

Karst____
 Grazingland____
 Water Quality and Quantity____

EQIP Ranking Criteria
 EASTERN PANHANDLE
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 2004
 CROPLAND

<p>Points can only be earned when there is an environmental concern to be addressed by the implementation of a Conservation Management System. If the applicant is already doing the conservation practice that eliminates an environmental concern, then points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily reduced. The Local Work Group for the Eastern Panhandle will award funds to the applicant with the highest number of points for BOTH GRAZINGLAND/LIVESTOCK AND CROPLAND.</p>				
CONSERVATION PRACTICE	PRACTICE EXTENT	POINT CRITERIA	POINTS AWARDED	PRACTICE CODE
WATER QUALITY				
Reduce excessive nutrient application by establishing a nutrient management plan or animal waste utilization. A current soil test is required. Application rate of the nutrients must follow the nutrient management plan.		40 points		590
Improve surface water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area between water resource and cropland (a minimum of 35 feet is required).		25 points		342-382 391-393 472-644-314-612
Stabilize eroding streambanks.		25% of stream = 5 points 50% of stream = 10 points 75%+ of stream= 15 points		342-580-382-390-612
Protect groundwater quality by establishing a 50 foot buffer around identified sinkholes.		20 points		342-382-472
Eliminate possible nutrient and sediment loads to water bodies, and increase wildlife habitat on farm by converting to permanent grass or trees in entire floodplain area. *Floodplain is defined as an area classified as alluvial soils adjacent to a stream.		row crops to harvested grass = 10 points row crops to non-harvested = 20 points		393-512-612
POLLUTION PREVENTION				
Construct an Agrichemical Handling Facility to provide an environmentally safe area for the handling of on farm chemicals according to NRCS standards and specifications.		20 points		702

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE	PRACTICE EXTENT	POINT CRITERIA	POINTS AWARDED	PRACTICE CODE
SOIL CONDITION / SOIL EROSION				
Reduce erosion by implementing conservation practices on cropland, such as conservation tillage, conservation crop rotations, stripcropping, etc.		Erosion reduction: >5 tons/ac/yr = 15 points 3-5 tons/ac/yr = 10 points <3 tons/ac/yr = 5 points		328 329-330 331-340 344-585
Establish permanent vegetation to prevent wind damage to crops, decrease erosion, and increase habitat diversity by installing, windbreaks, and/or field borders.		20 points		342-380 422-612 386
Reduce erosion, nutrient and sediment loads in water and improve soil quality by use of grassed waterways, diversions, and critical area plantings on cropland to treat critically eroding areas.		20 points		342-362 412
Improve soil tilth and reduce excessive erosion by the conversion of cropland to pastureland or hayland (Class III or higher only).		20 points		512-511
AIR QUALITY				
Prevent possible transport of airborne odors and pathogens by using alternative manure application methods.		Incorporation = 5 points Injection = 15 points		633
SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS				
Distance of high residential development (i.e. housing subdivisions) from farm will be considered, due to the effect of increasing the level of management required on the farm.		<500 ft = 20 points 500 ft to 0.5 mile = 15 points 0.5 mile to 1.5 mile = 10 points		
BONUS				
Improvement of identified conservation concerns by applying at a Resource Management System level.		1-2 Practices = 50 points 3-4 Practices = 25 points		
Points awarded for only practice codes in bold print.		TOTAL = (maximum 300 points)		