NJ WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION WORKSHEET
CROPLAND

Client_____ Tract No._____

Date_____ Field No._____

Evaluated by _____ Acres_____

CROPLAND INDEX	POINTS	BENCHMARK	PLANNED
Over-winter Cropland Cover			
Over-winter residue >50%	20		
Over-winter residue 20-50%	10		
Over-winter residue <20%; fall cover crop or small grain	5		
Over-winter residue <20%; no fall cover crop	1	_____	_____
Crop rotation			
Row crop or small grain, with hay	10		
Row crop-small grain	7		
Continuous row crops (no small grain or hay)	1	_____	_____
Crop management			
>10% unharvested crop	10		
5-10% unharvested crop	7		
Total crop harvested, with weeds present	4		
Total crop harvested; no weeds present	1	_____	_____
Percent of field perimeter with a wildlife habitat border (min. 35' wide) of trees, shrubs or grasses not mowed, grazed, burned or disturbed btw. 4/1 & 7/15			
75-100%	20		
50-74%	15		
25-49%	10		
<25%, or no border	1	_____	_____
Wildlife habitat border plant composition			
All buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix if predominately native species (trees, shrubs, grasses and/or forbs). Herbaceous volunteer "weeds," if present, will be considered in this category.	20		
At least half of the buffers and non-cropped areas contain mix of predominately native species, including herbaceous "weeds," (if present). The remainder of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of planted introduced species.	15		
Most of the buffers and other non-cropped areas contain a mix of predominately planted introduced species.	10		
Most of the buffers and other non-cropped areas are predominately tall fescue, invasive plants, or no buffers/non-cropped areas.	1	_____	_____
Answer Section A **or** B (one only)			
A.) Non Grassland bird habitat: Proximity of the field to nearest wildlife cover habitat (area that provides suitable habitat for nesting and/or protective cover), measured from center of field			
<100 feet	20		
100 – 300 feet	15		
301 – 600 feet	10		
>600 feet	1	_____	_____

B.) Early Successional/ Area Sensitive Grassland bird species:

Proximity to predator perch of nest predators	
>600 feet	20
301-600 feet	15
100-300	10
<100 feet	1

(A) Total Cropland Points (100 maximum) _____ _____

(B) Total increase in points (Planned minus Benchmark) _____

This habitat index includes land used for annual row crops (for example, corn, soybeans, small grains, vegetables), orchards, and hay as part of a rotation. Important factors for wildlife habitat are plant diversity, summer food sources, and nesting and protective cover on field edges. Availability of food and cover during the winter are also important.

Residue management reflects the importance of grain and crop residue that remains on the soil surface over winter. The rotation evaluated does not have to match the order listed, but should contain all elements listed.

Crop management primarily indicates amount of food sources, both in summer and winter. Unharvested grain at field edges, in wet spots, or in odd areas provides winter food and cover. Native plants and most weeds are important wildlife food. Introduced plants include species such as Kentucky bluegrass, most fescues, orchardgrass, timothy, and ryegrass and legumes such as red, white or ladino clover.

Wildlife habitat border includes riparian forest buffer, hedgerow, field border and or filter strip, woodland, wetlands and/or shrubby idle area. **These areas cannot be used for turn rows, farm lanes or crop/equipment storage.**