Environmental Benefits Index Quick Hitters

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will rank offers submitted by landowners for the 58th Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA will use the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered, as follows. Please see FSA EBI fact sheet for more information about EBI scores.

N1 - WILDLIFE FACTOR (10 TO 100 POINTS)

- **N1a - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (0 to 50 points):** FSA awards higher scores for cover types that are more beneficial to wildlife. Native mixes of diverse species generally receive the highest point scores. *(Producers should note that wildlife habitat cover selection is the most critical factor impacting wildlife benefits. Optimum cover types significantly increase the point score for this factor).*
- **N1b - Wildlife Enhancement (0, 5 or 20 points):** This subfactor provides up to 20 points for actions producers take to enhance the wildlife benefits for the offered acres.
- **N1c - Wildlife Priority Zones (0 or 30 points):** This subfactor provides 30 points if at least 51 percent of the offered acres is located within the wildlife priority zone and the weighted average N1a score is greater than or equal to 40 points.

N2 - WATER QUALITY BENEFITS FROM REDUCED EROSION, RUNOFF, AND LEACHING (0 TO 100 POINTS)

- **N2a - Location (0 or 30 points):** At least 51 percent of the acres offered must be within an approved water quality zone to receive 30 points. Local USDA Service Centers have detailed maps of the approved water quality zones.
- **N2b - Groundwater quality (0 to 25 points):** Point scores are based on the weighted average leach index for soils offered for enrollment and the population that utilizes groundwater for drinking.
- **N2c - Surface water quality (0 to 45 points):** This factor is determined by potential water erosion in the watershed in which the offer is located.

N3 - EROSION FACTOR (0 TO 100 POINTS)

- Factor N3 is an evaluation of the potential for the land to erode as the result of either wind or water erosion.

N4 - ENDURING BENEFITS FACTOR (0 TO 50 POINTS)

- Factor N4 is an evaluation of the likelihood for certain practices to remain in place beyond the CRP contract period.

N5 - AIR QUALITY BENEFITS FROM REDUCED WIND EROSION (3 TO 45 POINTS)

- **N5a - Wind Erosion Impacts (0 to 25 points):** FSA will award points based on potential wind erosion and the amount of population that may be impacted by the erosion.
- **N5b – Air Quality Zones (0 or 10 points)** FSA awards a maximum of ten points if at least 51 percent of the acres offered is in an air quality zone that contributes to nonattainment of air quality standards and the calculated weighted wind EI is equal to or greater than three.
- **N5c - Carbon Sequestration (3 to 10 points):** FSA awards points based on a weighted average of carbon sequestration benefits for all practices using the value in Table 5.

N6 - COST (0 TO ???)

- **N6a - Cost (point value determined after end of enrollment based on actual offer data):** Offers with lower per acre rental rates may receive more N6a points and have increased chances of being accepted
- **N6b - Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate (0 to 25 points):** Offers equal to the maximum payment rate will receive 0 points. Offers below the maximum payment rate will receive points according to the value in Table 6.

GENERAL CRP PRACTICES AND ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL EBI SCORES

Practice Code	Description	Contract Term
CP1	Introduced Grasses and Legumes	10
CP2	Native Grasses and Forbs/Legumes	10
CP3	Tree Planting	10
CP3A	Hardwood Tree Planting	10-15
CP4D	Wildlife Habitat	10
CP12	Food Plot	10-15
CP25	Rare and Declining Habitat Restoration	10-15
CP42	Pollinator	10

N Factors	CP1	CP2	CP-4D	CP25	CP42
N1a	0,10,40	0,20,50	40, 50	50	50
N1b	0,5,20	0,5,20	0,5,20	0,5,20	20
N4	0	0	0	25	25
N5d	3	3	4	5	5
Points	3-63	3-73	44-74	80-100	100