

EXHIBIT CB - To National Instruction 440-310

The Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative has been discontinued so the ranking guidance must be removed.

Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative (HBPI) Ranking Guidance

- 1) States must create ranking pools using the EQIP HBPI National Ranking Template and guidance in 440-CPM-530-D-530.34 and -530-R-530.401A.
- 2) CART ranking pools and Protracts subaccounts must have the same name. This ranking pool will be tied to the “Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative” account name in Protracts.
- 3) The national EQIP HBPI ranking template provides a broad list of practices.
- 4) Applicability:
 - a) The following question **must be used** in the “Applicability” section of the ranking pool display group for HBPI:
 - i) Land unit qualification = ANY
 - ii) Is the application within 3.5 miles of an apiary and if application includes a honey bee pollinator planting, is planting 125 feet or greater in width if adjacent to cropland, or pasture or hayland treated with insecticides, or 250 feet or greater if cropland, or pasture or hayland treated with insecticides, are on both sides of the planting.
- 5) Ranking questions:
 - a) The following questions must be included in the “Resources” section of the ranking pool display group for HBPI:
 - i) Habitat priority -
 - ii) Proximity to registered or known honey bee apiary. Only choose one answer.
 - (1) Less than 1 mile = 31 points
 - (2) 1 - 2 miles = 15 points
 - (3) Greater than 2 miles = 7 points
 - iii) Honey bee forage being provided by the contract will be available for. Only choose one answer.
 - (1) 3 or more years = 31 points
 - (2) 2 years = 18 points
 - (3) 1 year = 9 pts
 - iv) The planted honey bee forage will be available. Note that bloom period is defined by State technical guidance. Select all that apply.
 - (1) During bloom period = 10 points
 - (2) During mid-bloom period = 12 points
 - (3) During late-bloom period = 9 points
 - v) The seeding will include. Only choose one answer.

- (1) Greater than 4 honey bee forage species = 31 points
 - (2) 2-4 honey bee forage species = 15 points
 - (3) 1 honey bee forage species only = 7 points
 - vi) Will practices in the application result in the establishment of white or alsike clover in a rotational grazing system? Note: White or alsike clover must be included in Forage and Biomass Planting (512).
 - (1) Yes = 45 points
 - (2) No = 0 points
 - vii) Does the application include a pollinator shrub mix planting under practice 612-Tree/Shrub Establishment? Note: Application must include shrub mix specifically for pollinators.
 - (1) Yes = 31 points
 - (2) No = 0 points
- 6) States must not exceed 200 points per category - Resource and Program Questions.
- 7) Tie Breaker—States must use the efficiency score calculated in the CART ranking when a tie breaker is needed between one or more EQIP applications. When using the tie breaker, NRCS will select the application with the highest efficiency score first.