

2010 Eligibility Criteria

- **Farmland preservation area**
- **Conservation plan**
- **Gross Farm Revenue**
- **Qualified cooperating entity**
- **Landowners must sign a statement**

Proposed Eligibility Criteria for 2011

- **Farmland preservation area and consistent with Comp. Plan**
- **Conservation plan**
- **Gross Farm Revenue**
- **Qualified cooperating entity: non-profits must meet DNR eligibility requirements for Stewardship Program**
- **Landowners must sign a Voluntary Agreement for the Sale of an Easement (subject to appraisal and other contingencies)**

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Eliminate redundancy in Ag Capacity Section**
 - **Quality of Soils and % of Cropland/Pasture on parcel are directly related.**
 - **These two factors accounted for 65 out of 225 points.**
 - **Double “whammy” for farms in certain parts of the state.**

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Make Development Pressure Section more meaningful**
 - **Criteria did not effectively capture on-the-ground differences in development pressure.**
 - **Less than 15 point difference between parcels under highest and lowest development pressure.**
 - **This section should be given more overall points.**

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Give more support to local programs and local commitment**
 - **Increase points for community support**
 - **Provide points for repeat applicants**
 - **Increase points for consistency with zoning and planning or having a local PACE ordinance??**
 - **Points for using local money as source of match?**

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Some Criteria just didn't "work" in practice**
 - **Section 7 Financial Considerations: can't give points for bargain sale or grant of less than 50% without having an appraisal and signed offer to purchase.**

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Some Criteria just didn't "work" in practice**
 - **Section 8 Capacity to Manage and Enforce Easements:**
This is should be requirement versus something the cooperating entity gets points for.

Comments on 2010 Ranking Criteria

- **Some Criteria just didn't "work" in practice**
 - **Section 4 Ecological Considerations: some did not make a difference but required a lot of documentation**
 - **Source Water Assessment Area**
 - **Habitat for Endangered or Threatened Species**

Some other things to consider

- ❑ **Points for having matching funds on hand?**
- ❑ **How do we direct funds to strong, locally-supported efforts while helping new programs get started?**
- ❑ **Should we limit number of grants to any one cooperating entity in a year?**
- ❑ **How do we handle really large farms? Or really expensive easements?**