

Tygart Valley Conservation District

EQIP – Environmental Ranking Criteria 2006

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 and points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily reduced. Practices completed on the tracts that have received prior cost share can not be awarded points or additional cost share.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

FSN _____ TRACT _____

Limited Resource Farmer: YES or NO **Circle one**

Beginning Farmer: YES or NO **Circle one**

Environmental Ranking Criteria Points

1. _____ Convert Class 7 land being used as grassland to forestland. **10 pts. Maximum**
(Points based on percentage of land being converted. 1 pt. per 10% of land converted.)
2. _____ Develop sources of drinking water for livestock in order to reduce animal waste related problems to improve surface water quality. **10 pts.**
3. _____ Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings for livestock or equipment. **10 pts.**
4. _____ Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. **10 pts. Maximum** (1 pt. per 10% of forest land being excluded.)
5. _____ Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocating existing concentrated winter feeding areas out of the 25 yr. floodplain. (Heavy Use Area Protection, Practice Code 561, a Waste Utilization Plan and Waste Storage Facility, Practice Code 313 are required.) **5 pts.**

_____ **Subtotal**

6. ___ Reduce surface water contamination by constructing a waste storage facility. (Refer to Animal Waste Facility Standard in Technical Guide, Section IV. Points are not awarded for this ranking item if it has been addressed with code 561 in item 5.) **10 pts.**

7. ___ Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, improve animal health, by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan. Producers must be given management worksheet so they understand the requirements of this practice.

Points will be awarded as follows:

9 days/area = 10 pts. For managed continuous grazing on 1-2 paddocks = \$5/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

5-8 days/area = 20 pts. For rotational grazing on 3-5 paddocks = \$10/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

1-4 days/area = 30 pts. For management of intensive grazing on 6 or more paddocks = \$20/ac/yr for 3 yrs.

8. ___ Nutrient management, a soil test will be required and is to be presented to the NRCS office. Application of lime and fertilizer will be based on the WVU soil test recommendations, the forage species and the stocking rate of livestock. The maximum number of acres eligible for soil amendment cost share on any contract will be capped at 25% of the eligible grazing land or 40 ac., which ever is greater. **20 pts.**

9. ___ Improve surface water quality by excluding livestock from a stream or pond with fence. (Between water resource and cropland, pastureland or feedlot.) **10 pts.** **Maximum** (1 pt/10% of stream being fenced.) Use Standard code 472 - Use Exclusion.

10. ___ Divert overland flow or overhead flow of clean water from existing permanent concentrated livestock feeding areas. (e.g., diversions, gutters, etc.) **10 pts.**

11. ___ Reduce Ephemeral/gully erosion.

Reduce average erosion > 1000 ft³/yr. = **20 pts.**

Reduce average erosion 1000 -500 ft³/yr. = **15 pts.**

Reduce average erosion 500 -300 ft³/yr. = **10 pts.**

Reduce average erosion <300 ft³/yr. = **5 pts.**

_____ **Total**

_____ **TOTAL POINTS**