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## Ranking Tool Summary for FY2012 - Pasture

### Description:

### Land Uses:

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
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### 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
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### 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 - Select only one answer that applies	
	1	A. Includes implementation of 3 or more priority conservation practices	25
	2	B. Includes implementation of 2 priority conservation practices	15
	3	C. Includes implementation of 1 priority conservation practice	5
2		Conservation Planning - Select all that apply to the application	
	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 Prescribed Grazing Plan has been developed before EQIP application cut-off date for the acres included in the proposed contract	40
3		Water Quality Concerns - Select all that apply to the application	
	1	The proposed contract includes at least one conservation practice (Codes: 327, 342, 390, 391) which has a high efficiency rating to reduce sediment transport to local water features	30
	2	The proposed contract includes at least one practice (Code 528, 561, 472, 612) which has a medium efficiency rating to reduce sediment transport to	15

		local water features	
	3	A. The proposed contract includes conservation practice(s) (Code: 390, 391) that establishes a 35-foot riparian buffer and controls livestock access to 100% of the water features that flow off of the farm	45
	4	B. The proposed contract includes conservation practice(s) (Code: 390, 391) that establishes a 35-foot riparian buffer and controls livestock access to less than 100% but more than 50% of the water features that flow off of the farm	20
	5	A. The proposed contract includes conservation practice(s) (Code 472, 382) that establishes a 10-foot set-back and controls livestock access to 100% of the water features that flow off of the farm	25
	6	B. The proposed contract includes conservation practices that establishes a 10-foot set-back and controls livestock access to less than 100% but more than 50% of the water features that flow off of the farm	10
	7	The proposed contract includes at least one practice (Code 327, 612) that results in land-use conversion from grazing to a less intense use	25
	8	The proposed contract includes Nutrient Management (Code 590) which results in proper management of nutrients on the treatment area	20
	9	The Water Quality Vulnerability GIS layer is High (Red) within a field boundary that is treated in the proposed contract	15
	10	The Water Quality Vulnerability GIS layer is Medium (Yellow) within a field boundary that is treated in the proposed contract	5
4		Plant Condition Health and Vigor - Select all that apply to the application	
	1	The operation will be managed according to a prescribed grazing plan with complete documentation of rotation, management items, nutrient and lime applications, pasture conditioning score, soil testing as required by the Virginia Prescribed Grazing standard (528). The Prescribed Grazing Plan will be a practice in the proposed EQIP contract.	40
	2	A. The proposed contract includes Access Control (Code 472) to exclude livestock from 100% of currently grazed woodland in order to promote forest health	15
	3	B. The proposed contract includes Access Control (Code 472) to exclude livestock from less than 100% but more than 50% of currently grazed woodland in order to promote forest health	5
	4	The proposed contract includes at least one practice (Code 512, 314) that improves the quality and quantity of forages	10
	5	The proposed contract includes Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512) that will establish at least 10% of grazing land in perennial warm season grasses	10
	6	The grazing operation has at least 2 acres of available pasture for each animal unit currently grazing on the operation	30
5		Domestic Animals Health and Stress- Select all that apply to the application	
	1	The proposed contract includes conservation practices to assure livestock access to clean off-stream livestock drinking water sources with no more than a 800 foot travel distance	20
	2	The proposed contract includes conservation practices that improve livestock grazing efficiency by subdividing pastures into at least 8 grazing units	20
	3	Alternative water sources will be established to supply clean off-stream drinking water sources for livestock	10
	4	Crossfencing will be established to improve vegetative cover and grazing management	10
6		Soil Erosion Resource Issues- Select all that apply to the application	
	1	The proposed contract includes Critical Area Planting (Code 342) to treat critical erosion problems	15
	2	The proposed contract includes Streambank Protection (Code 580) to treat	15

		eroding streambanks	
			Maximum Points: Total Points 535

**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 minimum 35 foot riparian buffer that will limit impacts to streams containing a listed aquatic species on the Toolkit T&E Aquatic Species GIS layer	40
	5	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked practice Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)	50
	6	The proposed contract will establish the second highest locally ranked practice Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	40
	7	The proposed contract will establish the third highest locally ranked practice Access Control (Code 472)	30
	8	The proposed contract will establish practice Sinkhole Area Treatment (Code 527) to address impacts on groundwater quality from an open sinkhole	40
		Maximum Points: 250	Total Points 180

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Domestic Animals: Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage

- Access Control (472)
- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Spring Development (574)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Well (642)

- Watering Facility (614)
- Domestic Animals: Inadequate Shelter
  - Fence (382)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Domestic Animals: Inadequate Stock Water
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pipeline (516)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
  - Water Well (642)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Energy: Inefficient Energy Use – Farming / Ranching Practices and Field Operations
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter
  - Access Control (472)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food
  - Access Control (472)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Plant Condition: Forage Quality and Palatability
  - Access Control (472)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants
  - Access Control (472)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor
  - Access Control (472)
  - Access Road (560)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Pipeline (516)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Water Well (642)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Soil Condition: Compaction
  - Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - N
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Water Well (642)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - P

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Field Border (386)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Spring Development (574)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Well (642)

Soil Erosion: Classic Gully

- Access Control (472)
- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Spring Development (574)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Watering Facility (614)

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully

- Access Control (472)
- Access Road (560)
- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)

Soil Erosion: Streambank

- Access Control (472)
- Brush Management (314)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Spring Development (574)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Watering Facility (614)
- Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sediment Basin (350)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Access Road (560)
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Sediment Basin (350)
  - Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Stream Crossing (578)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water

- Access Control (472)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Sediment Basin (350)
- Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (527)
- Spring Development (574)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Watering Facility (614)

Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water

- Access Control (472)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Watering Facility (614)