

## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2013 - Irrigation Water Management

(Released 12/19/2012 )

#### Description:

This ranking tool is to be used for all Irrigation Water Management applications in Virginia. Applicants must have a irrigation history on the land to be enrolled for the past 2 out of 5 years.

#### Land Uses:

Crop, Headquarters

#### 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. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO <sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH <sub>4</sub> (Methane), and N <sub>2</sub> O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10

7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10
7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5
Total Points		500

**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		Practice Implementation	
	1	Practice schedule provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less	25
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	45
	2	An irrigation water management plan has been developed before the EQIP application cut-off date for the acres included in the proposed contract.	45
3		Water Irrigation Efficiency	
	1	The proposed irrigation upgrade includes installation of flow meters and soil moisture instruments that are more efficient.	55
	2	The existing open air irrigation system (traveling guns, center pivot, overhead sprinklers) will be replaced with a microirrigation system.	85
	3	The operation does not currently use an Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan but will follow an IWM as a result of the proposed contract.	55
4		Water Quality Issues	
	1	Filter Strip, Code 393 will be established where needed to protect surface water features.	35
	2	Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Code 390 or Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 will be established to protect surface water features.	55
Maximum Points:			Total Points
			400

**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 medium 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 a Farm Bill contract terminated within the past 3 years.	-100
	2	The applicant has had a Farm Bill contract cancelled within the past 2 years.	-50
	3	This is the applicants first EQIP application.	50
	4	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer.	50
	5	The proposed EQIP contract includes a buffer or filter strip that will limit impacts to streams.	50
	6	This practice supports producers engaged in agricultural production using high tunnels.	50
	7	This practice supports producers engaged in agriculture production with specialty crops including tobacco.	50
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			100

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

Energy: Inefficient Energy Use - Equipment and Facilities

- Field Border (386)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)

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

- Field Border (386)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)

Soil Erosion: Irrigation-induced

- Field Border (386)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)

Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)

Irrigation Water Management (449)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Water Quantity: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land

Irrigation Pipeline (430)

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)

Irrigation Water Management (449)

Irrigation Water Management Plan - Witt (118)

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