

## Grassland Reserve Program 2004 Ranking Criteria- West Virginia (Current conditions)

Rental Agreement 10 yrs  15 yrs  20 yrs  30 yrs

30 yr. Easement  Permanent Easement

Number of acres \_\_\_\_\_

Acres of Native cover \_\_\_\_\_

Acres that need restoration \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1. Biodiversity of Plants and Animals.</b>	<b>Total Pts. Allowed</b>	<b>Total Pts.</b>
a. The offer acres are in a WV-DNR bird habitat priority area.	10	
b. The offer area will be managed for the length of the agreement as: Managed Intensive Grazing System (MIG) Rotation system Continuous system	10 5 2	
c. The offer area contains 3 or more major vegetative species (15% or more).	10	
d. The offer area contains small shrub and/or wetland areas. (2 to 10%) (non-invasive species)	5	
e. There is threatened or endangered plant species habitat included in the offer area.	5	
f. The landowner/operator agrees to manage the offer area to address resources concerns for water quality.	30	
<b>2. Risk of conversion.</b>	<b>Total Pts. Allowed</b>	<b>Total Pts.</b>
a. The offer area includes 25% or more prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance.	10	
b. The offer area is adjacent to other protected acres. (CRP, CREP, FRPP, etc and public lands)	10	
c. The land is currently in grassland; however it is in a conservation cropping rotation in the current conservation plan or has FSA cropping history in the last five years	10	
d. The grassland is threatened by conversion to invasive species. (multiflora rose, autumn olive, tartarian honeysuckle, spotted knapweed)		
0-10%	0	
10-25%	10	
>25%	20	
e. Length of rental/easement commitment.		
10 years	10	
15 years	15	
20 years	20	
30 years	30	
Permanent	50	

3. Support of Grazing Agriculture.	Total Pts. Allowed	Total Pts.
a. The offer area is currently supporting non-recreation grazing livestock.	50	
b. Acreage of offer area.		
20 to 40	10	
40 to 75	20	
75 to 150	30	
150 to 250	40	
> 250	50	
c. Percentage of grazing acres of tract that is included in the offer area.		
100%	50	
75 to 99%	30	
50 to 75 %	20	
< 50%	10	
4. Cost Effectiveness.	Total Pts. Allowed	Total Pts.
<b>(Cost of Easement) (Market Value)</b>		
<u>Use with easement applications only</u>		
<\$1000.00/acre	100	
\$1000 to \$2500/acre	25	
\$2500 to \$5000/acre	10	
>\$5000/acre	0	
<b>(Cost of Rental Agreement)</b>		
<u>Use with rental applications only</u>		
=<\$9.00/acre	100	
>\$9.00/acre	60	
<b>Subtotal</b>		
<u>Use A or B below</u>		
A. The offered area <b>does not require</b> restoration to achieve program objectives.		
<input type="checkbox"/> check	<b>Subtotal</b> _____ x 5 = <b>Ranking</b> _____	
B. The offered area <b>requires</b> restoration to achieve program objectives.		
<input type="checkbox"/> check	<b>Subtotal</b> _____ x 1 = <b>Ranking</b> _____	
<b>Ranking</b> _____		
<b>Rental Cost:</b> _____ rate/acre x _____ acres x _____ Year = _____		
<b>Estimated easement cost:</b> _____ cost/acre x _____ acres = _____		
<p><b>Applications will be accepted on offer areas greater than 20 acres. Waivers are included in West Virginia policy due to the predominance of forestland and many operators having less than 40 acres of contiguous grassland. These small areas provide for landscape aesthetics as well as biodiversity. This policy will also provide program opportunities for Limited Resource Producers.</b></p>		
<p>The State Conservationist will consider size waivers for offer areas of 20 to 40 acres for the following:</p>		
A. The offer area currently is being managed to the RMS level for forage management.		
B. The offer area is 100% of the grazing area on the tract.		
C. The owner/operator agrees to manage the offer area to the RMS level for all concerns.		
D. The ranking for the offer area qualifies the application for funding.		