

Animal Waste____
 Karst____
 Grazingland____
 Water Quality and Quantity____
 Air Quality____

EQIP Ranking Criteria
 EASTERN PANHANDLE
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 2005

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.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE	POINT CRITERIA	POINTS AWARDED	PRACTICE CODE
SOIL QUALITY / SOIL EROSION			
Reduce excessive erosion from Class 7 grassland or critically eroding areas by land use conversion to forestland.	20 points		342-612-391
Improve soil tilth and reduce excessive erosion by the conversion of cropland to pastureland, hayland, or forestland. (Class III or higher only).	20 points		512-612
Improve surface water quality by developing water facilities to encourage total pasture utilization.	30 points		614-516 642
Improve soil quality, reduce erosion and improve animal health by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan.	Continuous Grazing - 9+ days = 10 points Rotational Grazing - 5-8 days = 20 points Management Intensive Grazing - 1-4 days = 30 points		528A-512 382
Utilize extended grazing to reduce confinement periods, as part of a prescribed grazing plan.	1 month extension = 5 points 2 month extension = 10 points 3 month extension = 15 points		528A
Establish warm season grasses to improve grazing management during the summer grazing slump.	20 points		512
Establish a pasture planting of endophyte fescue or other pasture mixes that follow pasture and hayland standards and specifications to improve both forage quality and wildlife habitat.	10 points endophyte free fescue 20 pts other pasture mix		512
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		342-362 412-512
SOIL QUALITY / SOIL EROSION			
Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock.	20 points		382-391
AIR QUALITY			
Establish windbreaks to reduce potential airborne odors and pathogens from leaving farm.	10 points		380-612
WATER QUALITY			
Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings and/or stream fencing for livestock or equipment.	20 points		728-342-382

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Divert overland flow of clean water from existing permanent livestock feeding areas. (e.g. diversion, gutters, etc.)	20 points		558-362 412-620
Reduce excessive nutrient application by establishing a nutrient management plan or an animal waste utilization plan. A current soil test is required. Application rate of nutrients must follow the nutrient management plan.	25 points		590
Stabilize eroding streambanks.	25% of stream = 5 points 50% of stream = 10 points 75% of stream = 15 points		342-580-382-612
Improve water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area between water resource and area of concern. (35' buffer for streams and 50' buffer for sinkholes)	25 points		393-342-391 -382-612
Improve water quality and utilization of nutrients from animal waste by relocating an established concentrated winter feeding area.	Points awarded based on relocation distance from concentrated flow area, stream, or sinkhole: 100-200 feet = 10 points 200-300+ feet = 20 points		757-561-342
Reduce surface water quality problems by constructing a waste storage facility.	50 points dry manure storage 75 points wet manure storage		313-633
Reduce potential spread of pathogens and disease, reduce potential water pollution by organic agricultural waste, and control odor by constructing a composter.	20 points		317A-633
HABITAT CONSERVATION / OTHER RESOURCES			
Distance of high residential development (i.e. housing subdivision) to farm operation will be considered because of the required increase in management levels.	<500 ft = 20 points 500 ft to 0.5 mile=15 points 0.5 mile to 1.5 mile=10 points		
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
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
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 535 points)		