

North Dakota ACEP- ALE Ranking Criteria

Program Questions	Answer Choices	Points
Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, including military installations?	Parcel greater than 3 miles from the protected land boundary	0
	Parcel is greater than 1 miles but less than 3 miles from protected land boundary	4
	Parcel is within 1 mile of protected land boundary	7
	Parcel boundary adjoins protected land boundary	15
Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure?	Parcel greater than 3 miles from other ag. operations and infrastructure	0
	Parcel is 1 mile or greater, but less than 3 miles from other ag. operations and infrastructure	4
	Parcel is within 1 mile from other ag. operations and infrastructure	7
	Parcel adjoins other ag. operations and infrastructure	15
Parcel ability to maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to agricultural use?	Parcel links two noncontinuous corridors of protected agricultural use	15
	Parcel expands agricultural use protected area	6
	Parcel does not increase a protected agricultural use area	0
Parcel contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area?	YES	15
	NO	0
The grassland in the parcel will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement for example Grassland of special environmental significance?	YES	15
	NO	0
Will the eligible cooperating entity pay over 50% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement with its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner?	YES	15
	NO	0
Currently enrolled in a CRP contract set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection?	YES	15
	NO	0

Resource Questions	Answer Choices	Points
Proximity to protected habitats such as WRE, WRP, EWP, EWPR, GRP, state owned Game Productions Areas, USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas, Forest Service Grasslands, and military installations.	Adjacent to offered area	35
	Within 0.5 miles of offered area	20
	0.6 -1.0 miles from offered area	10
	Greater than 1 mile from offered area	5

Resource Questions	Answer Choices	Points
Habitat Biodiversity	Offered area is 1,000 acres or more	35
	Offered area is 999-500 acres	20
	Offered area is 499-250 acres	10
	Offered area is less than 250 acres	5
Species Composition	Offered area is primarily rangeland with 75% or more native species	35
	Offered area is primarily rangeland with 25-74% native species	20
	Offered area is comprised of 4 or more species on pasture/hayland or is rangeland with less than 24% native species	10
	None of the above	5
Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected	50% or less	0
	51-60%	4
	61-70%	8
	71-80%	12
	Greater than 80%	15
Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations	No plan	0
	Existing plan	7
	Existing plan documented and performed by industry professional	15
Will the offered area contribute to geographic regions where the enrollment of particular land use may help achieve National, State, and regional agricultural or conservation goals and objectives, or enhance existing government or private conservation projects?	YES	15
	NO	0
Is the offered area located in an area zoned for agricultural use?	YES	15
	NO	0
Does the eligible entity have past experience managing, monitoring and enforcing easements annually?	YES	15
	NO	0
Land has a current Resource Management System (RMS) conservation plan that meets or exceeds all NRCS standards and specifications OR the applicant agrees to develop a RMS plan above the minimum ACEP-ALE requirements?	YES	25
	NO	0