

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program - Ranking Criteria 2013

National Ranking Criteria

- (1) Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected; _____
- (2) Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the parcel to be protected; _____
- (3) Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture; _____
- (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; _____
- (5) Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census; _____
- (6) Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census; _____
- (7) Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as 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; _____
- (8) Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and infrastructure; _____

State/ Local Ranking Criteria

- (1) The location of a parcel in an area zoned for agricultural use; _____
- (2) The performance of an entity experience in managing and enforcing easements. Performance must be measured by the closing efficiency or percentage of monitoring that is reported. Years of an entity's existence shall not be used as a ranking factor; _____
- (3) Multifunctional benefits of farm and ranch land protection including social, economic, historical and archaeological, and environmental benefits; _____
- (4) Geographic regions where the enrollment of particular lands may help achieve National, State, and regional conservation goals and objectives, or enhance existing government or private conservation projects; _____
- (5) Matching funds requested from NRCS (50% is the maximum allowed and preferred program contribution) _____
- (6) Accessibility of easement parcel to agricultural markets _____
- (7) Entity's farmland protection strategy and how the FRPP proposal corresponds to this strategy _____
- (8) Adequate water supply and other on-farm infrastructure _____
- (9) Demonstrated support for project from local community, government and non-government organizations _____