

2009 NJ AMA Ranking Criteria

NOTE: 3 of the first 6 questions must be Y for the application to be eligible!		Points
1.	Is the average annual gross farm sales \$75,000 or less for the last three years?	12
2.	Does the farm total less than 50 acres of specialty/vegetable crops/pasture OR less than 200 acres of any other crops?	15
3.	Were USDA program payments less than \$10,000 (total) over the last five years?	8
4.	Is the IRS Schedule F net income more than 75% of the total net household income? (For the previous tax year)	18
5.	For applicants who currently meet the Beginning Farmer definition, was a Farm Operating Loan (private or government) obtained to support the beginning farm operation?	7
6.	Does the rented acreage total more than 50% of the total production acreage of the farm?	11
Answer EITHER 7a or 7b, but not both:		
7a.	Is any part of the land under contract permanently deed restricted for agriculture through the NJ Farmland Preservation Program or any other state/local/private program?	7
7b.	Is the entire land area under contract permanently deed restricted for agriculture through the NJ Farmland Preservation Program or any other state/local/private program?	13
8.	Has the applicant completed all previous or current Farm Bill contract items as originally scheduled (at the time of obligation); or has the applicant not had any contracts at all?	6
Answer EITHER 9a or 9b, but not both:		
9a.	Is the combined soils factor for the predominant soil type(s) greater than 6 and less than 12? (factor includes sheet and rill erosion potential, depth to seasonal high water table, and soil leaching index; range is 3 to 15)	22
9b.	Is the combined soils factor (see above) for the predominant soil type(s) greater or equal to 12?	32
10.	Is there a surface water body (blue-line stream or open water) less than 50' from a crop field or pasture fenceline?	28
11.	Is the land under contract located in a watershed impaired by a pollutant that may have an agricultural origin as determined by NJDEP?	16
12.	Has the applicant completed all previous Farm Bill contracts without any terminations or cancellations; or not had any contracts at all?	14
13.	Will the treatment you intend to implement using AMA result in a considerable reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds, groundwater contamination or point source contamination from confined animal feeding operations?	30
14.	Will the treatment you intend to implement for water conservation or irrigation efficiency using AMA result in a considerable reduction in water use?	10
15.	Will the treatment you intend to implement using AMA result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?	20
16.	Will the treatment you intend to implement using AMA result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?	10
17.	Will the treatment you intend to implement using AMA result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?	20