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Ranking Tool Summary

for FY2015 - Irrigation Water Management

(Released 11/06/2014)

Description:

This ranking tool is to be used for all Irrigation Water Management applications in Virginia. Applicants must have a irrigation history on the land to be enrolled for the past 2 out of 5 years.

Land Uses:

Crop, Forest

Efficiency Score:

Scoring Multiplier: 100.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 100 - 75	Medium: 74 - 50	Low: 49 - 0
The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the high point score range	The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the medium point score range	The conservation practices that will be established in the proposed contract are in the low point score range

Optional Notes:

National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 175	Medium: 174 - 90	Low: 89 - 0
The application is in the high point score range for addressing national priorities	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing national priorities	The application is in the low point score range for addressing national priorities

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 application is in the high point score range for addressing state resource concerns	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing state resource concerns	The application is in the low point score range for addressing state resource concerns

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Practice Implementation	
	1	Practice schedule provides for implementation of all funded practices within two years or less	25
2		Conservation Planning - Select all that apply to the application	
	1	A Conservation Plan has been developed prior to the EQIP application cut-off date. The Conservation Plan addresses the same resource concerns and land contained in the proposed contract. The Conservation Plan is signed and dated by the applicant and certified conservation planner	45
	2	An irrigation water management plan has been developed before the EQIP application cut-off date for the acres included in the proposed contract.	45
3		Water Irrigation Efficiency	
	1	The proposed irrigation upgrade includes installation of flow meters and soil moisture instruments that are more efficient.	55
	2	The existing open air irrigation system (traveling guns, center pivot, overhead sprinklers) will be replaced with a microirrigation system.	85
	3	The operation does not currently use an Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan but will follow an IWM Plan as a result of the proposed contract.	55
4		Water Quality Issues	
	1	Filter Strip, Code 393 will be established in the contract where needed to protect surface water features.	35
	2	Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Code 390 or Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 will be established in the contract to protect surface water features.	55
		Maximum Points: Total Points	400

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000

Scoring Ranges and Results Text:

High: 250 - 200	Medium: 199 - 100	Low: 99 - 0
The application is in the high point score range for addressing local resource concerns	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing local resource concerns	The application is in the medium point score range for addressing local resource concerns

Questions:

Sub-heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
1		Select all that apply to the application	
	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	This is the applicants first EQIP application.	50
	5	The area being considered for an EQIP contract is within an impaired watershed shown on the "Impaired Waters of Virginia" Toolkit GIS layer.	50
	6	The proposed EQIP contract includes a buffer or filter strip that will limit impacts to streams.	50
	7	This practice supports producers engaged in agricultural production using high tunnels.	50
	8	This practice supports producers engaged in agriculture production with specialty crops or tobacco.	50
		Maximum Points:	Total Points
			25

Selected Resource Concerns and Practices:

Inefficient Energy Use: Equipment and Facilities

- Field Border (386)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)

Inefficient Energy Use: Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

- Field Border (386)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)

Insufficient Water: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Irrigation Water Management Plan - Writt (118)

Water Quality Degradation: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

Water Quality Degradation: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)

- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Groundwater
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Water Quality Degradation: Nutrients in Surface water
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Water Quality Degradation: Pesticides in Surface Water
 - Field Border (386)
 - Filter Strip (393)
 - Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

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