

VIRGINIA 2013 FARM & RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP)

RANKING WORKSHEET

Entity Information

Entity _____

Entity DUNS _____

Parcel Information

Cong. Dist _____ FIPS Code _____

FSA Farm #(s) _____ Tract #(s) _____ Field #(s) _____

Size of Parcel Offered _____ acres

Parcel Longitude/Latitude _____ or

Parcel Address _____

Parcel is eligible: Yes No If no, reason why ineligible: _____

Landowner Information

Landowner Name _____ County _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Tax ID # _____

Does the Landowner/Operator meet the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance Requirements? Yes No

National Criteria

1) Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected:

- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| ≤ 25% | 0 points |
| 26-50% | 10 points |
| 51-75% | 15 points |
| > 75% | 25 points |

Scored _____ points

2) Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected.

≤ 25%	0 points
26-50%	3 points
51-75%	6 points
> 75%	10 points

Scored _____ points

3) Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to the average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture.

(www.agcensus.usda.gov)

County _____ Average Farm Size _____

< 1:1	0 points
1.5:1	5 points
2:1	10 points

Scored _____ points

4) Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture.

(www.agcensus.usda.gov)

County _____

0-5%	0 points
5-10%	3 points
10-15%	6 points
15-20%	10 points

Scored _____ points

5) Percent of population growth in the County as documented by the United States Census.

(www.census.gov)

County: _____

0-5%	0 points
5-10%	3 points
10-15%	6 points
15-20%	10 points

Scored _____ points

6) Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census. (www.census.gov)

County _____ State _____

< State 0 points

≥ State 5 points

Scored _____ points

7) Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations, land owned in fee title by the United States or a State or local government, or by an entity whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values, or **land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use.**

Adjacent (5 points) Not Adjacent (0 points)

Scored _____ points

8) Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and infrastructure?

Yes (5 points) No (0 points)

Scored _____ points

State Criteria

9) Is the parcel in an area zoned for agricultural use?

Zoned agricultural use	15 points
Not zoned agricultural	0 points

Scored _____ points

10) Performance of the entity including but not limited to, managing and enforcing easements, closing efficiency and monitoring.

A) Past easements have closed within:

< 0-12 months	5 points
13-18 months	3 points
19+ months	0 points

B) Monitoring:

Once a year or more	10 points
Less than once a year	0 points

A + B = Scored _____ points

11) Do the multifunctional benefits of farm and ranch land protection include protecting wetlands or other sensitive habitat?

Yes (2 points) No (0 points)

Scored _____ points

12) Do the multifunctional benefits of farm and ranch land protection include social, economic or cultural benefits?

Yes (2 points) No (0 points)

If yes, applicant should provide a short (less than 250 words) explanation.

Scored _____ points

Eligible land:

- (1) Must be privately owned land on a farm or ranch and contain at least 50 percent prime, unique, Statewide, or locally important farmland, unless otherwise determined by the State Conservationist; contain historical or archaeological resources; or furthers a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program; and is subject to a pending offer by an eligible entity;
- (2) Must be cropland, rangeland, grassland, pasture land, or forest land that contributes to the economic viability of an agricultural operation or serves as a buffer to protect an agricultural operation from development;
- (3) May include land that is incidental to the cropland, rangeland, grassland, pasture land, or forest land if the incidental land is determined by the Secretary to be necessary for the efficient administration of a conservation easement;
- (4) May include parts of or entire farms or ranches;
- (5) Must not include forest land of greater than two-thirds of the easement area. Forest land that exceeds the greater of 10 acres or 10 percent of the easement area shall have a forest management plan before closing;
- (6) NRCS shall not enroll land in FRPP that is owned in fee title by an agency of the United States, a State or local government, or by an entity whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values, including those listed in the statute under eligible land, or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use, unless otherwise determined by the Chief;
- (7) Must possess suitable on-site and off-site conditions which will allow the easement to be effective in achieving the purposes of the program. Suitability conditions may include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances on or in the vicinity of the parcel, land use surrounding the parcel that is not compatible with agriculture, and highway or utility corridors that are planned to pass through or immediately adjacent to the parcel; and
- (8) May be land on which gas, oil, earth, or other mineral rights exploration has been leased or is owned by someone other than the applicant may be offered for participation in the program. However, if an applicant submits an offer for an easement project, USDA will assess the potential impact that the third party rights may have upon achieving the program purposes. USDA reserves the right to deny funding for any application where there are exceptions to clear title on any property.