

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2013 - Cropland

(Released 12/19/2012)

Description:

Land Uses:

Crop, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture

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 ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ 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 - 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; 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 Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till, Code 329, the practice may be applied for up to three years - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till, Code 329 will be applied for three (3) years - 60% cover after planting.	20
	2	B. Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till, Code 329 will be applied for two (2) years - 60% cover after planting.	12
	3	C. Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till, Code 329 will be applied for one (1) year- 60% cover after planting.	8
8		The proposed contract includes Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch-till, Code 345, the practice may be applied for up to three years - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch-till, Code 345 will be applied for three (3) years.	10
	2	B. Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch-till, Code 345 will be applied for two (2) years.	6
	3	Residue & Tillage Management, Mulch-till, Code 345 will be applied for one (1) years.	3
9		The proposed contract includes one of the following under Cover Crop, Code 340 - Choose only one of the following answers that apply	
	1	A. High diversity high biomass cover crop for soil health.	12
	2	B. Legume cover crop to fix and recycle nitrogen (N).	6
	3	C. Nitrogen scavenging 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
		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 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 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	The proposed contract would be the applicants first EQIP contract	30
	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 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
	6	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked practice Conservation Crop Rotation, Code 328	60
	7	The proposed contract will establish the second highest locally ranked practice Conservation Cover, Code 327	50
	8	The proposed contract will establish the third highest locally ranked practice Residue	40

		Management, No-till/Strip-till, Code 329		
			Maximum Points:	Total Points
				120

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - CH4 (methane)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - CO2 (carbon dioxide)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Residue Management, Seasonal (344)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Air Quality: Excessive Greenhouse Gas - N2O (nitrous oxide)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Air Quality: Excessive Ozone
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Air Quality: Objectionable Odors
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
- Energy: Inefficient Energy Use - Equipment and Facilities
 - Integrated Pest Management (595)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- 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)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Integrated Pest Management (595)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Habitat Fragmentation
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Imbalance Among and Within Populations
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Cover/Shelter
 - Agriculture Energy Management Plan, Land (124)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)

- Field Border (386)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Food
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: Inadequate Space
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife: T&E Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Conservation Cover (327)
- Plant Condition: Forage Quality and Palatability
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- Plant Condition: Noxious and Invasive Plants
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Mulching (484)
- Plant Condition: Plants not adapted or suited
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- 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)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Integrated Pest Management (595)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Stripcropping (585)
 - Subsurface Drain (606)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Plant Condition: T&E Plant Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Conservation Cover (327)
- Plant Condition: Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
 - Conservation Cover (327)
- Soil Condition: Compaction
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - N
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Animal Waste and Other Organics - P
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - N
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Contaminants-Commercial Fertilizer - P
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Condition: Organic Matter Depletion
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Stripcropping (585)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Contour Buffer Strips (332)
 - Contour Farming (330)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Diversion (362)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
 - Grassed Waterway (412)
 - Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Sediment Basin (350)
 - Stripcropping (585)
 - Subsurface Drain (606)
 - Underground Outlet (620)
- 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)
- Field Border (386)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
- Mulching (484)
- 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)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Soil Erosion: Irrigation-induced
 - Field Border (386)
 - Mulching (484)
- 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)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Residue Mgmt, Mulch Till (345)
 - Residue Mgmt-No-Till/Strip Till/Direct S (329)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Stripcropping (585)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Diversion (362)
 - Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
 - Grassed Waterway (412)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- 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)
 - Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
 - Grassed Waterway (412)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - 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)

- Stripcropping (585)

- 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)

- Filter Strip (393)

- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

- Grassed Waterway (412)

- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

- Mulching (484)

- 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)

- Stripcropping (585)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Filter Strip (393)

- Nutrient Management (590)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

- Contour Buffer Strips (332)

- Contour Farming (330)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Diversion (362)

- Filter Strip (393)

- Nutrient Management (590)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Stripcropping (585)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Field Border (386)

- Filter Strip (393)

- Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water

- Conservation Cover (327)

- Contour Farming (330)

- Cover Crop (340)

- Field Border (386)

- Filter Strip (393)

- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

- Integrated Pest Management Plan - Writte (114)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Stripcropping (585)

- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Water Quality: Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

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