

Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - Forestry - Statewide

(Released 11/06/2014)

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 FY15 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. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2	b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2	c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2	d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2	e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
3	a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3	b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3	c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3	d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
4	a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4	b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4	c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide	10

	(CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	
4	d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5	b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
6	a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6	b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10
6	c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6	d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
7	a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7	b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
8	a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8	b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
9	a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
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 CAP106 or Stewardship plan will be implemented.	35
	2	B. Two (2) practices in an approved CAP106 or Stewardship plan will be implemented.	20
	3	C. One (1) practice in an approved CAP106 or Stewardship 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, Oaks and other hardwoods will be established or managed as recommended by a VDOF forestry management plan.	25
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 4e or greater.	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
	4	Planting of pollinator habitat (327) containing a minimum of 2 native warm season grass species and 9 native wildflower species is planned.	25
		Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	425

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 practices Critical Area Planting, Code 342 or Roads/Trails/Landing Closure, Code 654.	30
		Maximum Points: Total Points	25

Selected Resource Concerns and Questions:

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)