

## New Jersey Ranking System

### 2002 EQIP Program

The criteria listed below will constitute the State-level ranking system for New Jersey under the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).

**Note: Bonus points shall be added to the final total of an offer as follows:**

20% additional of total points if practices to be installed achieve a Resource Management System (RMS)

**PLUS any one** of the following DEP Stream Impairment Classification conditions:

- 10 points for any part of tract that is within severely impaired zone
- 5 points for any part of tract that is within moderately impaired zone
- 0 points for not impaired

**PLUS any one** of the following conditions:

- 5 points to land located within the Wallkill or Cape May WHIP Priority Areas
- 10 points to land within the State designated Pinelands Preserved or Protected Zones

**1. Apply New Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Systems**

ICM consists of integrated pest management, nutrient management, and proper crop rotation. Pest scouting, soil testing, and manure analysis (if applicable) are primary components.

- Apply ICM on fruits, vegetables, nursery or sod: 5 points/every 10 acres
- Apply ICM on grains or forages: 3 points/every 10 acres
- Apply ICM in greenhouse operations: 1 point/every 14,000 sq. ft.

**2. Apply New Nutrient Management System**

Note: Nutrient Management System points will not be eligible contracts with animal waste utilization. May not be applied on the same acres as ICM.

- A. Nutrient management applied on crop or vegetable land where the primary source of nutrients is mineral fertilizer, manure, or other organics. 1 point/20 acres
- B. Same as above with cover crop planted prior to October 15<sup>th</sup>. Can not be combined with winter cover. For each 15 acres 1 point/15 acres

**3. Soil Management Systems**

Implement practices designed to increase organic matter content and infiltration of rainwater. Typical practices include cover crop, chiseling and subsoiling, critical area plantings, residue management, reduced tillage and alley cropping. Other tools include controlling wheel traffic on fields. The primary purpose of the practices must be for the improvement of the soil system. Points are not awarded for practices used to reduce sheet and rill erosion, even though they will also benefit the soil system, unless practices specifically designed for soil management is also implemented. The implemented system must meet the applicable FOTG Sec IV Standard and Specification.

- Apply SMS on fruits/vegetables 10 points/every 10 acres
- Apply SMS on grains/forage 3 points/every 10 acres

**4. Apply New Grazing Land Management (GLM) System on Pasturelands.**

Grazing lands management systems consist of proper stocking rates, pasture rotation schedules, control of access to streams and other water bodies, and proper vegetation selection and management.

- Apply GLM on first 50 acres 3 points/ acre
- (add 2 points for every acre over 50 acres):

**5. Seal Abandoned Wells**

Abandoned wells can be a direct conduit for pollutants to enter ground water. Proper sealing of these structures eliminates the hazard.

	Pollution Hazard*:	<u>High</u>	<u>Moderate</u>
Seal abandoned well		15 points	5 points

\* High hazard would include at least one of the following conditions:

- Abandoned well is susceptible to surface runoff entry - land is on grade or slopes to well
- Abandoned well is susceptible to subsurface pollutant entry (septic or UST within 100 feet)
- Bedrock is most likely fractured or limestone
- Abandoned well is located near pesticide, fertilizer, equipment, or fuel storage; or livestock concentration area

\* Moderate hazard would include none of the above.

**6. Apply Erosion Control Practices**

Basic Conservation Systems (BCS) reduce soil loss to the sustainable level. This level of planning reduces pollution and maintains long-term productivity.

The point system is based on a combination of sheet & rill and ephemeral or true gully erosion. Points per tract shall be compiled as follows:

- A. Sheet & rill erosion and ephemeral gullies portion: with BCS, tons saved/acre x acres.  
1 point for every 25 tons saved
- B. True gully portion: tons saved by eliminating gully with structural measure.  
5 points for every ton saved



**9. Stream Corridor Management**

**A. Filter Strips/Riparian Buffers**

Vegetative filter strips (VFS) and riparian buffers (RB) are established along watercourses to filter runoff. Widths are dependent on slopes or floodplain widths and are a minimum of 15 feet for VFS and 35 feet for riparian buffers.

Point values differ based upon current pollution risk to the watercourses.

	<u>High risk:</u>	<u>Lower Risk:</u>
Install VFS and/or RB totaling 3 or more acres:	15 points	10 points
Install VFS and/or RB totaling 2 - 2.9 acres:	10 points	6 points
Install VFS and/or RB totaling 1 - 1.9 acres:	8 points	4 points
Install VFS and/or RB totaling less than 1 acre:	4 points	2 points

**B. Livestock Exclusion for Streambank Protection**

Establish permanent fencing or create vegetated buffers (grass or trees) to protect stream banks from livestock. Includes fencing, stream crossings, and watering facilities. May be combined with vegetative filter strip (VFS), riparian buffer strip (RFB) and/or stabilization of critically eroding stream channel and banks.

Establishment of each 100 ft. of fencing	3 points
Installation of stabilized stream crossings as part of fencing plan	6 points

**C. Streambank Stabilization**

Install vegetative measures on eroding banks of ditches, streams, and water bodies. Practice must meet FOTG Sec. IV Streambank and Shoreline Protection Standard. Count LF on both sides if both sides are treated and meet standard. For stream corridor areas, see Conservation Buffers (plantings) or Grazing Lands Management (livestock exclusion).

Linear feet of bank protected	5 points/50 LF
-------------------------------	----------------

**10. Apply Animal Waste Systems**

Animal waste systems reduce pollution potential and can conserve more nutrients for land application and plant utilization. Includes composting of on-farm livestock waste.

*Combine elements 10A, 10B, and 10C for total:*

10A. Animal waste storage: 1 animal unit = 1000 pounds of livestock live weight.

	Pollution Hazard*:	<u>High Risk</u>	<u>Low/Moderate</u>
180 day waste storage		50 points/10au	20 points/10au
90 day waste storage		30 points/10au	10 points/10au
60 day waste storage		8 points/10au	6 points/10au

*\* see attached guidance from NJ Farm-A-Syst Program for pollution risk for 10A & 10B.*

10B: Livestock yards management: Scoring is done by adding listed point value to animal unit factor, which is 6 points/every 10 animal units.

	Pollution Hazard*:	<u>High Risk</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Low Risk</u>
Complete HUAP (heavy use area protection) <u>and</u> runoff management system		60 points	42 points	30 points
Complete HUAP <u>or</u> *runoff mgt. System		48 points	36 points	18 points

*\* Because either the HUAP or runoff mgt. system is already in place.*

10C. Waste Utilization System: when adequate storage exists (60 day minimum). Animal wastes from the operation are land-applied in accordance with the NRCS FOTG.

Current conditions pose a high pollution risk:	24 points
Current conditions pose a low pollution risk:	12 points

**11. Apply Irrigation Systems and Irrigation Water Management**

A. High Flow System: Irrigation mainline and overhead irrigation system on existing irrigated land that is permanently installed and designed to NRCS standards and specifications. Full IWM implementation is required (Item C).

<u>Acres</u>	<u>System Points</u>	<u>IWM Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1-25	20	20	40
26-50	20	30	50
over 51	20	40	60

B. Drip/Micro Systems: Conversion to low flow and pressure systems that is permanently installed and designed to NRCS standards and specifications.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>System Points</u>	<u>IWM Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1-25	40	0	40
26-50	50	0	50
over 51	60	0	60

C. IWM: Implement irrigation water management plan and irrigation scheduling documentation.

<u>Acres</u>	<u>System Points</u>	<u>IWM Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1-25	0	20	20
26-50	0	30	30
over 51	0	40	40

D. Drip/Micro Systems (Item B) with IWM (Item C):

<u>Acres</u>	<u>System Points</u>	<u>IWM Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
1-25	40	20	60
26-50	50	30	80
over 51	60	40	100

E. New Systems- if meets 80% efficiency- use the above criteria, otherwise none

F. Tailwater Recovery System: A facility to collect, store and transport irrigation tailwater that is permanently installed and designed to NRCS standards and specifications. Full IWM implementation is required (Item C).

<u>Type</u>	<u>System Points</u>
All	400