

**Southern Conservation District
2003 EQIP Ranking Criteria**

Applicant Name _____	Resource Concern:
Address _____	Grazing Land _____
Farm # _____ Tract # _____	Animal Waste _____

Points can only be earned when an environmental concern exists and is 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.

- _____ **1. Prescribed Grazing:** Improve soil quality, reduce erosion, reduce excessive nutrient application, and improve animal health, by developing and implementing a prescribed grazing plan. Components of a prescribed grazing plan may include rotational grazing, extended grazing, and nutrient management with a maximum of 90 combined points.
- A. Rotational Grazing:** Maximum of 50 points assigned based on length of planned rotations:
- _____ **10 pts. for managed continuous grazing (>8 day rotations)**
 _____ **30 pts. for rotational grazing (5 - 8 day rotations)**
 _____ **50 pts. for management intensive grazing (1 - 4 day rotations)**
- B. Extended Grazing:** Utilize extended grazing of stockpiled forage (after November 15th) to reduce confinement periods as a component of a prescribed grazing plan. Minimum heights of grass to be maintained per 528A. Maximum of 20 points awarded as follows:
- _____ **10 pts. for extending grazing 4 weeks**
 _____ **20 pts. for extending grazing 8 weeks**
- C. Nutrient Management:** Assign points if a nutrient management plan is included as a component of a prescribed grazing plan:
- _____ **20 pts. for nutrient management plan**

Cost sharing for the nutrient management component of prescribed grazing will be capped at the following amounts of soil amendments:

Lime - 3 tons/acre
N - 75 lbs/acre
P - 80 lbs/acre
K - 120 lbs/acre

A current soil test (less than 2 years old) is required and is to be presented to the NRCS office. Application rate of lime and fertilizer must follow the nutrient management plan, and will be based on the soil test recommendations, the forage species and the stocking rate of livestock. Contract acreage is capped at 25% of eligible grazing land or 40 acres maximum, whichever is greater.

- _____ **2. Grazing Land Conversion to Trees:** Reduce excessive erosion from steep grassland or critically eroding areas in pastures by a land use conversion to forestland. **A percentage of 20 pts. that is equal to the percentage of the total steep grassland or critically eroding areas in the treated fields that is converted.**

- _____ 3. **Livestock Drinking Water:** Develop source(s) of livestock drinking water to reduce erosion or animal waste related problems and to improve surface water quality. **20 pts.**
- _____ 4. **Stream Crossings:** Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossing(s) for livestock or equipment. **20 pts.**
- _____ 5. **Conversion of Cropland to Pastureland or Hayland:** Improve soil tilth and reduce erosion by the conversion of cropland to pastureland or hayland. **10 pts.**
- _____ 6. **Livestock Exclusion from Forestland:** Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. **A percentage of 20 pts. that is equal to the percentage of the total grazed woodland on the tract that is excluded from livestock grazing with this proposal.**
- _____ 7. **Livestock Exclusion from Streams:** Improve water quality, reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading of streams by excluding livestock from streams. **A percentage of 30 pts. which is equal to the percentage of total footage of stream on the tract that is excluded from livestock with this proposal.**
- _____ 8. **Waste Storage Facility:** Reduce surface water quality problems by constructing a waste storage facility. Refer to definition of animal waste facility in the FOTG, Section IV. Reduce excessive nutrient application by establishing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan in conjunction with the animal waste facility. **30 pts.**
- _____ 9. **Relocation of Established Concentrated Winter Feeding Area:** Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocating an established concentrated winter feeding area (757 Animal Use Area Protection). Utilization plan required. Points will be awarded as follows:

Distance from concentrated flow area or stream:

_____ 50-100 feet	5 pts.	_____ 100-200 feet	10 pts.
_____ 200-300 feet	20 pts.	_____ 300-400 feet	30 pts.
_____ 400-500 feet	40 pts.	_____ >500 feet	50 pts.

- _____ 10. **Filter Strip/Buffer Area:** Improve surface water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area between water resource to be protected and cropland, pastureland, or feedlot. **20 pts.**
- _____ 11. **Clean Water Diversion:** Divert overland flow or overhead flow of clean water from permanent livestock feeding areas. (e.g. diversion, gutters, etc.) **25 pts.**
- _____ 12. **Critical Area Treatment:** Reduce ephemeral/gully erosion by treating critically eroding areas in pastures. **20 pts.**
- _____ 13. **Warm Season Grass Pasture Planting:** Establish a higher quality forage to improve both forage quality and wildlife habitat by pasture planting of Warm Season grasses. **20 pts.**
- _____ 14. **Cool Season Grass and/or Legume Pasture Planting:** Establish a higher quality forage to improve both forage quality and wildlife habitat by pasture planting of Cool Season Grasses and/or legumes. **10 pts.**

_____ **Total Points**