

## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2013 - Pasture

(Released 12/19/2012 )

#### 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

#### 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		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.	25
	2	A Prescribed Grazing Plan has been developed for the acres included in the proposed contract before the EQIP application cut-off date	25
	3	All structural practices such as cross-fences, watering facilities, pumping plants, wells, etc. will be established within the first two years of the proposed contract.	25
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.	25
	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 local water features.	15
	3	A. The proposed contract includes conservation practices (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.	35
	4	B. The proposed contract includes conservation practices (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.	15
	5	A. The proposed contract includes conservation practices (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.	20
	6	B. The proposed contract includes conservation practices (Code 472, 382) that establishes a 10-foot set-back and controls livestock access to less than 100% but	10

		more than 50% of the water features that flow off of the farm.	
	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.	10
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 and 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, 315) 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.	25
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.	15
	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
	5	The proposed contract includes the establishment of Silvopasture (Code 381) to improve forage and provide livestock shade.	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.	10
	2	The proposed contract includes Streambank Protection (Code 580) to treat eroding streambanks.	10
Maximum Points: 400    Total Points			465

**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 contract terminated within the past 3 years.	-100
	2	The applicant has had an EQIP contract cancelled within the past 2 years.	-50
	3	The proposed contract is the applicants first EQIP contract.	35
	4	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer.	40
	5	The proposed EQIP contract includes a minimum 35 foot riparian buffer that will limit	40

		impacts to streams containing a listed aquatic species on the Toolkit T&E Aquatic Species GIS layer.	
	6	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked practice Prescribed Grazing (Code 528).	55
	7	The proposed contract will establish the second highest locally ranked practice Access Control (Code 472).	45
	8	The proposed contract will establish the third highest locally ranked practice Nutrient Management (Code 590).	35
Maximum Points: 250    Total Points			100

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - CH4 (methane)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - CO2 (carbon dioxide)
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - N2O (nitrous oxide)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
- Air Quality: Objectionable Odors
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
- Domestic Animals: Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage
  - Brush Management (314)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Fence (382)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Water Well (642)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Domestic Animals: Inadequate Shelter
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Domestic Animals: Inadequate Stock Water
  - Livestock Pipeline (516)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Pond (378)
  - Pumping Plant (533)
  - Spring Development (574)
  - Water Well (642)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Domestic Animals: Stress and Mortality
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Livestock Pipeline (516)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Pumping Plant (533)

- Silvopasture Establishment (381)
- Spring Development (574)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)
- Energy: Inefficient Energy Use - Equipment and Facilities
  - Fence (382)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Energy: Inefficient Energy Use – Farming / Ranching Practices and Field Operations
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Fence (382)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Livestock Pipeline (516)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Habitat Fragmentation
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Imbalance Among and Within Populations
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Space
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Silvopasture Establishment (381)
  - Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Water
  - Pond (378)
- Fish and Wildlife: T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Watering Facility (614)

## Fish and Wildlife: Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species

Access Control (472)

## Plant Condition: Forage Quality and Palatability

Brush Management (314)

Cover Crop (340)

Fence (382)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Nutrient Management (590)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Silvopasture Establishment (381)

## Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants

Brush Management (314)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Cover Crop (340)

Field Border (386)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

## Plant Condition: Plants not adapted or suited

Brush Management (314)

Firebreak (394)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Nutrient Management (590)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

## 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)

Fence (382)

Field Border (386)

Firebreak (394)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Livestock Pipeline (516)

Nutrient Management (590)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Pumping Plant (533)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Silvopasture Establishment (381)

Spring Development (574)

Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Water Well (642)

Watering Facility (614)

## Plant Condition: T&amp;E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern

Access Control (472)

Conservation Cover (327)

## Plant Condition: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

Access Control (472)

Conservation Cover (327)

## Soil Condition: Compaction

- Access Control (472)
- Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - K
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - N
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - P
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - N
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - P
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Organic Matter Depletion
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Karst Sinkhole Treatment (527)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
  - Watering Facility (614)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully
  - Access Control (472)

- Access Road (560)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Diversion (362)
- Field Border (386)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
- Karst Sinkhole Treatment (527)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Well (642)
- Watering Facility (614)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank
  - Access Control (472)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Fence (382)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - 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)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
  - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
  - Access Control (472)
  - Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Fence (382)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Heavy Use Area Protection (561)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Nutrient Management (590)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
  - Roofs and Covers (367)
  - Sediment Basin (350)

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Watering Facility (614)

Water Quality: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

- Access Control (472)

- Access Road (560)

- Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Critical Area Planting (342)

- Diversion (362)

- Fence (382)

- Field Border (386)

- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Roofs and Covers (367)

- Sediment Basin (350)

- 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)

- Nutrient Management (590)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Roofs and Covers (367)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water

- Access Control (472)

- Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Diversion (362)

- Fence (382)

- Field Border (386)

- Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

- Nutrient Management (590)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Roofs and Covers (367)

- Sediment Basin (350)

- Spring Development (574)

- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

- Watering Facility (614)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

- Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water

Hedgerow Planting (422)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

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