



# FY 18 Agricultural Enhancement Program Heavy Use Area Protection Ranking Form

## Applicant Information

|                |  |                 |                 |
|----------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name:</b>   |  | <b>Farm #:</b>  | <b>Tract #:</b> |
| <b>County:</b> |  | <b>Field #:</b> |                 |

## Application Eligibility

|   |     |    |  |
|---|-----|----|--|
| <b>Did application meet all of the required questions on the FY 18 Application Eligibility Form?</b><br>If Yes, please proceed to questions below. If no, Stop. | Yes | No |  |
|---|-----|----|--|

## General Ranking Questions

| (To be completed by staff based on application and supplemental information) |  | Yes | No | Points      |
|--|--|-----|----|-------------|
| 1.   | Does a current conservation plan and/or nutrient management plan completed by a certified planner or trained technician exist for the land/practice being requested? |     |    | Y=5<br>N=0  |
| 2.   | Does a forest stewardship plan exist for the land/practice being requested? (within last 10 years)<br>If yes, was the plan completed by a registered forester?       |     |    | Y=3<br>N=0  |
| 3.   | Is the land enrolled in the USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program?  |     |    | Y=2<br>N=0  |
| 4.   | Is there an NRCS comprehensive nutrient management plan completed by a certified planner?  |     |    | Y=5<br>N=0  |
| 5.   | Is the field and/or practice in the USDA-NRCS Focused Conservation Approach Area?  |     |    | Y=0<br>N=10 |
| 6.   | Is cooperator a first time or previous non-funded applicant of the Ag Enhancement Program?   |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 |
| 7.   | If a non-first time applicant, did the cooperator successfully complete all AgEP contracts within the past <b>24 months</b> ?  |     |    | Y=10<br>N=0 |
| <b>Total General Ranking Score:</b>  |  |     |    |             |

## Heavy Use Protection Area Ranking Questions

| (To be completed by staff based on the provided Evaluation Tool) |  | Yes | No | Points      | Evaluation Tool                               |
|--|--|-----|----|-------------|---|
| 1.   | Does the area have unfiltered flow (bare ground) into waterbodies?   |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 | Observation                                   |
| 2.   | Will livestock use area?   |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 | Observation/<br>Ask cooperator                |
| 3.   | Will equipment use area for travel?  |     |    | Y=10<br>N=0 | Observation                                   |
| 4.   | Will area be used for a cleanout pad at a poultry operation?   |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 | Potomac Valley<br>ONLY                        |
| 5.   | Will practice improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients entering non-impaired water body?  |     |    | Y=10<br>N=0 | DEP 303(d) list/map                           |
| 6.   | Will practice improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients entering impaired water body?  |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 | DEP 303(d) list/map                           |
| 7.   | Is slope greater than 2 and less than 10?  |     |    | Y=20<br>N=0 | Observation                                   |
| 8.   | Soil compaction questions (select which is most prominent)   |     |    |             | PCSI – Erosion Score                          |
|  | Excessive livestock traffic kill plants over wide areas.   |     |    | 1=10        | Y= assign points<br>based on scale<br><br>N=0 |
|  | Livestock trails common throughout. Off trail hoof prints common.  |     |    | 2=8         |   |
|  | Surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss/soil compaction by livestock hooves.  |     |    | 3=5         |   |
|  | Scattered signs of livestock trails and hoof prints, confined to lanes or small wet area   |     |    | 4=2         |   |
|  | Not affected by livestock traffic  |     |    | 5=0         |   |
| 9.   | Is the area actively eroding?  |     |    |             | PCSI – Erosion Score                          |
|  | Sheet and rill erosion is active throughout pasture; rills 3-8 in. deep at close intervals and/or grazing terracettes are close-spaces with some slope slippage. |     |    | 1=10        | Y= assign points<br>based on scale<br><br>N=0 |
|  | Most sheet and rill erosion confined to steepest terrain of unit; well defined rills 0.5-3 in. deep at close intervals and/or grazing terracettes present.       |     |    | 2=8         |   |
|  | Most sheet and rill erosion confined to heavy use areas, especially in loafing areas and water sites; rills 0.5-3 in. deep                                       |     |    | 3=5         |   |
|  | No current formation of rills; some evidence of past rill formation, but are grassed.  |     |    | 4=2         |   |
|  | No evidence of current or past formation of sheet flow or rills.   |     |    | 5=0         |   |

**Total Heavy Use Protection Area Ranking Score:**

**Total General Ranking Score + Heavy Use Protection Area Ranking Score:**