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Ranking Tool Summary for FY2014 - Forestry - Statewide (Released 11/07/2013)

Description:

The ranking tool is for EQIP forestry applications. Please work with your Virginia Department of Forestry representative to complete the ranking and planning process for EQIP forestry applications. A process list for forestry applications may be found in the Virginia FY14 Farm Bill Programs Handbook.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, 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. 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?	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 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 will result in the implementation of: - Pick only one answer that applies	
	1	A. Three (3) or more practices in an approved forest management plan will be implemented	35
	2	B. Two (2) practices in an approved forest management plan will be implemented	20
	3	C. One (1) practice in an approved forest management plan will be implemented	5
2		Plant Condition - Woodland Productivity, Health and Vigor	
	1	The proposed contract includes Forest Site Preparation, (Code 490) prior to planting trees	50
	2	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, (Code 666) for hardwood species	30
	3	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, (Code 666) for a Pine Pre-Commercial Thinning	20

	4	The proposed contract includes Forest Stand Improvement, Code (666) for a Pine Release after planting	5
3		The proposed contract will result in the exclusion of livestock from Tree/Shrub Establishment included in this proposed contract	
	1	A. All Trees/Shrub Establishment, (Code 612) included in this contract will be protected from livestock with Fencing, (Code 382) and/or Access Control, (Code 472)	30
4		Soil Erosion Resource Issues	
	1	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract, Critical Area Planting, (Code 342) or Road/Trails/Landing Closure, (Code 654) will re-vegetate and stabilize denuded skid trails, log roads and landings	30
5		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)	25
6		Plant Condition - Declining Plant Communities of Concern	
	1	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract, Longleaf or Shortleaf Pine will be planted	35
	2	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract, Prescribed Burning, (Code 338) will be used to manage Longleaf Pine	25
	3	As a result of the proposed EQIP contract, Oaks and other hardwoods will be established or managed as recommended by a VDOF forestry management plan	10
7		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, pasture or abandoned open land to trees and or shrubs, Tree Shrub Establishment, (Code 612)	30
	3	The proposed contract will result in Tree/Shrub Establishment, (Code 612) on marginal soils - Class 4 or higher	20
8		Wildlife Resource Issues	
	1	Prescribed burning will be done after a commercial thinning operation to stimulate ground vegetation	15
	2	Loblolly Pine will be planted at no more than 363 trees per acre in order to allow more understory growth for wildlife	25
	3	Loblolly Pine will be planted at more than 363 trees per acre but no more than 484 trees per acre	10
Maximum Points: 400 Total Points			445

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 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 applicant has an existing Farm Bill contract that was behind schedule at the end of the application cut-off period.	-75
	4	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer	45
	5	The proposed EQIP contract includes a 35 foot riparian buffer that will limit impacts to streams containing a federally or state "Threatened or Endangered" listed aquatic species - Toolkit T&E Aquatic Species GIS layer	35
	6	The applicant has a pre-existing Forest Stewardship Plan or a Multi-Resource Management Plan on the offered acres that address the same resource concerns that are in the proposed contract	50
	7	The proposed contract will establish the highest locally ranked forestry practice Tree Shrub Establishment, Code 612	50
	8	The proposed contract will establish the second most important locally ranked forestry practice Forest Stand Improvement for hardwoods only, Code 666	40
	9	The proposed contract will establish the third most important locally ranked forestry practice Critical Area Planting, Code 342 or Roads/Trails/Landing Closure, Code 654.	30
		Maximum Points: 250 Total Points	25

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Air Quality Impacts: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Access Control (472)

Brush Management (314)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Firebreak (394)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Mulching (484)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition

Access Control (472)

Brush Management (314)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Firebreak (394)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Mulching (484)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Access Control (472)

Brush Management (314)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Deep Tillage (324)

Fence (382)

Firebreak (394)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Mulching (484)

- Prescribed Burning (338)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter
 - Access Control (472)
 - Brush Management (314)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Firebreak (394)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Hedgerow Planting (422)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Food
 - Access Control (472)
 - Brush Management (314)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Firebreak (394)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Hedgerow Planting (422)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)
 - Access Control (472)
 - Brush Management (314)
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Early Successional Habitat Development/M (647)
 - Field Border (386)
 - Firebreak (394)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Hedgerow Planting (422)
 - Prescribed Burning (338)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Water
 - Access Control (472)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
 - Access Control (472)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
 - Access Control (472)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Mulching (484)

- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Soil Erosion: Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels
 - Access Control (472)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality Degradation: Elevated Water Temperature
 - Access Control (472)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
 - Access Control (472)
 - Critical Area Planting (342)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

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