

## Ranking Tool Summary

### for FY2015 - FY15 Seasonal High Tunnels

(Released 11/05/2014 )

#### Description:

The goal of this state initiative is to assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops (specialty) in an environmentally safe manner via the installation of a 798 Seasonal High Tunnel (Application MUST contain a 798). Priority is given to those applications within the coldest regions as indicated on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map.

#### Land Uses:

Crop

#### Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

#### Optional Notes:

#### National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

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 (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
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	10

	species on non-cropland?	
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

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Plants: Questions 1-7: Only one Yes allowed	
	1	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 5a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	400
	2	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 5b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	350
	3	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 6a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	300
	4	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 6b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	250
	5	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 7a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	200
	6	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 7b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	150
	7	Seasonal High Tunnel will be located in zone 8a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map ( <a href="http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/">http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/</a> ).	100
Maximum Points: 400			Total Points 1750

**Local Issues:**

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Previous Contract Performance and Program Participation	
	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 applicant has an existing Farm Bill contract that was behind schedule at the end of the application cut-off period.	-75
	4	The proposed contract would be the applicants first EQIP contract	35
2		Geographic and Resource Priorities	
	1	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer.	65
	2	The area being considered is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	45
	3	The project occurs within 2 miles of and will benefit a species that is in the Toolkit layer T&E species (either DGIF or Natural Heritage).	40
3		Proactive Conservation Planning (It is understood that, by definition, all plans address all identified resource concerns and land within the application, and must meet all Virginia technical standards, specifications and other required criteria.) Questions 1-3: Only one Yes allowed - maximum of 65 points	

	1	A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) has been completed for the current operation PRIOR to the EQIP application cut-off date. The CNMP has been signed and dated by the applicant and an approved certified CNMP Conservation Planner.	65
	2	2 A Conservation Plan has been developed PRIOR to the EQIP application cutoff date. The conservation plan addresses the same resource concerns and is signed and dated by the applicant and a Certified Conservation planner.	45
	3	A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) has been completed for the current operation PRIOR to the EQIP application cut-off date. The NMP has been signed and dated by a VA Certified Nutrient Management Planner.	35
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			105

**Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:**

- Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
- Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Classic Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Roof Runoff Structure (558)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Ephemeral Gully Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Roof Runoff Structure (558)
  - Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
  - Underground Outlet (620)
- Soil Erosion: Sheet and Rill Erosion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Roof Runoff Structure (558)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
- Soil Quality Degradation: Organic Matter Depletion
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Diversion (362)
  - Roof Runoff Structure (558)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
  - Critical Area Planting (342)
  - Grassed Waterway (412)
  - Roof Runoff Structure (558)
  - Subsurface Drain (606)
  - Underground Outlet (620)

Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Groundwater

Diversion (362)

Subsurface Drain (606)

Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water

Diversion (362)

Grassed Waterway (412)

Subsurface Drain (606)

Underground Outlet (620)

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