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## Ranking Tool Summary for FY2012 - Cropland (Draft)

### Description:

### Land Uses:

Crop, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture, Wildlife

### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 75	Medium: 74 - 50	Low: 49 - 0
The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the high point score range	The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the medium point score range	The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the low point score range

### Optional Notes:

### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 90	Low: 89 - 0
The application is in the high point score range for addressing national priorities	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing national priorities	The application is in the low point score range for addressing national priorities

### Questions:

Number	Question	Points
1	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
1	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10
1	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5
2	a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas ( <a href="http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html">http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html</a> )?	15
2	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
2	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
3	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
3	b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15
3	c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5
4	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as	15

	identified in a State wildlife plan?	
5	b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15
6	a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10
6	b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10
6	c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10
6	d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5
6	e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5
7	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
7	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10
7	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that reduce emissions from GHGs and air pollutants?	10
8	a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10
8	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10
9	a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5
9	b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5
9	c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	5
Total Points		250

**State Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 400 - 300	Medium: 299 - 200	Low: 199 - 0
The application is in the high point score range for addressing state resource concerns	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing state resource concerns	The application is in the low point score range for addressing state resource concerns

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		The proposed contract includes priority practices - Pick only one answer that applies	
	1	A. Includes implementation of 3 or more priority conservation practices	20
	2	B. Includes implementation of 2 priority conservation practices	10
	3	C. Includes implementation of 1 priority conservation practice	5
2		Conservation Planning (Select all that apply)	
	1	A Conservation Plan has been developed prior to the EQIP application cut-off date. The Conservation Plan addresses the same resource concerns and land contained in the proposed contract. The Conservation Plan is signed and dated by the applicant and certified conservation planner.	40
	2	A current Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Plan has been developed prior to the application cut-off date and addresses the same land in the proposed contract	30
3		Soil Erosion Issues (Select all that apply)	
	1	The proposed contract will include one or more practices to treat gully erosion - Critical Area Planting, Code 342; Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410; Grassed Waterway, Code 412; Lined Waterway or Outlet, Code 468	35

	2	The proposed contract will include establishment of one or more of the following practices to reduce excessive erosion to Soil "T" or less - Contour Farming, Code 330; Contour Buffer Strips, Code 332; Sediment Basin, Code 350; Diversion, Code 362; Terrace, Code 600; Stripcropping, Code 585; Conservation Crop Rotation, Code 328	20
4		Land Use Conversion	
	1	The proposed contract will convert active cropland to a less intensive land-use - Conservation Cover, Code 327; Forage and Biomass Planting, Code 512; Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612	40
5		Soil Health Soil Quality Issues (Select all that apply)	
	1	The proposed contract will establish practices that filter sediment and absorb nutrients - Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Code 390; Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391; Filter Strips, Code 393	30
	2	The proposed contract includes the establishment of Conservation Crop Rotation, Code 328, Continuous No-Fallow Cost Component	10
6		The proposed contract includes one of the following Perennials in Rotation Cost Components under Conservation Crop Rotation, Code 328 - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Perennials in rotation, 3 summers	20
	2	B. Perennials in rotation, 2 summers	10
	3	C. Perennials in rotation, 1 summer	5
7		The proposed contract includes one of the following Residue and Tillage Management Cost Components under Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till, Code 329 - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Continuous high-residue NT/ST - 60% cover after planting	20
	2	B. Single-year high-residue NT/ST - 60% cover after planting	12
	3	C. Single-year low residue NT/ST - 30% cover after planting	8
8		The proposed contract includes one of the following Residue and Tillage Management Cost Components under Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch-till, Code 345 - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Single-year high-residue mulch-till - 60% cover after planting	6
	2	B. Single-year low-residue mulch-till - 30% cover after planting	3
9		The proposed contract includes one of the following Cost Components under Cover Crop, Code 340 - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Optimum Small Grain Catch Crop	12
	2	B. Any of the following: High Residue Cover Crop, Maximum Biomass Cover Crop, Maximum N Fixing Cover Crop, Optimum Subsoiler Cover Crop, Standard Small Grain Catch Crop, Alternative Catch Crop	6
	3	C. Basic Cover Crop	3
10		Nutrient Management (Choose only one that applies)	
	1	A. Level-C multi-level nutrient management system	25
	2	B. Level-B multi-level nutrient management system	20
11		Water Quality Vulnerability	
	1	The Water Quality Vulnerability GIS layer is High (Red) within a field(s) boundary that is treated in the proposed contract	15
	2	The Water Quality Vulnerability GIS layer is Medium (Yellow) within a field (s) boundary that is treated in the proposed contract	5
		Maximum Points: Total Points	410

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
The application is in the high point score range for addressing local resource concerns	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing local resource concerns	The application is in the low point score range for addressing local resource concerns

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Select all that apply to the application	
	1	The applicant has had an EQIP or CBWI contract terminated within the past 3 years	-100
	2	The proposed contract would be the applicants first CBWI or EQIP contract	30
	3	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer	50
	4	The proposed EQIP contract includes a riparian buffer at least 35 feet wide that will limit impacts to streams containing a listed aquatic species on the the Toolkit T&E Aquatic Species GIS layer	40
	5	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked practice Conservation Crop Rotation, Code 328	60
	6	The proposed contract will establish the second highest locally ranked practice Residue Management, No-till/Strip-till, Code 329	50
	7	The proposed contract will establish the third highest locally ranked practice Cover Crop, Code 340	40
	8	The proposed contract will establish practice Sinkhole Area Treatment, Code 527 to address impacts on groundwater quality from an open sinkhole	30
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			200

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Energy: Inefficient Energy Use – Farming / Ranching Practices and Field Operations

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Terrace (600)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Burning (338)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stripcropping (585)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Contour Farming (330)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stripcropping (585)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Compaction
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - N
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)

- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - P
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - N
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - P
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Organic Matter Depletion
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Contour Farming (330)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Stripcropping (585)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Contour Farming (330)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)

- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Sediment Basin (350)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Terrace (600)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Sediment Basin (350)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Terrace (600)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Buffer Strips (332)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
- Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Terrace (600)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Well Decommissioning (351)
- Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Contour Farming (330)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sediment Basin (350)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Stripcropping (585)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
  - Contour Farming (330)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sediment Basin (350)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Stripcropping (585)
  - Terrace (600)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)