EQIP Program Plan, and posted on the NRCS web page."

In the Local Issues section of the "Animal Waste Summary," there are four geographically focused questions:

> "The percent of acres that are farmed and that will receive manure that are HEL is a) less than 25 %, b) 25% or more but less than 50%, c) 50 % or more but less than 75%, or d) 75% or more."
>
> "Footprint of the planned waste storage facility (313) practice will be installed within a Water Quality Management Area (within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake)."
>
> "Footprint of the planned waste storage facility (313) practice will be installed indicates severe limitations as indicated by groundwater or bedrock within 3 feet of the surface."
>
> "Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are a) less than 20, b) 20 or more but less than 30, c) 30 or more but less than 40, d) 40 or more but less than 50, or e) 50 or more but less than 60."

Without access to the points assigned to the factors listed above, it is impossible to know whether Wisconsin EQIP prioritizes low or high-risk environmental situations for selection for participation in the program.

Regarding emphasis on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution, a review of the two Summary sheets does not provide clear answers about how much priority Wisconsin EQIP places on these two specific water quality impairments. For example, the National Priority Question 1 does mention the words "nutrients" and "sediment" but the question lacks sufficient specificity for us to distinguish between points awarded for treatment of nutrients and sediments versus points awarded for reducing excess salinity or pesticides.

Both Summary sheets include the National Priorities Question 4 focused on sediment pollution:

> "Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?"

The Southwest Area Summary asked three questions focused on soil erosion (sheet, rill and/or wind erosion, ephemeral and classic gully erosion, and streambank or shoreline erosion). Except for applications responding affirmatively to addressing streambank and shoreline erosion, these ranking criteria questions do not specify whether the erosion is

causing a sedimentation problem and if addressing these erosion problems will reduce sedimentation.

The Southwest Area Summary asked three specific questions regarding nutrient pollution: a) soil contamination (Phosphorus) from animal waste, other organics and/or commercial fertilizer will be addressed, b) excess nutrients (N, P, and K) organics or Pathogens in surface water will be addressed, and c) Nutrient Management Planning will be implemented on a Livestock Operation (For CNMP applications only). Several other questions were entitled "Water Quality" but did not specify the type of water quality problem occurring or the type of pollutant that would be addressed.

The Animal Waste Summary specifically asks two questions whether "excessive nutrients and organics" in a) groundwater and b) in surface water will be addressed through the implementation of several waste storage facilities or treatments in conjunction with nutrient management.

Without access to the points assigned to the factors listed above, it is impossible to conclude how much emphasis in raw un-weighted points Wisconsin is providing for the reduction of sediment and nutrient pollution or to applications that are located in impaired watersheds or other geographically important locations.

On the "Waste Storage" website[1], there is an excel table that identifies three resource concerns that the Waste Storage funding category *must* address and an additional two more resource concerns that the Alternative Waste Treatment Practices *may* also address. Wisconsin is the only state of the 10 states we reviewed to explicitly describe a resource concern requirement for a funding category and to provide the following information for a funding category, in tabular format (See the Appendix for this table):

Resource Concern

1. Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater and Surface Water
2. Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
3. Water Quality-Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water
4. Air Quality-Excessive Greenhouse Gas or Objectionable Odors
5. Soil Condition-Organic Matter Depletion

Practices that will address the resource concern
Description of Concern
National Quality Criteria
Measurement Units

EWG recommends that Wisconsin EQIP revise their ranking systems to increase the

[1] Resource Concerns Addressed by EQIP – Waste Storage. http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqipconc06.html

priority given to applications located in high priority watersheds that will reduce sediment and nutrient pollution. Sediment and nutrient pollution are the two most important pollutants of streams, lakes, and reservoirs in the 10 states bordering the Mississippi River, the main stem of the Mississippi River, and the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Conclusion

We find that EQIP has not been deployed as effectively as it could be in Wisconsin or any of the 9 states that border the Mississippi River. The methods used to decide how to spend EQIP dollars within the state and which farmers will get those dollars are more likely to result in diffuse and fragmented efforts to reduce pollution from farms rather than the focused and coordinated effort needed to solve both local and regional water pollution problems.

Watershed-based water quality clean-up projects are the best use of federal taxpayer resources and offer the greatest hope for cleaning up the unintended environmental damage of agriculture. These projects entail setting goals to clean up specific bodies of water that are deemed the highest priorities, determining how many of the most cost effective practices are needed, and persuading key farmers to participate in the project.

To quickly ramp up the effectiveness of EQIP, Wisconsin NRCS should:

1. Set clear and specific goals for how much pollution needs to be reduced, which lakes, streams or tributaries are priorities for improvement, and a timetable to achieve those goals.

2. Use 60 percent of EQIP dollars by 2012 to fund watershed-based water quality clean-up projects that encourage multiple farmers within selected watersheds to reduce pollution to specific lakes, streams, or tributaries to the Mississippi River.

3. Use 40 percent of EQIP funds by 2012 in state-level funding pools to target the highest priority natural resource and environmental problems in each state.

4. Select farmers to participate in EQIP who can do the most to contribute to watershed-based clean-up projects or solve high priority problems.

## APPENDIX—Wisconsin EQIP Ranking Criteria
## Wisconsin Southwest Area LWG Application Ranking Summary (FY2008)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**Southwest Area LWG**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Program:** | **Ranking Date:** | **Application Number:** |
| **Ranking Tool:** Southwest Area LWG | | **Applicant:** |
| **Final Ranking Score:** | | **Address:** |
| **Planner:** | | **Telephone:** |
| **Farm Location:** | | |

**National Priorities Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds, groundwater contamination or point source contamination from confined animal feeding operations? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable amount of ground or surface water conservation? | Yes O or No O |
| 3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards? | Yes O or No O |
| 4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land? | Yes O or No O |
| 5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation? | Yes O or No O |

**State Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. Applicant has never had an EQIP contract or been offered an EQIP contract. | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Applicant has successfully completed an EQIP contract and fulfilled all terms and conditions, including Operation and Maintenance of contracted items, OR has a current EQIP contract that is being implemented according to schedule. | Yes O or No O |
| 3. Applicant did not successfully complete an EQIP contract according to the terms, however extenuating circumstances existed which resulted in the waiver of all liquidated damages by the State Conservationist or the resource concern was addressed through other means. (installed the practice on their own, sold the herd, enrolled the land in CRP) | Yes O or No O |
| 4. Applicant did not successfully complete an EQIP contract, OR has a current EQIP contract that is NOT being successfully implemented. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. Practices on this application will enable the application to address one or more identified concerns on an existing CNMP developed prior to this ranking period. | Yes O or No O |

**Local Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. Soil Erosion: Sheet, rill and/or wind erosion will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Soil Erosion: Ephemeral & classic gully erosion will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 3. Soil Erosion: Streambank or shoreline erosion will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 4. Water Quality: Soil contamination (P) from animal waste, other organics and/or commercial fertilizer will be addressed in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. Water Quality: Groundwater concerns will be benefited with the installation of practice(s) (well decommissioning and/or sinkhole treatment) in this application. | Yes O or No O |

Page 1 of 3

| | |
|---|---|
| 6. Water Quality: Groundwater concerns will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) (Pest Management) in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 7. Water Quality: Surface water quality management areas will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 8. Water Quality: Groundwater quality concerns will be addressed by the implementation of practice(s) (irrigation water management) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 9. Water Quantity: Inefficient water use on irrigated land will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 10. Water Quality: Excess nutrients (N, P. and K) organics or Pathogens in surface water will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 11. Water Quality: Nutrient Management Planning will be implemented on a Livestock Operation (For CNMP applications only) | Yes O or No O |
| 12. Air Quality: Chemical drift (pesticides) will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 13. Plant Condition: Forage quality and palatability will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 14. Plant Condition: Noxious and invasive plants will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 15. Plant Condition: Insect and disease control on forest land will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 16. Plant Condition: Forest resources will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 17. Domestic Animals: Inadequate quantity, quality or distribution of stock water will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 18. Water Quality: Implementation of practices in this application will address ground water concerns within an Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Watershed. | Yes O or No O |
| 19. Water Quality: Implementation of practices in this application will address ground water quality concerns within an a 303d Watershed. | Yes O or No O |
| 20. Water Quality: Identified ground or surface water concerns in this Unit of Government will be addressed with the implementation of practice(s) in this application.* LWG must identify the locations, and identify in the EQIP Program Plan, and posted on the NRCS web page. | Yes O or No O |
| 21. All associated land use within the treatment unit will be treated to RMS level with the implementation of practice(s) on this application. | Yes O or No O |
| 22. Implementaton of practice(s) included in this application, which enable the producer to comply with existing Federal, State, Local or Tribal Laws. | Yes O or No O |
| 23. This application includes a practice that was cost-shared in a prior year NRCS program, and is in need of repair due to a 2007 rainfall and runoff event. | Yes O or No O |
| 24. Bonus Question: Do the practices on this application address all resource concerns indentified in my CNMP? | Yes O or No O |

**Land Use:**

| Resource Concerns | Practices |
|---|---|

**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:**<br><br>**Signature Date:** | **Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:**<br><br>**Signature Date:** |

# Wisconsin Statewide Animal Waste Application Ranking Summary (FY2008)

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

## Application Ranking Summary

## Statewide Animal Waste

| Program: | Ranking Date: | Application Number: |
|---|---|---|
| **Ranking Tool:** Statewide Animal Waste | | **Applicant:** |
| **Final Ranking Score:** | | **Address:** |
| **Planner:** | | **Telephone:** |
| **Farm Location:** | | |

**National Priorities Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) where available, groundwater contamination or point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations? | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Will the treatment you intend to implement for water conservation or irrigation efficiency using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in water use? | Yes O or No O |
| 3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards? | Yes O or No O |
| 4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land? | Yes O or No O |
| 5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation? | Yes O or No O |
| 6. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable benefits to residue management, nutrient management, air quality management, invasive species management, pollinator habitat, and animal carcass management technology or pest management? | Yes O or No O |
| 7. Will the treatment that you intend to implement using EQIP result in energy conservation benefits? | Yes O or No O |

**State Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. Applicant has never had an EQIP contract or been offered an EQIP contract before. | Yes O or No O |
| 2. Applicant has successfully completed an EQIP contract and fulfilled all terms and conditions, including Operation and Maintenance of contracted items to date, OR has a current contract which is being successfully implemented. | Yes O or No O |
| 3. Applicant did NOT successfully complete an EQIP contract according to the terms, however extenuating circumstances existed which resulted in a waiver of all liquidated damages by the State Conservationist OR the resource concern was addressed through other means (contract holder installed practices on their own, sold the herd, enrolled the land in CRP, etc.). | Yes O or No O |
| 4. Applicant did not successfully complete a prior year EQIP contract they held, had been offered an obligation and declined, OR has an existing contract which is NOT being successfully implemented. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. Applicant has a submitted, WRITTEN CNMP plan on file that meets NRCS standards prior to the end of the application ranking period (Feed mgmt. plan is developed IF needed, Nutrient Mgmt. plan is developed, upland treatment needs AND alternative practice needs identified, animal waste handling needs are identified, and alternative conservation practices identified PRIOR to the end of the ranking period AND the CNMP plan has been signed off on by all appropriate persons. | Yes O or No O |
| 6. Applicant has received past EQIP financial assistance for a Waste Storage Facility (313), Solid-Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632), or Waste Treatment Facility- Digester/Incinerator (629) under the statewide program and is reapplying for another of the same practice, contracted previously. | Yes O or No O |
| 7. Applicant has received a letter from the LCD that they must implement a waste handling practice, including Waste Storage Facility (313), Solid-Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632), or Waste Treatment Facility (629), that is included on this application. | Yes O or No O |

**Local Issues Addressed**

| Issue Questions | Responses |
|---|---|
| 1. APPLIES TO APPLICATIONS FOR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY ONLY: Producer does NOT have existing storage that can safely store 30 days or more of manure production at current animal numbers. | Yes O or No O |
| 2. APPLIES TO APPLICATIONS FOR WASTE STORAGE FACILITY ONLY: Other potential pollutants (milking center wastes, barnyard runoff, silage stack leachate, other) will be collected in the planned waste storage system (313). | Yes O or No O |
| 3. The percent of the acres that are farmed and that will receive manure that are HEL is less than 25 %. | Yes O or No O |
| 4. The percent of the acres that are farmed and that will receive manure that are HEL is 25 % or more, but less than 50 %. | Yes O or No O |
| 5. The percent of the acres that are farmed and that will receive manure that are HEL is 50 % or more, but less than 75 %. | Yes O or No O |
| 6. The percent of the acres that are farmed and that will receive manure that are HEL is 75 % or more. | Yes O or No O |
| 7. The producer has successfully completed a UWEX or Technical College sponsored Nutrient Management Planner Training. | Yes O or No O |
| 8. Footprint of the planned waste storage facility (313) practice will be installed within a Water Quality Management Area (within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake). | Yes O or No O |
| 9. Footprint of the planned waste storage facility (313) that will be installed indicates severe limitations as indicated by groundwater or bedrock within 3 feet of the surface. | Yes O or No O |
| 10. RESOURCE CONCERN: Water Quality, Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater will be addressed through the implementation of a Waste Storage Facility (313), Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632), or Waste Treatment (629) included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 11. RESOURCE CONCERN: Water Quality, Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water will be addressed through the implementation of a Waste Storage Facility (313), Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632), or Waste Treatment (629) included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 12. RESOURCE CONCERN: Water Quality, Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water will be addressed through the implementation of a Waste Storage Facility (313), Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632), Waste Treatment (629) included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 13. RESOURCE CONCERN: Air Quality, Excessive Green House Gases, Methane will be addressed through the implementation of a Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632) or Waste Treatment (629) or Waste Storage Facility (313) with Waste Facility Cover (367), included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 14. RESOURCE CONCERN: Air Quality, Excessive Green House Gases, Objectionable Odors will be addressed through the implementation of a Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632) or Waste Treatment (629) or Waste Storage Facility (313) with Waste Facility Cover (367) included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 15. RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil Condition, Organic Matter Depletion will be addressed through the implementation of a Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632) or Waste Treatment (629) included on this application in conjunction with Nutrient Management. | Yes O or No O |
| 16. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are less than 20. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 17. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 20 or more, but less than 30. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 18. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 30 or more, but less than 40. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 19. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 40 or more, but less than 50. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 20. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 50 or more, but less than 60. (Place a copy of the | Yes O or No O |

| | |
|---|---|
| computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | |
| 21. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 60 or more, but less than 70. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 22. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 70 or more, but less than 80. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 23. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 80 or more, but less than 90. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |
| 24. SOIL TEST P LEVELS: Weighted soil test P level average from UW Soil Test Labs, or other soil labs following UW procedures and recommendations are 90 or more. (Place a copy of the computation spreadsheet in the application folder). | Yes O or No O |

**Land Use:**

| Resource Concerns | Practices |
|---|---|

**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:**<br><br>**Signature Date:** | **Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:**<br><br>**Signature Date:** |

## Resource Concerns that the Waste Storage Application Must Address[2]

| *Resource Concern* | *May Apply to Practice* | *Description of Concern* | *National Quality Criteria* | *Measurement Units* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Soil Condition - Organic Matter Depletion** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment** | Soil organic matter has or will diminish to a level that degrades soil quality. | Soil Conditioning Index is positive. | Soil Conditioning Index improvement - positive improvement in index for the field or planning area/unit |
| **Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment 313, Waste Storage Facility** | Pollution from natural or human induced nutrients such as N, P, S (including animal and other wastes) degrades groundwater quality. | Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected. | Non Measurable |
| **Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment 313, Waste Storage Facility** | Pollution from natural or human induced nutrients such as N, P, S (Including animal and other wastes) degrades surface water quality. | Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Non Measurable |
| **Water Quality - Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment 313, Waste Storage Facility** | Kinds and numbers of viruses, protozoa, and bacteria are present at a level that degrades surface water quality. | Materials that harbor pathogens are stored, handled, disposed of, applied, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected. | Non Measurable |

[2] Resource Concerns Addressed by EQIP – Waste Storage. http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqipconc06.html

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – CH4 (methane)** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment** | Increased CH4 concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes. . | Land use and management operations reduce CH4 emissions into the atmosphere and comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations. | Non Measurable |
| **Air Quality - Objectionable Odors** | **632, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 629, Waste Treatment** | Land use and management operations produce offensive smells. | Odor-producing facilities and activities are planned and sited to mitigate potential nuisance impacts and meets all applicable Tribal, State, and Local regulations. | Non Measurable |

**Map of funded and unfunded Wisconsin-EQIP Waste Storage Structures FY2008**