

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2012 - Forestry - Statewide

(Released 01/03/2012)

Description:

The ranking tool is for EQIP forestry applications. Please refer to the listing of Priority and Companion practices when filling out the ranking tool.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Hay, Pasture

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 75	Medium: 74 - 50	Low: 49 - 0
The practices in the application score in the high points range	The practices in the application score in the medium points range	The practices in the application score in the low points range

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 90	Low: 89 - 0
The score for addressing national resource issues is in the high points range	The score for addressing national resource issues is in the medium points range	The score for addressing national resource issues is in the low points range

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 (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	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 identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
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 score for addressing state resource issues is in the high points range	The score for addressing state resource issues is in the medium points range	The score for addressing state resource issues is in the low points range

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	25
	2	B. Includes implementation of 2 priority conservation practices	15
	3	C. Includes implementation of 1 priority conservation practice	5
2		The land in the proposed contract has Forest Stewardship Plan or Multi-Resource Management Plan developed before ranking the application that addresses resource concerns in the proposed contract and will result in the implementation of: - Pick only one answer that applies	
	1	A. The above mentioned plans will be completed or 3 or more practices in the plan will be established	40
	2	B. 2 practices in the above mentioned plans will be established	20
	3	C. 1 practice in the above mentioned plans will be established	10
3		Plant Condition - Woodland Productivity, Health and Vigor	
	1	The proposed contract includes Forest Site Preparation, Code 490 prior to planting	40
	2	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666 for hardwood species	40
	3	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666 for a Pine Pre-Commercial Thinning	30
	4	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666 for a Pine Release after planting	15
4		The proposed contract will result in the exclusion of livestock from currently grazed woodland (Code 472 Access Control) - Pick only one answer that applies	
	1	A. 100% of the grazed woodland on the treated tracts	20
	2	B. Less than 100% but more than 50% of the grazed woodland on the treated tracts	10
5		Soil Erosion Resource Issues	
	1	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract Critical Area Planting, Code 342 will re-vegetate and stabilize denuded skid trails, log roads and landings	30
6		Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	
	1	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract listed noxious and or invasive plants will be treated using Brush Management, Code 314	30
7		Plant Condition - Declining Plant Communities of Concern	
	1	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract Longleaf or Shortleaf Pine will be established	25
	2	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract Oaks and other hardwoods will be	20

		established	
8		Water Quality - Sediment and Nutrient Reduction	
	1	Riparian Forest Buffers, Code 391 at least 35 feet wide will be established adjacent to water features	25
	2	The proposed contract will result in the conversion of active cropland or pasture to trees and or shrubs	25
9		Wildlife Resource Issues	
	1	Prescribed burning will be done after a commercial thinning operation to stimulate ground vegetation	15
	2	Loblolly or White Pine will be planted at no more than 360 trees per acre in order to allow more understory growth for wildlife	20
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	460

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

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

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 area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer	45
	3	The proposed EQIP contract includes a 35 foot riparian buffer that will limit impacts to streams containing a listed aquatic species - Toolkit T&E Aquatic Species GIS layer	35
	4	The applicant has an pre-existing Forest Stewardship Plan, Multi-Resource Management Plan on the offered acres that address the same resource concerns in the proposed contract	50
	5	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked forestry practice Tree Shrub Establishment, Code 612	50
	6	The proposed contract will establish the second most important locally ranked forestry practice Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666	40
	7	The proposed contract will establish the third most important locally ranked forestry practice Critical Area Planting, Code 342	30
		Maximum Points: Total Points	150

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Firebreak (394)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
- Firebreak (394)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Fish and Wildlife: T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
Conservation Cover (327)
Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
Fence (382)
Prescribed Burning (338)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants
Brush Management (314)
Firebreak (394)
Forest Site Preparation (490)

Plant Condition: Productivity, Health and Vigor
Access Control (472)
Brush Management (314)
Fence (382)
Firebreak (394)
Forest Site Preparation (490)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)
Prescribed Burning (338)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Soil Erosion: Classic Gully
Critical Area Planting (342)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully
Critical Area Planting (342)
Firebreak (394)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

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