

**Scott County Fiscal Court
Ordinance No. 08-08 (AS AMENDED)**

AN AMENDED ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE SCOTT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH THE SCOTT COUNTY RURAL LAND MANAGEMENT BOARD, INC., A NINETEEN (19) MEMBER BOARD WHICH WOULD SERVE AS AN AGENCY AND INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE SCOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT EMPOWERED TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM RURAL LANDOWNERS WHO WANT TO SELL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON THEIR PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the existing Code of Ordinances does not have adequate provision for the purchase of Conservation Easements as a means of Farmland Preservation.

WHEREAS, KRS 100.201 authorizes county governments to establish a program to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands; and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment to the Scott County Code of Ordinances was approved by the Scott County Fiscal Court after a public hearing in accordance with KRS Chapter 100.

WHEREAS, the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan (the "Plan") adopted by the Scott County Fiscal Court recommends that a countywide program be established to purchase Conservation Easements in order to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands;

WHEREAS, the Rural Land Use Subcommittee was appointed to study implementation of the Plan and has made a report recommending that the Scott County Rural Land Management Board be established and a program implemented to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands;

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of this Ordinance to establish a program for the preservation and management of agricultural, rural and natural lands which will over the next thirty (30) years purchase Conservation Easements on sixty thousand (60,000) acres in the Rural Service Area; and

WHEREAS, this program will protect the health, safety and well being of present and future residents of Scot. County by preserving and managing sixty thousand (60,000) acres of eligible agricultural, rural and natural lands in the Rural Service Area as a viable sector of the county's economy and as an environmental resource of major importance, while at the same time allowing for properly controlled and designed urban growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF SCOTT COUNTY, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: The Purchase of Conservation Easements on Rural Lands Ordinance is enacted as an ordinance for Scott County. Said Ordinance is presented in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

SECTION TWO: EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication.

SECTION THREE: REVOCATION: Upon passage and publication of this Ordinance No. 08-08, as amended, the original Ordinance No. 08-03 approved on April 11, 2008, shall be revoked and rendered null and void.

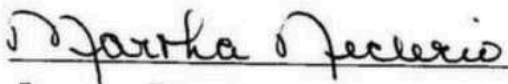
This ordinance was introduced and read for the first time at a public meeting of the Fiscal Court of Scott County on November 14, and for a second time and approved on December 12 2008.

APPROVED BY:

_____

Scott County, Judge Executive

ATTESTED BY:

_____

Scott Fiscal Court, CLERK

Exhibit A

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION (PDR)
ORDINANCE**

For

Scott County, Kentucky

November, 2008

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION (PDR)
ORDINANCE**
For Scott County, Kentucky

ARTICLE I	5
Section 1: Purpose.	5
Section 2: Definitions.	5
ARTICLE II	
Section 1: Board; organized: purposes.	6
Section 2: Board; membership.	7
Section 3: Board; terms; removal of members.	8
Section 4: Board; officers; quorum; staff.	9
Section 5: Board; powers and duties.	10
Section 6: Board; conflict of interest.	12
ARTICLE III	12
Section 1: Conservation Easements; minimum criteria.	12
Section 2: Conservation Easements: application procedures and preliminary review.	13
Section 3: Conservation Easements: evaluation by staff.	14
Section 4: Conservation Easement: evaluation by board	19
Section 5: Conservation Easements: negotiation.	20
Section 6: Conservation Easements; appraisal.	21
Section 7: Conservation Easements: purchase.	22

Section 8: Conservation Easements: recording.	23
ARTICLE IV	24
Section 1: Donations of Conservation Easements.	24
Section 2: Conservation Easements: enforcement.	24
Section 3: Conservation Easements: Release.	25
Section 4: Planning Commission duties.	26

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION (PDR)
ORDINANCE**
For Scott County, Kentucky

ARTICLE I

Section 1: Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a countywide program to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands in furtherance of the public health, safety and general welfare of Scott County residents, by provisions designed to:

- (1) Establish a Scott County Rural Land Management Board;
- (2) Create and administer a program for the purchase of Conservation Easements over eligible agricultural, rural and natural lands; and
- (3) Coordinate administration of this ordinance with the five-year update of the Georgetown-Scott County Comprehensive Plan.

Section 2: Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

- (1) "Active Farm" shall mean a parcel of land which is currently being used for Agricultural Production.
- (2) "Agricultural Production" shall mean the production for commercial purposes of crops, livestock and livestock products, and nursery and greenhouse products, including the processing or retail marketing of these crops, livestock and livestock products, and nursery and greenhouse products, if more than fifty percent (50%) of those processed or merchandised products are produced by the farm operator and the raising and stabling of horses for commercial purposes, and shall also include any of the following: dairying, pasturage, growing crops, bee keeping, horticulture, floriculture, orchards, plant nurseries, viticulture, silviculture, aquaculture and animal and plant husbandry; the breeding, raising, training and general care of livestock for uses other than food, such as sport or show purposes; and construction and maintenance of barns, silos and other structures ancillary to agricultural production, the use of farm machinery, the primary processing of agricultural products and the sale of agricultural products produced on the land where the sales are made.

(3) "Application" shall mean the documentation and information submitted to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff by a landowner on the approved application form offering to sell to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board or the Scott County Fiscal Court a Conservation Easement on eligible land.

(4) "Comprehensive Plan" shall mean the land use plan, and amendments thereto, most recently adopted by the Scott County Fiscal Court pursuant to KRS 100.197.

(5) "Conservation Easement" shall mean a non-possessory interest in real property, which is acquired for the purpose of retaining and enhancing agriculture; preserving natural, scenic or open space values of real property; preserving areas or structures of architectural or historical interest; restricting or preventing the development or improvement of the land for purposes other than agricultural production; or other like or similar purposes, but does not include any real property owned or leased by the Government for the purpose of or devoted to parks and recreation.

(6) "Conservation Easement Value" shall mean the value of a Conservation Easement on a parcel of land as determined by the difference between the unrestricted value of the tract and its value as restricted by a Conservation Easement. The unrestricted value of the tract shall be determined as of date of appraisal.

(7) "Development Right" shall mean the right that was held by the property owner having title to a tract of real property at date of appraisal.

(8) "Rural Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan (the Plan)" shall mean the element of the Comprehensive Plan most recently adopted by the Scott County Fiscal Court, and shall include any future portions of the Comprehensive Plan, and amendments thereto, pertaining to the Rural Service Area.

(9) "Rural Service Area" shall mean the unincorporated areas within Scott County.

(10) "Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff" shall mean the personnel within the office of administrative services charged by the Scott County Fiscal Court with the duty to administer this chapter.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Board; organized; purposes.

(1) George Lusby, County Judge Executive; Glenn Williams, County Attorney; Debbie Osborn, Scott County Conservation District; and John Lacy, Scott County Farm Bureau; all being residents of Scott County, are hereby authorized and requested to serve as incorporators for and to organize a non-profit, non-stock Kentucky corporation under the provisions of Chapter 273 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, to be named the "Scott County Rural Land Management Board, Inc." and hereinafter referred to as the "Scott County Rural Land Management Board."

(2) The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall be an agency and instrumentality of the Scott County Fiscal Court. It is organized for the purpose of preserving and managing agricultural, rural and natural lands within Scott County consistent with the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Section 2: Board; membership.

(1) The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall consist of nineteen (19) members. Fourteen (14) members shall be voting members and five (5) members shall be ex officio non-voting members.

(2) The fourteen (14) voting members shall be residents of Scott County and shall have demonstrated an interest in farming, farmland preservation, conservation of natural areas, or other agricultural, rural and natural lands preservation and management issues. They shall be appointed by the Judge Executive, subject to confirmation by a majority of the Fiscal Court, from the following:

(a) Two (2) members from a list of not less than four (4) names submitted by the Scott County Farm Bureau, provided that each nominee must be either a landowner or an operator of land, who manages the production of agricultural crops or livestock;

(b) Two (2) members from a list of not less than four (4) names submitted by the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Inc. and Scott County Beef Cattle Association (one each), provided that each nominee must own a farm in Scott County;

(c) One (1) member from a list of not less than two (2) names submitted by the Home Builders Association of Georgetown/Scott County;

(d) One (1) member from a list of not less than two (2) names submitted by the Scott County Association of Realtors, Inc., provided that each nominee must be a licensed realtor:

(e) One (1) member from a list of not less than two (2) names submitted by the Greater Scott County Convention and Visitors Bureau;

(f) One (1) member from a list of not less than two (2) names submitted by the Division of Natural Sciences from Georgetown College;

(g) One (1) member from names submitted by the Scott County Conservation District;

(h) One (1) member from names submitted by governmental entities or private non-profit organizations involved in historic preservation, such as, but not limited to, the Historic Preservation and Land Conservation Commission, the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation, Incorporated, and the Kentucky Heritage Council established at KRS 171.3801; and

(i) One (1) member from a list of not less than two (2) names submitted by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Inc., provided that each nominee must have a background in agricultural lending or agricultural finance.

(j) Three (3) members from the Scott Fiscal Court.

(3) The five (5) non-voting members shall be ex officio members of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board and shall consist of the individuals holding the following positions:

(a) The Scott County Extension Agent appointed pursuant to KRS 164.605, et seq. or any successor position; and

(b) The District Conservationist for Scott County appointed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture pursuant to 7 CFR § 600.6, or any successor position.

(c) One resident representative from each incorporated community (in Georgetown, Sadieville, and Stamping Ground).

Section 3: Board; terms; removal of members.

(1) The voting members of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall serve a term of four (4) years from the date of appointment, provided

the terms of those originally appointed shall be staggered in the following manner: three (3) members shall be appointed for one (1) year; three (3) members shall be appointed for two (2) years; two (2) members shall be appointed for three (3) years; three (3) members shall be appointed for four (4) years, and three (3) members shall be appointed from the Scott Fiscal Court to serve for the duration of their elected terms. not to exceed two (2) consecutive four-year terms, and three (3) members shall be appointed for four (4) years.

- (2) Vacancies in the voting membership shall be filled for an unexpired term in the manner prescribed for the original appointment. The membership of the ex-officio non-voting members shall be terminated upon leaving the specified offices. The incorporated community members shall serve concurrently with the term of the mayor of each incorporated community.
- (3) No voting member who was originally appointed to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board for less than a four (4) year term and who has served two (2) consecutive full terms after his initial term may succeed himself until the lapse of twelve (12) months from the end of said consecutive term. No appointed voting member who has served two (2) consecutive full terms may succeed himself until the lapse of twelve (12) months from the end of said consecutive terms.
- (4) A voting member of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall be removed only by a majority vote of the Scott County Fiscal Court, and only for cause, except that a member of the Board shall automatically be removed by operation of law in the event of three (3) unexcused absences, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, in any two (2) year period or in the event of absence from twenty-five percent (25%) of the meetings in any two (2) year period. An unexcused absence is any absence in which the chair of the board or the Scott County Rura¹ Land Management Board staff is not notified of the intended absence at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting. In the event of three (3) unexcused absences or the absence from twenty-five percent (25%) of the meetings over any two (2) year period, within the meaning of this section, the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff shall notify the Judge Executive that a vacancy exists on the Scott County Rural Land Management Board.

Section 4: Board; officers; quorum; staff.

- (1) The officers of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall consist of a chair, a vice-chair, and other officers elected from the membership as set forth in the bylaws. They shall take office at the first meeting of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board after their election. The duties of the officers shall be as specified in the bylaws. The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall determine its own rules and order of business and so provide for keeping a record of its proceedings.

- (2) A majority of the voting members of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, that is eight (8) voting members, shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any meeting of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board. The acts of a majority of those voting members present at any regular or special meeting of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall be the acts of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, except as provided below:
 - (a) It shall take a vote of eight (8) voting members to:
 1. Propose to the Scott County Fiscal Court that ARTICLE III, relating to criteria to be used to evaluate Applications for consideration of Conservation Easements, be changed or amended;
 2. Approve, pursuant to ARTICLE III, Section 7, the purchase of Conservation Easements,
 3. Approve, pursuant to ARTICLE IV, Section 3, the acceptance of payment for release of a Conservation Easement which has been included within the Urban Service Boundary and annexed into the nearest incorporated city.
 - (b) It shall take a vote of eight (8) voting members to adopt bylaws or regulations.

- (3) The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall meet at a minimum on a quarterly basis at a date, place and time to be determined by the Board.

- (4) The Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff shall serve as staff to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board and shall be responsible for coordinating agendas, preparing minutes and handling logistical matters in order to expedite the Board's function. Within the limits of the funds appropriated by the Scott County Fiscal Court in the annual budget, the other offices and agencies of the government shall

provide the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, either directly or by contract or agreement, with the facilities, materials, supplies, and staff needed for the conduct of its business.

Section 5: Board; powers and duties.

The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall, as permitted by law

- (1) Adopt bylaws and regulations which are not inconsistent with this chapter.
- (2) Enter into contracts and agreements with the Scott County Fiscal Court, other governmental entities, and also private persons, firms and corporations in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.
- (3) Solicit, acquire and hold Conservation Easements pursuant to the provisions of this' chapter.
- (4) Enforce the terms and provisions of Conservation Easements pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- (5) Expend funds appropriated to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board by the Scott County Fiscal Court or donated or provided to the Board from any other source.
- (6) Release or terminate any Conservation Easement pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- (7) Appoint standing and ad hoc committees, which may be comprised of Scott County Rural Land Management Board members, employees of the Scott County Fiscal Court, the public, or any combination of the foregoing.
- (8) Hold public forums for the purpose of gauging the will of the public on agricultural, rural and natural lands matters.
- (9) Solicit financial and other contributions to the Scott County Fiscal Court or to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, including donations of Conservation Easements, for the purposes of agricultural, rural and natural lands preservation and management.
- (10) Assist the government in the following areas:
 - (a) Promoting the preservation and management of agricultural, rural and natural lands in Scott County;

- (b) Implementing the specifics of the Rural Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan most recently adopted by the Planning Commission of the Scott County Fiscal Court;
 - (c) Implementing the specifics of any other plans adopted by the government or the Planning Commission relating to the Urban Service Boundary;
 - (d) Evaluating current services and facilities of the government relating to agricultural, rural and natural lands preservation and management;
 - (e) Reviewing fees and charges and alternate sources of funding to the agricultural, rural and natural lands preservation and management program, such as grants, gifts, endowments, etc.;
 - (f) Developing public relation strategies for stimulating public involvement, promoting services and achieving results;
 - (g) Preparing the agricultural, rural and natural lands preservation and management budget; and
 - (h) Securing legislation that will promote the mission, goals, and objectives of this chapter.
- (11) Establish Application Forms, filing and meeting schedules, and similar items as needed to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
- (12) Prepare and present to the Scott County Fiscal Court and Planning Commission written reports on an annual basis each calendar year. The report shall contain, but not be limited to, the following:
- (a) A listing of all parcels of land on which a Conservation Easement was purchased or donated during the year;
 - (b) A map or maps showing all parcels of land on which Conservation Easements have been purchased or donated, including the ones acquired during the preceding calendar year, and showing all parcels of land on which scenic easements, and other interests in land designed to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands, are to the knowledge of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff, held by entities other than the Scott County Rural Land Management Board; and
 - (c) A listing of all landowners who made unsuccessful Applications for purchase or donation of a Conservation Easement during the preceding calendar year, including the acreage and location of the parcel of land which was the subject of each Application, along with the general categories of reasons the Applications were not accepted.
- (13) Possess all the powers conferred upon a corporation organized under Chapter 273 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes dealing with non-profit

non-stock corporations and have all powers necessary, proper, convenient or desirable in order to fulfill and further the purposes of this chapter.

Section 6: Board; conflict of interest.

All members of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall be subject to the code of ethics contained in Ordinance 94-014 Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: Conservation Easements; minimum criteria.

- (1) The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall administer any program funded by appropriations from the Scott County Fiscal Court or by grant funds or donations from any source, which are appropriated or given for the purpose of acquiring Conservation Easements or other interests in land designed to preserve and manage agricultural, rural and natural lands. The Scott County Rural Land Management Board shall adhere to any specialized procedures established by the state, federal, or local government or any grant award for a particular program and, to the extent not inconsistent therewith, to any procedures established in this chapter.
- (2) In order for a Conservation Easement to be considered for purchase by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, it must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - (a) The applicant or applicants must have good, marketable, fee simple title to the parcel of land upon which the Conservation Easement is proposed to be imposed;
 - (b) The parcel of land upon which the Conservation Easement is proposed to be imposed must be located entirely within the agricultural land use category as determined by the Scott County Fiscal Court's most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan;
 - (c) The parcel of land upon which the Conservation Easement is proposed to be conveyed to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board is free and clear of any non-conforming uses;
 - (d) The parcel of land in question must be at least ten (10) acres in size and must have at least two residential credits; and
 - (e) All landowners of the parcel shall agree for the duration of the Conservation Easement to maintain a land conservation plan and/or forest stewardship plan, approved by the local Soil Conservation District, and shall implement the plan according to the approved

schedule.

- (3) It shall not be necessary for an Application to cover all land in common ownership in order to be considered for purchase of a Conservation Easement. Accordingly, a landowner may submit an Application for only a portion of the applicant's land, if there is enough land to create a Conservation Easement of at least forty (40) acres.

Section 2: Conservation Easements: application procedures and preliminary review.

- (1) In order for a Conservation Easement to be considered for purchase by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board, a completed Application shall be submitted by the landowner on the approved application form by the dead-line established by the Board. The landowner or a duly authorized representative of the landowner may apply. All landowners shall sign the Application. A separate Application shall be required for each parcel of land offered for acquisition except for batch Applications as provided for in ARTICLE III, Section 3 (3). The Board shall, by regulation, establish policies and procedures for the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff to follow in assisting landowners with the Application process. The following information shall be included in a completed Application:
 - (a) Adequate identification by deed reference of the parcel of land be considered for purchase.
 - (b) A map of the property at a scale of at least 1"=600' showing the land area to be considered for purchase, as well as any contiguous acreage under the same ownership to be excluded, or a copy of a recorded plat of record, if any.
 - (c) A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services Soil Map and farm plan and/or forest stewardship plan, if any, for the parcel under consideration.
 - (d) A full description of the Agricultural Production carried out on the . property including type and quality of crops, number of livestock, and acreage of land leased or used from others for Agricultural Production.
 - (e) A statement by the landowner of any contingencies which the landowner wishes to make the Scott County Rural Land Management Board aware of such as death, health, or retirement of the owner, financial stress, estate settlement, or other circumstances which may affect the property in the future.

- (f) The landowner's preferred method of payment for the acquisition, including but not limited to, lump sum payment or payout over time.
 - (g) A statement by the landowner agreeing to allow inspection and appraisal of the parcel of land.
 - (h) A list of any and all liens and encumbrances on the parcel at land and a letter from the holder of such evidencing willingness to subordinate the applicant's interests to the Conservation Easement.
 - (i) Existence of any surface or mineral leases or easements.
 - (j) A filing fee, in an amount established by regulation adopted by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board.
 - (k) All other information requested on the approved Application Form.
 - (l) Checklist and Disclosure Statement: Tax implication information, inheritance law, issues of perpetuity, and conservation easement.
- (2) A member of the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff shall review the Application to determine if it is complete. If the Application is complete, the staff shall make a preliminary evaluation of whether the parcel meets the minimum criteria established in ARTICLE III, Section 1. If it is determined by the staff that the parcel of land is eligible land, the staff shall notify the landowner in writing that the Conservation Easement will be considered for purchase or that, for reasons set forth in writing, the Application is being rejected. A landowner who is dissatisfied with the staff's determination may appeal to the Scott County Rural Land Management Board pursuant to ARTICLE III, Section 4 (3).

Section 3: Conservation Easements: evaluation by staff.

If the Application is complete and the minimum criteria established in ARTICLE III, Section 1 is met, the Application shall be evaluated and scored by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff. For purposes of this Section, less than one half acre shall be rounded down and one half acre or more shall be rounded up. This evaluation and scoring shall be done in accordance with the following criteria:

- (1) SIZE OF PARCEL (12 Possible Points plus 8 potential bonus points)

The purpose of this criterion is to assist in building a critical mass of agricultural land. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- (a) Basic: Over 350 acres (12 points)

251-350 acres (10 points)

121-250 acres (8 points)

41-120 acres (6 points)

20-40 acres (2 points)

10-19 acres (1 point)

(b) Bonus: Additional points will be assigned to parcels of forty (40) or more acres if the landowner agrees not to subdivide the parcel and build residences on those parcels. The property owner shall receive one (1) bonus point for each right to develop a five (5) acre tract which is extinguished up to a maximum of eight (8) bonus points.

(2) LENGTH OF PUBLIC ROAD FRONTAGE (5 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage the preservation of parcels with significant road frontage. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- 1001 feet + (5 points)
- 501 feet-1000 feet (3 points)
- 300 feet-500 feet (1 point)

(3) PROXIMITY AND/OR "BATCH" APPLICATION (15 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage the protection of large contiguous blocks of rural land. Distances shall be measured from the parcel's boundary lines and the points from Part B (part of "batch application") are in addition to any points from Part A (proximity to another property protected with Conservation Easement). These points shall be calculated as follows:

(a) Proximity: Adjacent (10 points)

Within 1/2 Mile (5 points)

Within 1 Mile (3 points)

More than 1 Mile (0 points)

(b) Batch application:

The purpose of this criterion is to encourage landowners of contiguous parcels to apply to the program as a joint batch of Applications. A "batch" of Applications is defined as two (2) or more Applications submitted by two (2) or more property owners of contiguous parcels with total acreage of at least 120 acres. Each

Application submitted as a "batch" Application will be individually evaluated and the batch will be given five (5) additional points for being part of a batch Application.

(4) QUALITY OF SOILS (30 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to examine the quality of soils on the property for agriculture. Soil information will be provided by the landowner in the Application and verified by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS maps will be the basis to decide this question. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- At Least 80% Prime Farmland (30 points)
- At Least 70% Prime Farmland (25 points)
- At Least 60% Prime Farmland (20 points)
- At Least 50% Prime Farmland (15 points)
- At Least 50% Statewide Important (10 points)
- At Least 25% Prime Farmland &
- Less than 50% Statewide Important (5 points)
- Prime Farmland Soils are defined as: Maury, Ashton, and Huntington
- Statewide Important Soils are defined as: Lowell B, Lowell C and Nicholson

(5) FARM ACTIVITY (5 possible points)

The purpose of this criterion is to evaluate whether the parcel is actively farmed. In evaluating whether the parcel is actively farmed, consideration will be given to the percentage of cropland and/or pasture and the tobacco base of the property. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- Actively farmed more than five of last ten years (5 points)
- Not actively farmed more than five of last ten years (0 points)
- Potential to be farmed (1 point)

(6) AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS (5 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to evaluate the owner's long term commitment to agriculture. It should be noted that the type and amount of on-farm investments will vary depending on the type of agriculture practiced. Each parcel shall be evaluated based on the type of agriculture involved on that particular parcel. There shall be no preference for one type of agricultural operation over another. Factors to be considered would include the presence of substantial and wellmaintained on-farm

investments such as barns, other agricultural buildings and equipment, fencing, waterways or other conservation measures, and similar items.

These points shall be calculated as follows:

- High amount of on-farm investment (5 points)
- (Multiple, permanent agricultural and agricultural related structures & equipment)
- Moderate amount of on-farm investment (2 points)
- (At least some agricultural structures & equipment)
- No on-farm investment (0 point)
- (Zero improvements or equipment)

(7) ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS (5 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect environmentally sensitive areas. If the parcel includes environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) as determined by the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, it will receive up to five points. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- At least 50% environmentally sensitive areas (5 points)
- Some but fewer than 50% environmentally sensitive areas (2 points)
- No environmentally sensitive areas (0 points)

(8) DESIGNATED RURAL GREENWAY/GREENBELTS (5 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect designated rural greenway/greenbelts. If any part of the parcel is located within it. one of the rural greenway/greenbelts, as determined by the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, it will receive five (5) points.

(9) DESIGNATED FOCUS AREAS (10 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect the designated focus areas, as determined by the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan and Rural Land Management Board. If any part of the parcel is located within one of the focus areas, the application receives ten (10) points.

(10) NATURAL PROTECTION AREAS (5 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect the special natural protection areas. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- Parcel is included in "A" list of special natural (5 points) protection areas in the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan
- Parcel is included in "B" list special natural (2 points) protection areas in the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Alternatively, applicants will be eligible to demonstrate the parcel contain special natural protection areas not identified in the Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The landowner who indicates on the applicant's Application that the property includes rare or unusual flora or fauna, special indigenous plant sites, wildlife habitat or provides wildlife ecosystem linkages necessary to ensure biodiversity will need to provide background information relating to the existence of these resources on the property. The existence of these items should be independently verified by the Scott County Rural Land Management Board staff or an independent non-profit conservation organization such as The Nature Conservancy. If the landowner can document that the parcel includes special natural protection areas not identified in the Rural Land Management Plan, the Application would receive not to exceed five (5) points.

(11) LINKAGES (4 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect linkages within the rural areas. This criterion examines whether the parcel is located near or has the ability to be linked to parks, nature preserves, nature sanctuaries, historic sites or other lands that have been specifically designated for long term natural resource use, conservation or preservation purposes. Distance is measured from parcel boundaries. These points shall be calculated as follows:

- Contiguous or provide direct linkage (4 points)
- Within 1/2 mile or provide a buffer (2 points)
- Within 1 mile (1 point)

(12) HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCES (11 Possible Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect the historic/cultural resources of the rural area. Points in subsections (c) through (e) are in addition to any

points accumulated from subsection (a) or (b), and shall be calculated as follows:

- (a) If any part of the property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or is designated a local Historic Landmark (H-1), it would receive three (3) points, or if the property is determined eligible for the National Register it would receive two (2) points.
 - (b) If any part of the property is located in a National Register Historic District, or is located in a locally designated historic district, it would receive two (2) additional points.
 - (c) If the property includes stone fences, the property would receive two (2) additional points. A minimum of 100 linear feet of stone fence is necessary.
 - (d) If any part of the property is designated as a national Historic Landmark, it would receive two (2) additional points.
 - (e) If the property contains any registered or significant archeological sites, it would receive two (2) additional points.
- (13) SCENIC RESOURCES (11 Possible Maximum Points)

The purpose of this criterion is to protect the scenic resources of the rural area. Points in subsections (d) through (f) are in addition to any points accumulated from subsections (a), (b) or (c).

- (a) If the property is located on one of the scenic rural roads identified in Rural Land Use Element of the most recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, the property would receive two (2) points; or
- (b) If the property is located on a local/state designated scenic or historic byway or highway, it would receive three (3) points, or;
- (c) If the property is located on a federally designated scenic or historic byway or highway, it would receive five (5) points.