

Subpart A – National Leadership and Assistance to Other Agencies of Government in  
Implementing the FPPA

**403.6 Requests for Determination of Farmland and Land Evaluation Information.**

(a) For sites that are excluded from FPPA due to “committed to urban” or not meeting the criteria of farmland, it is only necessary to complete parts 1 and 3 of Form AD-1006 and check “No” in part 2. (Exclusions are listed in Section 403.4) Note: Agencies can make self-determinations if they have the information outlined in Section 658.4(a) of the rule, but should provide a copy of Form AD-1006 or NRCS CPA-106 to NRCS once the determination has been made.

(b) Other sites requiring farmland determinations and land evaluation information will be sent to the local NRCS field office or state office serving the proposed project on the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form AD-1006 (Exhibit 403.20). Multi-county projects will be sent to the NRCS state office.

(c) NRCS offices will maintain a file of farmland determination requests to include:

(1) Form AD-1006’s and/or Forms NRCS-CPA-106.

(2) Written requests. If written requests do not include a copy of the Form AD-1006, NRCS should provide a copy of the form to the requester to be completed.

(3) Other requests – nature of request to be recorded. For requests or inquiries received from consultants acting on behalf of clients:

(i) Determine if FPPA is applicable.

(ii) If FPPA is applicable, provide copy of Form AD-1006 (Exhibit 403.20) and request site location information.

(iii) The appropriate Soil and Water Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation District should be informed of farmland determination requests.

(iv) The State Conservationist will develop procedures for providing assistance.

**403.7 Responding to Requests for Determination of Farmland and Land Evaluation Information.**

- (a) NRCS will complete Parts II, IV, and V of Form AD-1006.
- (b) NRCS will return copies A and B to the requesting Federal agency within 10 working days of receipt of the request unless a land evaluation has not been completed or a site visit is required (30 working days are allowed if a land evaluation must be completed or a site visit must be made). If more than 10 days are required, NRCS will notify the agency of the need for additional time, up to 30 working days. Exhibit 403.26 is a form letter for this purpose.
- (c) If NRCS fails to complete land evaluations within the 30 working days, and if further delay would interfere with construction activities, the requesting agency should proceed as though the site were not farmland.

**403.8 Design of Land Evaluation Systems to Provide Requested Information.**

Determination of farmland will be based on acceptable soil surveys of the site.

- (a) Where the land evaluation part of a local LESA system does not exist, and where conversions of farmland with Federal assistance are anticipated, the State conservationist will develop a local land evaluation for the purposes of implementing the FPPA.
- (b) The land evaluation will be based on the National Cooperative Soil Survey, NRCS field office technical guides, soil potential ratings or soil productivity ratings, land capability classifications, important farmland determinations, and other appropriate information.
- (c) Where land evaluations are developed in areas lacking completed modern soil surveys, soil survey information in the field office technical guide will be used to indicate kinds of soils and their extent in the area for the purpose of designing the land evaluation. An assessment will be made for updated soil surveys using Exhibits 610-1 and 610-2 or their substitutes (“Sample Evaluation Sheet” and “Soil Survey Evaluation Worksheet” respectively the national Soil Survey handbook). In developing a memorandum of understanding the data from the assessment will be used to explain any potential change in acreage of prime farmland, farmland of Statewide and local importance and unique farmland. The result of the assessment of

Subpart A- National Leadership and Assistance to Other Agencies of Government in  
Implementing the FPPA

403.8(c)

farmland for an update Soil Survey will be included in the FPPA annual report from the State conservationist to the Deputy Chief for Programs.

**403.9 Completing Form AD-1006** (*AD-106 for Corridors*).

Where more than one Federal agency is involved with a project on the site, only one agency should initiate Form AD-1006. "Federal Agency" is the same agency on all places on the form. If the form is being processed by another entity that will receive Federal assistance, the name of the Federal agency providing the assistance that will convert the land must be shown.

(a) Part I (to be completed by requesting Federal agency).

Federal Agency Involved. Name of Federal agency providing the assistance that may lead to conversion.

(b) *Part II (to be completed by NRCS)*

- (1) Indicate the date the request for the land evaluation was received in the NRCS office.
- (2) Answer yes or no to the question, "Does the project contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland?" Soil map units with component(s) of Prime Farmland are 1) prime where 50 percent or more of the component(s) in the soil map unit is prime; 2) statewide importance where less than 50 percent of the component(s) in the soil map unit, but a combination of prime and statewide importance are 50 percent or more of the soil map unit; and 3) local importance where less than 50 percent of the soil component(s) in the soil map unit is prime and Statewide importance, but the total prime, and Statewide, and local importance are 50 percent or more of the soil map unit. All other soil map units should be shown as not important farmland soil map units unless they meet the criteria for Statewide or local importance as defined by State or local units of government or are unique. If the answer is "no", the FPPA does not apply. Check "no" in Part 11 of the form, date the form and return it to the Federal agency as soon as possible. Refer to Section 403.3 for requirements of Statewide and local important farmland and Section 403.4 for exclusions and exempted conversions.

Part 403 – Implementation of the Farmland Protection Policy Act  
403.10(3)

- (3) If the answer is “yes” for one or more of the alternative sites, complete all of Parts II, IV and V for the alternatives that contain farmland and return the form to the requesting Federal agency within the specified time frame in Section 403.7.
- (4) List the number of acres irrigated in the area covered by the LE system. Use only where irrigation is required in order for land to be considered farmland, otherwise enter zero (0).
- (5) List the average farm unit size for the area covered by the LE system based on the list supplied by the State Conservationist. Note that farm size for an area can only be changed with approval from the State Conservationist.
- (6) List the indicator crop used to develop the LE system. In cases where dairy, beef, or other livestock are the major products, list these as the indicator crop.
- (7) List the total amount of farmable land (all land in the area covered by the LE system for which a productivity index has been developed in the land evaluation) and the percentage of all land in the area covered by the LE system that this amount represents. Include the total acres and percent of land that shows a relative value of greater than 0. (See LESA Worksheet #2, Exhibit 403.22).
- (8) List the total amount of farmland as defined in the Act (prime, unique, Statewide, and locally important) and the percentage that this amount represents of the area covered by the LE system (e.g. total the total percent(s) in Column 5 that have prime, unique, Statewide and locally important farmlands. (See Worksheet #2, Exhibit 403.23).
- (9) List the name of the land evaluation system that is being used to answer the land evaluation questions for the sites listed. (i.e., Johnson County, Leforte Parish, Vanderburg Township)
- (10) If the unit of local government has a site assessment system that has been placed on the State conservation list of systems that meet the purpose of the FPPA, list the name of the system. If none exist, indicate “none.”

Subpart A – National Leadership and Assistance to Other Agencies of Government in  
Implementing the FPPA

403.10(10)

(11) Show the date that the land evaluation information is returned to the Federal agency that requested the information.

(c) Part III (to be completed by requesting agencies).

(1) Total acres to be converted directly: Actual acres made non-farmable by the action.

(2) Total acres to be converted indirectly: Acres that will be made non-farmable because of restricted access to them, and acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g., utilities) that would be likely to be converted because of the presence of the infrastructure project.

(3) Total acres in site: Add the acres in A and B and enter on line C.

(d) *Part IV (to be completed by NRCS)*. Complete part IV of the form for alternative sites that contain farmland. In cases where the same location is used for an alternative but design changes are made to reduce the number of acres used or the relative value of farmland converted, each design should be listed as an alternative.

(1) Record acreage in the sites that are prime or unique farmland that are converted both directly and indirectly.

(2) Record acreage in the site that has been designated by a State or unit of local government to be farmland of Statewide or local importance that are converted both directly and indirectly.

(3) List the percentage of farmland (prime, unique, Statewide and locally important) in the area covered by the LE system to be converted. Add the acres in Part IV A and Part IV B. Divide by the amount of farmland as defined in Part II. The result is multiplied by 100. If the percentage being converted is very small compared to the total amount of farmland in the area (i.e. less than 0.001 percent) percentage will be shown as 0.001.

(4) List the percentage of farmland (prime, unique, Statewide and

Part 403 – Implementation of the Farmland Protection Policy Act

403.9(d) (4)

locally important) in the area with a relative value as high or higher than the relative value shown in Part V which the project would convert. Select the relative value in Column 8 of LESA Worksheet #2 that is equal to or higher than the relative value in Part V. Record the percentage given in column 6 on the same line. (Exhibit 403.25)

- (e) *Part V. (to be completed by NRCS).* Compute the weighted average relative value of land (prime, unique, Statewide and locally important) to be converted for the sites. In developing the relative value, the entire site will be considered, both farmland (prime, unique, and Statewide and locally important) and non-farmland.
- (f) *Part VI. (to be completed by requesting agency)* See Section 658.5(b) of the rule (Exhibit 401.24) for site assessment scoring. For projects that have a linear or corridor-type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land, assess the suitability of each site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation described in Section 658.4(a). All criteria for corridor-type sites will be scored as shown in Section 658.5(b) for other sites, except as noted below:
  - (1) Criteria 5 and 6 will not be considered.
  - (2) Criteria 8 will be scored on a scale of 0 to 25 points, and Criteria 11 will be scored on a scale of 0 to 25 points.

In evaluating corridor-type projects, agencies may elect to use form NRCS-CPA-106, which has been designed to assess only the ten criterion required in the rule. See Exhibit 403.27.

- (g) *Part VII. (to be completed by requesting agency)*

#### 403.10 Routing and Disposition of Form AD-1006

(a) Requesting Federal agency sends a copy of AD-1006 to NRCS with Parts I, III, and VI completed along with maps indicating locations of the sites.

(b) NRCS completes Parts II, IV, and V of Form AD-1006 and returns it to the requesting agency. (Retain a copy and return original to requesting agency.)

Subpart A – National Leadership and Assistance to Other Agencies of  
Government in Implementing the FPPA

(c) Requesting Federal agency completes the remainder of Form AD-1006 and returns copy to NRCS.

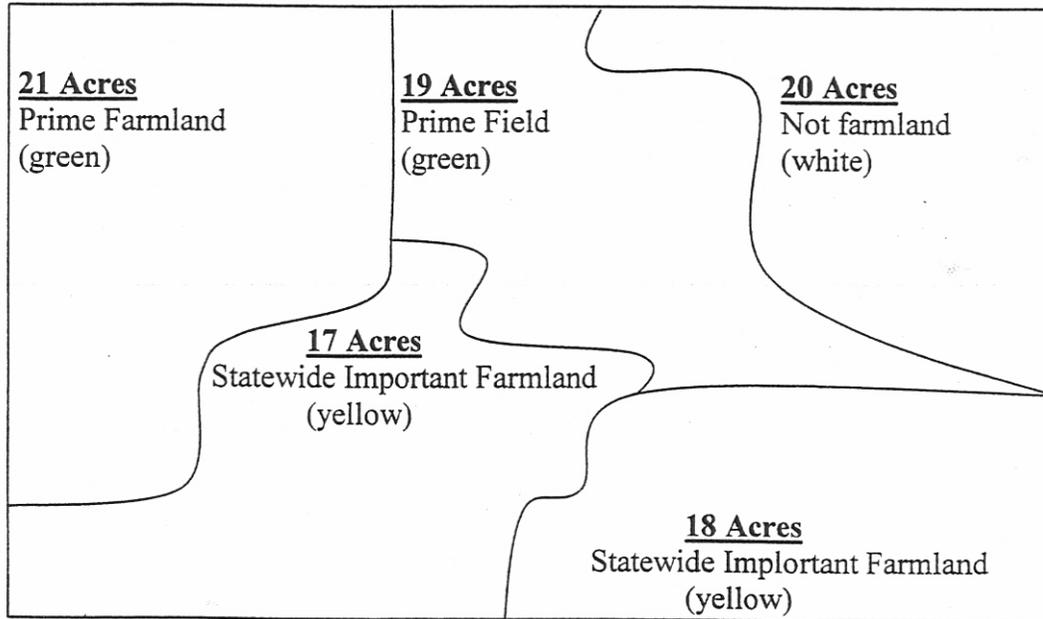
Subpart B - Exhibits

403.21 Map of Farm Site with Farmland.

403.2

**“Farmland” Determination For 100 Acre Site**

- 1. Prime “Farmland”
  - 21 Acres
  - 19 Acres
  - 40 Acres Prime Farmland



- 2. Statewide Important “Farmland”
  - 22 Acres
  - 18 Acres
  - 40 Acres Statewide Important land

403-2

Subpart B - Exhibits

403.22

403.22 LESA Worksheet #2 Showing Farmable Land.

AGRICULTURAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET #2  
DESIGN OF LAND EVALUATION FOR AREA

Adams County, New Jersey

COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP

Agricultural Group	Land Capability	Important Farmland	Potential or Productivity	Percent	Acres	Relative Value
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	I	Prime	90-100	7	35,000	100
2	II	Prime	90-100	+8	+40,000	86
3	II	Prime	75-90	+5	+25,000	80
4	II	Statewide	70-90	+5	+25,000	60
5	III	Statewide	50-70	+15	+35,000	50
6	IV	Not Important	30-50	+7	+40,000	30
7	V	Not Important	30-50	+7	+50,000	20
8	VI	Not Important	<b>20-50</b>	+6	+50,000	10
9	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0
10	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0

Farmable land in Adams County

- productivity shown for group 1 through 8
- total percent of groups 1 through 8 = 60%
- total acres of groups 1 through 8 = 300,000

403-25

Subpart B - Exhibits

403.23

LESA Worksheet #2 Showing Farmland.

403.23

AGRICULTURAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET #2  
DESIGN OF LAND EVALUATION FOR AREA

Adams County, New Jersey

COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP

Agricultural Group	Land Capability	Important Farmland	Potential or Productivity	Percent	Acres	Relative Value
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	I	Prime	90-100	7	35,000	100
2	II	Prime	90-100	+8	+40,000	86
3	II	Prime	75-90	+5	+25,000	80
4	II	Statewide	70-90	+5	+25,000	60
5	III	<i>Statewide</i>	50-70	+15	+35,000	50
6	IV	Not Important	30-50	7	40,000	30
7	V	Not Important	30-50	7	50,000	20
8	VI	Not Important	20-50	6	50,000	10
9	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0
10	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0

**"Farmland" covered by the FPPA**

Groups 1 through 5 contain prime and statewide important farmland  
 Total percent of "farmland in county" (group 1 through 5) = 40%  
 Total acres of "farmland" in county ( group 1 through 5 ) = 200,000

403-27

Subpart B - Exhibits

403.24

403.24 LESA Worksheet #4 Showing Relative Value of Site.

AGRICULTURAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET #4

Average site relative value

Adams County, New Jersey

COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP

Agricultural Group	Relative value for each group	Number of acres in site for group	Product of relative value and number of acres
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	100	50	5,000
2			
3	80	40	3,200
4			
5			
6	30	10	300
7			
8			
9			
10			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>XXXXXXXX</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,500</b>

$$\text{Average Site Value} = \frac{\text{Product of Relative value and acres}}{\text{Acres in the Site}}$$

$$\text{Average Site Value} = \frac{8,500}{100} = 85 \quad \text{Site "A"}$$

403-29

Subpart B - Exhibits

403.25

403.25 LESA Worksheet #2 Showing Percentage of Land with Relative Value.

**AGRICULTURAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET #2**  
**DESIGN OF LAND EVALUATION FOR AREA**

Adams County, New Jersey

COUNTY OR TOWNSHIP

Agricultural Group	Land Capability	Important Farmland	Potential or Productivity	Percent	Acres	Relative Value
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1	I	Prime	90-100	7	35,000	100
2	II	Prime	90-100	+8	40,000	<b>86</b>
3	II	Prime	75-90	5	25,000	80
4	II	Statewide	70-90	5	25,000	60
5	III	Statewide	50-70	15	35,000	50
6	IV	Not Important	30-50	7	40,000	30
7	V	Not Important	30-50	7	50,000	20
8	VI	Not Important	20-50	6	50,000	10
9	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0
10	VII	Not Important	0	20	100,000	0

**Farmland with relative value as high or higher than proposed site**

- ▶ Relative value of site "A" is 85
- ▶ Group 1 and 2 have a relative value of 85 or higher
- ▶ Percent of county contained in group 1 and 2 is 15 percent

403-31

U.S. Department of Agriculture

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name Of Project		Federal Agency Involved			
Proposed Land Use		County And State			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: %			
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS			
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Site Assessment Criteria <i>(These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))</i>		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		160	0	0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland <i>(From Part V)</i>		100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment <i>(From Part VI above or a local site assessment)</i>		160	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Reason For Selection:					

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106  
(Rev. 1-91)

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project		5. Federal Agency Involved	
2. Type of Project		6. County and State	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ %
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	0	0	0	0

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

**PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)**

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15				
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10				
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20				
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20				
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10				
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25				
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5				
8. On-Farm Investments	20				
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25				
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10				
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100				
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor