

**GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM  
MASSACHUSETTS RANKING CRITERIA – FY 2004**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres to be Enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Easement or Contract: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres Needing Restoration: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres of Existing Grassland: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Points</b>
<b>General Criteria</b>	
Number of contiguous acres to be enrolled	_____
> 100 acres = 10 pts	
> 80 acres = 9 pts	
> 60 acres = 8 pts	
> 40 acres = 7 pts	
> 30 to 40 acres = 6 pts	
> 20 to 30 acres = 5 pts	
> 10 to 20 acres = 4 pts	
> 5 to 10 acres = 3 pts	
3 to 5 acres = 2 pts	
< 3 acres = 0 pts	
Type of easement/rental agreement	_____
Permanent easement = 10 pts	
30 year easement or 30 year rental agreement = 9 pts	
20 year rental agreement = 8 pts	
15 year rental agreement = 5 pts	
10 year rental agreement = 1 pt	
<b>Preserving Native/Natural Species</b>	
Species composition (existing condition of site)	_____
Site is dominated by native grass or shrub species = 10 pts	
Site is mix of native grasses and cool season grasses = 8 pts	
Site is mix of cool season bunch grasses and forbs = 5 pts	
Site is mix of cool season sod grasses and/or forbs = 1	
Site is dominated by none of the above = 0 pts	
<b>Protecting Land from Conversion Threat</b>	
Site is under threat of development (per "Farming on the Edge" map by American Farmland Trust)	_____
<a href="http://www.farmland.org/farmingontheedgemap_massachusetts.pdf">http://www.farmland.org/farmingontheedgemap_massachusetts.pdf</a>	
Site is in red on map = 10 pts	
Site is in green on map = 8 pts	
Other areas = 0 pts	
Site is currently being planned for development	_____
Yes = 10 pts	
No = 0 pts.	
Threat of conversion to cropland	_____
>75% of site is prime farmland soils = 3 pts	
> 50 to 75% of site is prime farmland soils = 2 pts	
> 25 to 50% of site is prime farmland soils = 1 pts	
0 to 25% of site is prime farmland soils = 0 pts	
Landowner currently grows row crops or leases land to farmer that grows row crops	_____
Yes = 2 pts	
No = 0 pts	

Threat of conversion to forest \_\_\_\_\_  
Site is dominated by small woody species = 5 pts  
Site has scattered small woody species = 3 pts  
Site is dominated by grasses, forbs or in crops = 0 pts

Threat to grassland from non-native invasive species \_\_\_\_\_  
*(NOTE: if giving points under this criteria, landowner must agree to control all invasive species on site if application selected for funding)*  
>30% of site is dominated by non-native invasive species = 5 pts  
10 to 30% of site is dominated by non-native invasive species = 3 pts  
< 10% of site is dominated by non-native invasive species = 0 pts

**Supporting Grazing Operations**

Type of Grazing \_\_\_\_\_  
Land is used to graze dairy/meat/wool animals as part of a farming operation = 10 pts  
Land is used to graze horses as part of a horse operation = 5 pts  
Land is used to graze a few animals for the landowner's use = 2 pts  
Land is not currently used for grazing = 0 pts

Use of Grazing Management System \_\_\_\_\_  
Land is part of a prescribed grazing management system = 10 pts  
Land is grazed but is not part of a prescribed grazing system = 2 pts  
Land is not grazed = 0 pts

**Maintaining and Improving Biodiversity**

Significance of site as habitat for T/E species or enhancing biodiversity \_\_\_\_\_  
Site provides habitat for T/E species or at-risk species = 10 pts  
Site is within Core Habitat or Supporting Natural Landscape (per MA Biomap) = 5 pts  
Directly adjacent to Core Habitat or Supporting Natural Landscape = 3 pts  
None of the above = 0 pts

Distance to other protected sites (i.e., APR, conservation lands, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Directly adjacent to site maintained as grassland or shrubland = 10 pts  
< ¼ mile from site maintained as grassland or shrubland = 5 pts  
> ¼ mile from site maintained as grassland or shrubland = 0 pts

**Economic Considerations**

Restoration Costs \_\_\_\_\_  
No restoration required = 10 pts  
Limited restoration required (i.e., soil amendments) = 8 pts  
Moderate restoration required (i.e., light brush control) = 4 pts.  
Extensive restoration required (i.e, reseeding, heavy chipping, Invasive species control, etc.) = 0 pts.

Land Costs \_\_\_\_\_  
*(NOTE: all rental agreements will score 10 pts on this factor)*  
Easement estimated at < \$2,000 per acre = 10 pts  
Easement estimated at \$2,000 - \$4,000 per acres = 7 pts  
Easement estimated at > \$4000 - \$6,000 per acre = 4 pts  
Easement estimated at > \$6,000 to \$7,500 per acre = 2 pts  
Easement estimated at > \$7,500 per acre = 0 pts

**Total Score = \_\_\_\_\_**

Maximum points = 125