



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED DEC 26 2000

TO: Renee Bahl, State Parks
FROM: Nicole Waldron, Department of Agriculture *Nicole Waldron*
DATE: December 20, 2000
RE: Open Space Reserve Program Rating Criteria

Pursuant to the motion made at the Conservation Acquisition Board meeting this afternoon, below you will find the adopted rating criteria for the Open Space Reserve Program.

The OSRP is designed to be accessed by the following two avenues of compliance which, when approved by the Arizona Department of Agriculture and State Parks, shall qualify for all or a portion of the 10% Public Conservation Account monies:

- Conservation Reduction in Livestock or Crop Production
- Conservation-based Livestock and Crop Production Practices

In accordance with Laws, 2000 chapter 96, section 1, priority will be given to those applications that demonstrate conservation reduction in livestock production by state or federal land lessees.

Pursuant to our conversation on October 11, 2000 and subsequent discussions, I have revised the Arizona Department of Agriculture's rating criteria for the Open Space Reserve Program to reflect our mutual decision to focus the first year of grant awards on applicants who reduce livestock herd sizes on public or private land.

The Department has developed the following formula to calculate the applicants' award benefits. Please let me know if you have questions.

Number of cows removed
Multiplied by .85 (fixed wean percentage rate)

Yields X
Multiplied by 400 (fixed weight per animal variable)

Yields Y

(Note: Reduction of bulls will be compensated at a flat \$1000 a head rate)

Factor Y
Multiplied by .90 (fixed price/cwt.)

Yields Z (One year value of head reduction)
Multiplied by a factor of 1 to 7. (depending on the number of years the applicant intends to maintain the reduction. If the applicant intends to maintain the reduction for a period greater than 7-years, the factor is capped at 7.)

Grant Award

Once the first year of grant awards has been completed, the Arizona Department of Agriculture will evaluate the program and develop criteria for expanding the application process to other eligible individuals.

ELEGIBILITY

The applicant must illustrate a requirement to reduce livestock on the parcel to provide public benefits, such as wildlife species conservation or wildlife habitat (i.e. terms of grazing lease, endangered species issues, NPDES permit, etc.).

RATING CRITERIA

The following is a summary of the criteria by which each applicant will be judged.

1. What percentage of reduction in herd size will be actualized by the application? (Priority will be given to those applications that propose a greater reduction proportional to land parcel size and historic livestock populations.)
2. For what length of time will the actual reduction in herd size be maintained?
 - 1 – 2 Years?
 - 3 – 5 Years?
 - 6 – 8 Years?
 - 9 – 11 Years?