

Tygart's Valley Conservation District

Grazing Lands – Environmental Ranking Criteria 2003

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

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

FSN _____ TRACT _____

Environmental ranking criteria points

1. ___ Reduce excessive erosion from Class 7 land being used as grassland or critically eroding areas by a land use conversion to forestland. **10 pts. Maximum** (*points based on percentage of land needing to be converted. 1 pt. per 10 % of land converted.*)
2. ___ Develop sources of drinking water for livestock in order to reduce excessive erosion and or animal waste related problems to improve surface water quality. **10 pts.**
3. ___ Improve surface water quality by implementing stream crossings for livestock or equipment. Stream must have livestock excluded. **10 pts.**
4. ___ Improve soil tilth and reduce excessive erosion by the conversion of cropland to pastureland or hayland. Class 3 slope and higher. **5 pts.**
5. ___ Reduce compaction, improve regeneration, and develop proper stand population on the forest landscape by excluding livestock. **10 pts. Maximum** (*1 pt. per 10% of forestland from which livestock will be excluded.*)

_____ **SUB-TOTAL**

6. ___ Improve water quality and provide for better utilization of animal waste nutrients by relocating existing concentrated winter-feeding areas. (Standard Code 757 Animal Use Area Protection. Utilization plan required.)

Points will be awarded as follows: *(Minimum filter strip required by standard must be met.)*

Distance from concentrated flow area or stream:

**100-200 ft = 3 pts, 200-300 ft = 6 pts, 300-400 ft = 9 pts,
400-500 ft = 12 pts, >500 ft = 15 pts**

- 6A. ___ Implementation of a winter feeding system to rotate hay feeders on an established schedule to prevent accumulation of manure and exposed soil and sediment. Feeding sites must be a minimum of 50 ft from streams. **20 pts.** *(Points are awarded for 6 or 6A not both.)*
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.

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.

- 7A. ___ 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 40ac which ever is greater. **20 pts.**

* Cost sharing for Nutrient Management will be capped at the following amounts of soil amendments:

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

_____ **SUB-TOTAL**

8. ___ Stabilize eroding streambanks. Must be livestock related and livestock must be excluded. Riprap is not eligible. **10 pts.**
9. ___ Improve surface water quality by establishing a filter strip/buffer area. (Between water resource and cropland, pastureland or feedlot.)
1 pt. /10% of linear feet of stream receiving filter strip. (10 pts. max.)
10. ___ Divert overland flow or overhead flow of clean water from existing permanent concentrated livestock feeding areas. (e.g. diversion, gutters, etc.) **10 pts.**
11. ___ Reduce sheet and rill erosion. Use predominate soil type for the field/farm.
Reduce average erosion >5tons/ac./yr. = **15 pts.**
Reduce average erosion 3-5tons/ac./yr. = **10 pts.**
Reduce average erosion <3tons/ac./yr. = **5 pts.**
Reduce Ephemeral/gully erosion. Use predominate soil type for the field/farm.
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 POINTS**