

## West Virginia CSP Cropland Soil Quality & Water Quality Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Unit(S): \_\_\_\_\_

### **CROPLAND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT** **Worksheet Instructions**

The minimum level of treatment required for cropland that is enrolled in CSP is a treatment which addresses soil quality and water quality criteria in the West Virginia Field Office Technical Guide.

For cropland the appropriate criteria include:

- Soil erosion and soil quality criteria (soil quality)
- Nutrient management criteria (water quality)
- Pesticide management criteria (water quality)
- Sediment management criteria (water quality)

The attached assessment questions will help determine if the farm operation, or part of the farm operation meets the West Virginia cropland quality criteria and is eligible for enrollment in the Conservation Security program. *(Separate assessments are provided for pasture land, other land and livestock waste)*

For each field that will be enrolled in CSP, the producer will need to be able to answer appropriately each question in this assessment. For Tier II and III enrollments, all fields must meet the criteria in this assessment. Check yes or no for each question:

| GENERAL ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS – ALL CRITERIA   |   |     |    |
|--|---|-----|----|
|  |   | Yes | No |
| 1  | Are <i>current soil tests</i> (no older than 5 years) available for each field that will be enrolled in CSP?  |     |    |
| 2  | Are <i>nutrient application records</i> available for 2 of past 3 years (2002-2004 crop years) that include nutrients applied, rates, forms, timing and method of application? <i>Records are needed for each field.</i>          |     |    |
| 3  | Are <i>pesticide application records</i> available for 2 of past 3 years (2002-2004 crop years) that include pesticides applied, rates, formulations, timing and method of application? <i>Records are needed for each field.</i> |     |    |
| <p><i>If any of above questions are no, to any field, that field is not eligible for CSP enrollment. For Tier II and III enrollments answers must be yes to all fields in the operation.</i></p> |   |     |    |

| SOIL QUALITY CRITERIA ASSESSMENT  |  |     |    |
|---|--|-----|----|
|   |  | Yes | No |
| 1   | Do all fields that will be enrolled have a positive Soil Condition Index (SCI). A positive SCI will require significant amounts of conservation tillage/no-tillage and crop rotations that include high residue crops (corn, small grain, or hay) in the rotation. (NRCS will calculate this index at the interview) |     |    |
| 2   | Is gully/concentrated flow erosion and ephemeral gully erosion controlled on all fields that will be enrolled.   |     |    |
| If any of above questions are no to any field, that field is not eligible for CSP enrollment. For Tier II and III enrollments answers must be yes to all fields in the operation. |  |     |    |

| WATER QUALITY CRITERIA ASSESSMENT - NUTRIENTS   |  |     |    |
|---|--|-----|----|
|   |  | Yes | No |
| 1   | Is any fertilizer or manure applied on the cropland? If YES nutrients are a resource concern, complete remaining questions.  |     |    |
| 2   | Are fertility application rates based on recommendations in a Land Grant College (name of college : _____) fertility recommendation guide and are they based on realistic yield goals? Are nitrogen rates within 10% of recommended rates.   |     |    |
| 3   | If soil test P values exceed Phosphorus value of 80 lbs/ac, is <b>no manufactured P (commercial fertilizer) applied?</b> (Unless applied on basis of a phosphorous index risk assessment, applied to specialty crops at university recommendations, or as a small amount of row starter fertilizer).   |     |    |
| 4   | Is nitrogen applied just prior to crop planting, applied post emerge (side dress), split between prior to planting and post emerge (side dress), or applied close (< 4 weeks prior) to the time of the crop needs?<br>or<br>If nitrogen is fall applied, is it limited to well-drained soils with low leaching potential unless field is tile drained and a nitrogen stabilizer is used?   |     |    |
| 5   | For <b>any field</b> containing or adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, rivers or lakes, <b>is at least one</b> of the following techniques used to buffer and filter nutrient, sediment, and pesticide run-off into each of the watercourse(s):<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A filter strip a minimum of 20 feet wide is installed and maintained</li> <li>* The field has a natural vegetation buffer a minimum of 20 feet wide</li> <li>* A cropping system is used which maintains for all crops a minimum of 30% or more cover at planting time.</li> </ul> For fields > 5% slope, above minimum widths must be increased to 35 Feet per West Virginia FOTG. |     |    |
| 6   | If manure is used on any fields, can the West Virginia CSP Livestock Waste Management Checklist be successfully completed for that field?  |     |    |
| If answers to questions 2-6 are no to any field, that field is not eligible for CSP enrollment. For Tier II and III enrollments answers must be yes to all fields in the operation. |  |     |    |

| WATER QUALITY CRITERIA ASSESSMENT - PESTICIDES   |   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|--|---|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--|--|
|  |   | Yes          | No          |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| 1  | Are any insecticides, herbicides or fungicides applied on the cropland? If YES pesticides are a resource concern, complete remaining questions.   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| 2  | The following herbicides have a WinPST risk assessment of intermediate, high, or very high risk of runoff or leaching in groundwater in this watershed. Are any of the following herbicides used? If yes, complete question 3. <i>(check each one used):</i>  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Domain _____</td> <td>Bicep _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canopy XL _____</td> <td>Epic _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firstrate _____</td> <td>Guardman _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sencor _____</td> <td>Harness _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atrazine _____</td> <td>Princep _____</td> </tr> </table> | Domain _____ | Bicep _____ | Canopy XL _____ | Epic _____ | Firstrate _____ | Guardman _____ | Sencor _____ | Harness _____ | Atrazine _____ | Princep _____ |  |  |
| Domain _____   | Bicep _____   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| Canopy XL _____  | Epic _____  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| Firstrate _____  | Guardman _____  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| Sencor _____   | Harness _____   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| Atrazine _____   | Princep _____   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| 3  | If any of the above herbicides are used, is at least one if the following 5 mitigation strategies used in each field where the above products are used? <i>Check each mitigation strategy used:</i>   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | 1. A filter strip, or natural buffer a minimum of 20 feet wide (35' if slope >5%) is maintained along all watercourses in any field where this product is used.   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | 2. Greater than 30% residue is maintained on each non buffered field where these herbicides are used at the time of use.  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | 3. Application setbacks are used on any fields where these herbicides are applied to non buffered fields with less than 30% cover.  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | 4. Less than 75% of maximum label rates are used on any field not meeting one of the above criteria.  |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
|  | 5. Are these pesticides incorporated, used only for spot treatment, or used no more than once every third year?   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| 4  | Are Corn Rootworm insecticides rotated per West Virginia Extension IPM recommendations to avoid resistance?   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |
| <p><i>If answer to question 2, is yes producer records must show that at least one of the 5 WinPST mitigation strategies in question 3 are employed in each field where product is used at the time of use. If not that field is not eligible for CSP enrollment. For Tier II and III enrollments answers must be yes for questions 3 and 4 for all fields in the operation, otherwise producer may enroll just the qualifying fields as Tier I.</i></p> |   |              |             |                 |            |                 |                |              |               |                |               |  |  |

| WATER QUALITY CRITERIA ASSESSMENT - SEDIMENT   |   |     |    |
|--|---|-----|----|
|  |   | Yes | No |
| 1  | Is gully/concentrated flow erosion and ephemeral gully erosion controlled on all fields that will be enrolled.  |     |    |
| 2  | For <b>any field</b> containing or adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, rivers or lakes, <b>is at least one</b> of the following techniques used to buffer and filter nutrient, sediment, and pesticide run-off into each of the watercourse(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A filter strip a minimum of 20 feet wide is installed and maintained</li> <li>* The field has a natural vegetation buffer a minimum of 20 feet wide</li> <li>* A cropping system is used which maintains for all crops a minimum of 30% or more cover at planting time.</li> </ul> For fields > 5% slope, above minimum widths must be increased to 35 Feet per West Virginia FOTG. |     |    |
| <p><i>If answers questions 1 and 2 are no to any field, that field is not eligible for CSP enrollment. For Tier II and III enrollments answers must be yes to all fields in the operation.</i></p> |   |     |    |

*If a producer cannot meet the cropland benchmark assessment criteria on all fields, the option is to enroll those fields that do meet the criteria as a Tier I contract, and bring the other fields into the contract as the mitigation needs are met on those fields.*

### **Certification Statement**

The above cropland benchmark information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if requested, I can provide a minimum of two years of documentation to support the information provided above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Certification of Review**

I have reviewed this cropland benchmark assessment and the answers meet CSP enrollment criteria and are consistent with the farm records provided for review during the verification interview.

NRCS Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

## **WEST VIRGINIA FOTG QUALITY CRITERIA**

### **WATER QUALITY - PESTICIDE CRITERIA**

W.Q. Groundwater - Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed so that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.

W.Q. Surface Water - Pesticides are applied, stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected

### **WATER QUALITY - NUTRIENT CRITERIA**

W.Q. Groundwater - Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and applied such that groundwater uses are not adversely affected.

W.Q. Surface Water - Nutrients and organics are stored, handled, disposed of, and managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.

### **WATER QUALITY – SEDIMENT CRITERIA**

W.Q. Surface Water - Movement of mineral and organic particles is managed such that surface water uses are not adversely affected.