

APR Parcel Scoresheet for Applications Received

Date:

Prepared By:

Landowner's Name:

Total Acres:

Property Address:

Proposed APR Acres:

Eligibility Thresholds - State ⁽¹⁾				Yes		
Products raised on APR Area are sold in the normal course of business (i.e. commercial operation)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
APR Area in active agricultural production for at least previous two years				<input type="checkbox"/>		
APR Area contains at least 5 contiguous acres of active agricultural land				<input type="checkbox"/>		
APR Area includes site access (both legal & practical)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Eligibility Thresholds - Federal ⁽²⁾				Yes		
ACEP-ALE Area is contiguous (although road and utility easement can bisect)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ACEP-ALE Area contains ≥ 33% open farmland				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ACEP-ALE Area contains ≥ 50% of a combination of prime/state/farmland of local importance or;				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ACEP-ALE Area meets any alternate eligibility criteria (historic/archaeological resource, grazing uses, furthers state or local policy)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ACEP-ALE Area is privately owned or tribal agricultural land				<input type="checkbox"/>		
ACEP-ALE Area owner(s) meets adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations as set forth in 7 CFR Part 1400				<input type="checkbox"/>		
If sod/nursery operation, ACEP-ALE Area meets NRCS tolerance for soil loss ⁽³⁾				<input type="checkbox"/>		
State & Federal Eligibility Comments:						
Proposed APR Area Attributes						
Soils	Acres	Percent %				
Prime Farmland:			85-100%	68-84%	51-67%	≤ 50%
Farmland of Statewide Importance:			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmland of Local Importance ⁽⁴⁾ :						
Soil Description/Comments:					Score (0-75)	
NRCS Qualifier: In some local areas there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, these lands are to be identified by the local agency or agencies concerned. In places, additional farmlands for local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance. 7 CFR s. 657.5						
Size	Acres					
Total APR Land Area		50+	26-50	11-25	5-10	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
APR Area Size Comments:					Score (0-50)	
Open Agriculture	Acres	Percent %				
Land in Open Ag Use		50+ %	26-50%	11-25%	5-10%	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Open Agriculture Comments:					Score (0-75)	
Location	Acres	# of APRs				
Active Commercial APR Land Within 2.5 Mile Radius:			500+ <input type="checkbox"/>	251-500 <input type="checkbox"/>	1-250 <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
Location Comments:					Score (0-50)	
Land Use	Current Land Use (Majority)					
			Row Crops, Small Fruits <input type="checkbox"/>	Hay/Forage Orchard, Vineyard <input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture <input type="checkbox"/>	Tree, Sugarbush, Forestry <input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use Comments:					Score (0-75)	
Highest Potential Land Use	Acres	Percent %				
Open ag land that is comprised of Prime/State Soil			Row Crops, Small Fruits <input type="checkbox"/>	Hay/Forage Orchard, Vineyard <input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture <input type="checkbox"/>	Tree, Sugarbush, Forestry <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential Land Use Comments:					Score (0-50)	
Ownership/Succession			Yes	No		
Land owner is also farm operator			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm owner/operator owns other APR Land with no current Stewardship violations			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm owner/operator has participated in Ag. business training			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm owner/operator has completed a formal business plan (professionally prepared)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Existing ag. infrastructure is well maintained			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm owner has completed a formal succession plan (professionally prepared)			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm owner/operator has successfully completed Farm Viability Enhancement Program (FVEP) or other MDAR Grant Program			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ownership/Succession Comments:					Score (0-75)	

Development Pressure	Prior 5 Year Average				
# of permits issued for new residential construction		25+ <input type="checkbox"/>	15-25 <input type="checkbox"/>	6-15 <input type="checkbox"/>	0-5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Development Pressure Comments:				Score (0-25)	
Community Priorities	Yes	No			
Right to Farm Bylaw (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Community Preservation Act Fund (CPA) (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Open Space Plan incorporates agricultural priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Existing Agricultural Incentive Area or Zoning District (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Related Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Project (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Statewide Conservation Priorities	Yes	No			
Property is within or directly abuts a designated Environmental Justice (EJ) Neighborhood (9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Property includes Whole Farm elements (infrastructure, woodlands, etc.) (10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Property is identified as an urban agriculture priority (11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Property abuts or would connect existing protected open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Property is within NHESP Biomap2 Core Habitat or CNL (__ acres; __ %) (12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Farm operator utilizes Climate Smart and/or healthy soils practices (cover crops, no till, rotational grazing, riparian buffer, habitat linkage, energy efficiency, drought preparedness, invasive species remediation, etc.) (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Property attributes align with any other applicable executive orders (14)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Community and State Priorities Comments:		Score (0-50)			
Potential Financial Support	Likely	Unlikely			
Municipal Funding (5-10%)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Land Trust or other Non-profit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other Grants or Funding Sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Land Owner Bargain Sale or Gift	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Financial Support Comments:					

Tell the Story of the Property Below (how long has the farm operated; where/how products sold; succession plan; agricultural practices; etc.)

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		Score (0-50)	
Total Evaluation Score		0	
Recommendation for Vote of Interest (VOI)	Yes	No	
<i>Comments:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Commonwealth (MDAR) Funded	Federal (NRCS) Funded (2)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Citation References

1. State eligibility requirements in accordance with M.G.L c. 61A, §§ 1 through 5 and 330 CMR 22.00: Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. APR Program policy that applicants who have rejected a prior APR offer may not re-apply within a three-year period.
2. Federal Eligibility Requirements in accordance with USDA Conservation Programs Manual, Part 528 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Subpart D - ACEP-ALE General Information and Eligibility Requirements. Full ACEP-ALE eligibility criteria includes land that i) Has prime, unique or other productive soil; ii) Contains historical or archaeological resources; iii) Enrollment would protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible land; iv) Protecting the land will further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of ACEP. Proposed projects that are supported by the ALCP but do not satisfy applicable ACEP-ALE eligibility requirements may still proceed with APR acquisition, provided that 50% match is achieved through alternate funding source(s). ACEP-ALE funded projects that include contiguous woodlands in excess of 40 acres, or 20% of the ACEP-ALE area (whichever is greater), will be required to complete a forest management plan that meets NRCS standards.
3. NRCS Soil Loss Tolerance or T value is used for qualifying farm practices of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost-share program. Soil loss tolerance is the determination of average annual soil loss erosion rate that can occur with little or no long term degradation of the soil resource on the field thus permitting crop productivity to be sustained economically for an indefinite period of time. T value ranges based on crop rooting depth, soil depth, topography, and soil type/geology. Farm practices used should bring estimated soil loss below the established tolerance "T" value - NRCS MA Field Office Technical Guide (FTOG).
4. Farmland of Local Importance must be identified by the appropriate local agency for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. This farmland may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinances. (USDA National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 622)
5. Right to Farm Ordinance or Bylaw adopted by local municipality generally in support and protection of standard agricultural activities that may otherwise be subject to nuisance related complaints or legal action. Often additional framework included to resolve nuisance related issues. (M.G.L c. 40A, §3; M.G.L c. 90, § 9; M.G.L c. 111, § 125A; M.G.L c. 128, § 1A)
6. Community Preservation Act (CPA) MGL. c. 44B enacted to allow municipality to adopt property tax surcharge of up to 3%, revenues from which to be appropriated for the advancement of four target areas: affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation projects.

7. M.G.L. c. 40L enables the establishment of local agricultural incentive areas that shall be composed principally of agricultural land, land in agricultural or horticultural use, and certain lands contiguous thereto.
8. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP) provides support for cities and towns in MA to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding and other opportunities (MA E.O. No.569)
9. Environmental Justice (EJ) population is a neighborhood where one or more of the following criteria are true based on census block data: 1. Annual median household income is 65% or less of the statewide annual median household income; 2. Minorities make up 40% or more of the population; 3. 25% or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well"; 4. Minorities make up 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income (EEA Environmental Justice Policy 2021; MA E.O. No.552).
10. ME EEA Resilient Lands Initiative and Farmland Action Plan identify support for expanded capacity and funding to protect more Whole Farms through the APR program. Whole Farms generally may include open farmland, forest land, wetlands, and agriculture related infrastructure.
11. MA EEA Urban Agriculture goal to support commercial projects designed to increase the production, processing, and marketing of produce grown and sold in urban centers across the Commonwealth.
12. NHESP (MassWildlife Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program) BioMap2 Core Habitat was developed to identify lands important to the protection of habitats for rare, vulnerable, or uncommon vertebrate, invertebrate, and plants species; priority natural communities; high-quality wetland, vernal pools, aquatic, and coastal habitats; and intact forest ecosystems. Core habitat is critical to the long-term persistence of rare species and other species of conservation concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth. CNL (Critical Natural Landscape) complements Core Habitat and includes large natural landscape blocks that provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience; and includes buffering uplands around coastal, wetland, and aquatic Core habitats to ensure their long-term integrity.
13. MA State Hazard Mitigation & Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) identifies natural hazards and preparedness/adaptation recommendations for both the built environment and natural resources. Specific impacts on commercial agriculture include drought, inland flooding, sea level rise, erosion, spread of invasive species, and other severe weather events
14. Sample Executive Orders that may be applicable: No. 525 South Coast Rail Corridor Plan (land preservation priority areas); No. 618 Biodiversity Conservation priorities