

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