

**Pennsylvania NRCS ACEP-ALE Ranking Form**

National Ranking Factors	Maximum Points	Points
<p><b>Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected</b>  <i>(0 points for 50% or less, 4 points for greater than 50% and less than or equal to 60%, 8 points for greater than 60% and less than or equal to 70%, 12 points for greater than 70% and less than or equal to 80%, 17 points for greater than 80%)</i></p>	17	
<p><b>Percent of cropland, pastureland, and grassland in the parcel to be protected</b>  <i>(0 points for 33 percent or less, 4 points for greater than 33 percent and less than or equal to 40 percent, 8 points for greater than 40 percent and less than or equal to 50 percent, 17 points for greater than 50 percent)</i></p>	17	
<p><b>Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the current USDA Census of Agriculture (<a href="http://www.agcensus.usda.gov">www.agcensus.usda.gov</a>)</b> Avg. Farm Size County _____ Acres of Parcel _____</p> <p><i>(0 points for a ratio of 1.0 or less, 7 points for ratios of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 2.0, 15 points for ratios of greater than 2.0)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (<a href="http://www.agcensus.usda.gov">www.agcensus.usda.gov</a>)</b> Decrease in Percentage _____</p> <p><i>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 1 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 9 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 16 points for decreases of more than 15 percent)</i></p>	16	
<p><b>Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (<a href="http://www.agcensus.usda.gov">www.agcensus.usda.gov</a>)</b> Decrease in Percentage _____</p> <p><i>(0 points for decrease of 0 percent or less, 3 points for decreases of greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5 percent, 5 points for decrease of greater than 5 and less than or equal to 10 percent, 8 points for decreases of greater than 10 and less than or equal to 15 percent, 15 points for decreases of more than 15 percent)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>Percent population growth in the county as documented by the United States Census (<a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>)</b></p> <p>State growth rate _____ County growth rate _____</p> <p><i>(0 points for growth rate of less than one times the State growth rate, 4 points for growth rate of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State growth rate, 7 points for growth rate of two and less than or equal to three times the State growth rate, 15 points for growth rate of more than three times the State growth rate)</i></p>	15	

<p><b>Population density (county population per square mile) as documented by the United States Census (<a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>)</b></p> <p><i>State Density _____ County Density _____</i>  <i>(0 points for population density less than one times the State population density, 4 points for population density of greater than one and less than or equal to two times the State population density, 7 points for population density of greater than two and less than or equal to three times the State population density, 15 points for population density of greater than three times the State population density)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values.</b></p> <p><i>(0 points easement offer area (EOA) boundary greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary, 4 points EOA is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile of protected land boundary, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins protected land boundary)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure</b></p> <p><i>(0 points if EOA boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity, 4 points if EOA is greater than or equal to 1 miles but less than 3 miles in proximity, 7 points EOA is within 1 mile in proximity, 15 points EOA boundary adjoins)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>Existence of Farm or Ranch Land Succession Plan</b></p> <p><i>(0 points for no plan, 7 points for a plan, 15 points for plan documented and performed by industry professional)</i></p>	15	
<p><b>The land is currently enrolled into CREP or CRP that will expire within 1 year. (15 points for yes, 0 points for no)</b></p>	5	
<p><b>Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use</b></p> <p><i>(15 points if the parcel links two noncontinuous corridors of protected agricultural use, 6 points if parcel is a contiguous or proximal expansion of agricultural use protected area, 0 points parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area)</i></p>	5	
<p><b>The parcel is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement.</b></p> <p><i>(15 points if Yes, 0 points if No)</i></p>	5	
<p><b>National Ranking Factors Total Points</b></p>	<b>200</b>	

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State Ranking Factors	Maximum Points	Points
The Parcel is located within an area zoned for agricultural use, is located within an Agricultural Security Area or other locally identified unique agricultural area = <b>5 Points</b>	10	
The Parcel contains an archaeological or historical resource = <b>5 points</b>	5	
The Parcel contains a state or federal threatened or endangered species (based on PNDI hit) = <b>10 points</b>	10	
The title commitment contains no encumbrances that pose a high risk for easement enrollment = <b>25 points</b>	25	
The landowner has a current conservation plan addressing soil, water, plant, animal and other potential resource concerns. The conservation plan accurately reflects the current ag operation/management of the parcel = <b>50 points</b>	50	
The parcel is located in an area of high development pressure and air quality non-attainment = <b>50 points</b>	50	
Ownership/Title to the land is clearly established and documented at the time of application/enrollment = <b>50 points</b>	50	
<b>State Ranking Factors Total Points</b>	<b>200</b>	
<b>Total Combined Ranking Score National and State Ranking Factors</b>	<b>400</b>	

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Signature of NRCS Employee Confirming Ranking Score

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date