

**Little Kanawha Conservation District
2003 EQIP ENVIRONMENTAL RANKING CRITERIA**

Name: _____ Tract #: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

Priority Concerns of LKCD are as follows:

- _____ Water Quantity and Quality for livestock (Ranking Criterion # 1)
- _____ Water contamination by pathogens and sediment (Criteria # 2, 3, & 4)
- _____ Plant Productivity & Suitability (Ranking Criteria # 5& 6)
- _____ Soil erosion (Ranking Criterion # 7)

(Evaluator is to place check mark next to primary resource concern upon completion of evaluation sheets.)

Environmental Ranking Criteria for acres submitted into an EQIP Contract for the Little Kanawha Conservation District. 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. *(Selection for contract development is by ranking application from high point to low point applicant and selecting in descending order until allocation is exhausted.)*

Environmental Points *(Practice standard codes are in bold italics)*

1. _____ **Develop approved sources of drinking water for livestock to reduce erosion, animal waste related problems, and to improve grazing management.** (Points per source that are needed are as follows: 20 points for a spring development and trough **(574, 516, 614)** ; 10 points for a trough below a pond or well, trough below an existing source, and any additional troughs **(614)** ; 20 points for a pond **(378)** ; 30 points for a well **(642, 533, 516 & 708)** .

2. **Concentrated Winter Feeding - Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients** by relocating an established winter feeding area away from concentrated flow areas or streams or by constructing a waste storage facility: (Potential for points given for “a”, “b”, “c” and/or “d”.)
- a. _____ Moving winter feeding areas away from streams to improve water quality----- (60 points)
 - b. _____ Establishing a concentrated winter feeding area and/or installing an animal trail or walkway, or heavy use area (**757, 575, or 561**). ----- (50 Points)
 - c. _____ Livestock exclusion from streams at winter feeding areas (**472 & 382**) ----- (50 points)
 - d. _____ Eliminate surface water quality problems by constructing an animal waste storage facility. (**313**) --- (50 Points)
3. _____ **Stabilize eroding stream banks.** Streambank erosion must be livestock related and the livestock must be excluded following stabilization. (**580**) ----- (50 points.)
4. _____ **Improve surface water quality** by implementing stream access and/or crossings for livestock or equipment. (**728**) ---- (10 points)
5. _____ **Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, improve animal health and increase forage utilization** by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing management plan. Land users must be given management worksheets so they understand the requirements of this practice. (**528A**) Points are as follows:
- Managed continuous grazing----- (5 points)
 - Rotation grazing (5 to 8 days grazing cycle, 3 or more paddocks per management herd) ----- (10 points)
 - Managed intensive grazing (1 to 4 day grazing cycle, may require 8 or more paddocks per management herd) ----- (15 points)

As part of the grazing management of the operation, additional points may be earned by doing the following:

- 5a. _____ **Develop and implement a nutrient management plan and/or waste utilization plan** to improve water quality and plant species. Soil samples will be taken at the beginning of the contract and presented to the NRCS office. Nutrients will be applied according to a Nutrient Management Plan and will be based on the soil test results, the forage species, and the pasture management system. **(590) (633)** ----- (5 points)
The maximum number of acres eligible for soil amendment cost share on any one contract, will be capped at 25% of the eligible grazing land or 40 acres which ever is greater.
- 5b. _____ **Excluding livestock from woodland.** **(472)** -- (5 points)
- 5c. _____ **Establish warm season grasses** **(512)** ----- (10 points)
- 5d. _____ **Extend grazing** (1 point per week extended beyond present management system. **(528A)**).
- 5e. _____ **Improve or establish a higher quality forage** **(314, 595, 512, or 528A for frost seeding)** ----- (5 points)
- 5f. _____ **Install pasture division fence** **(382)** -----(10 points)
- 5g. _____ **Livestock exclusion from water resources** **(382 &472)** -
----- (20 points)
- 6. _____ **Reduce excessive erosion from Class 6 or Class 7 grassland or critically eroding areas** by a land use conversion to forestland. **(382, 472, 490, & 612)** ----- (20 points)

7. Soil loss reduction (342, 382 & 587)

_____ Reduction of ephemeral/gully erosion.

Reduce average erosion >1000 cu. ft./yr. (20 points)

Reduce average erosion 500 – 1000 cu. ft./yr. (15 points)

Reduce average erosion 300 – 500 cu. ft./yr. (10 points)

Reduce average erosion < 300 cu. ft./yr. (5points)

_____ TOTAL POINTS

Environmental Threshold = 50 points