

# WORKING FARMLAND

Working Farmland	-----Criteria and Rating-----									--Relative Weights--			Comments		
	Lowest Value				Neutral				Highest Value	Workshop Score	Assigned Weight	Percent Weight			
Group 1 -- land characteristics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Operation1	Operation2	1 to 5	1 to 5		
Land cover	non-ag,non-forest (21-31)		wetlands (90,95)	forested (41-52)	open water (11)		grasslands (71)	pasture (81)	cultivated (82)	Map Algebra A (maximum value from group)		4.0		National Land Cover Data (NLCD) 2001 classification	
Cropland by type with an index relating to productivity or return	82,83,84,87	63				50,71	4,24,26,27,28,36,43,44,46,58,61,62,88	1,5,10,25,	2,11	Map Algebra A		3.3		USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)	
Prime farmland soils					not prime				prime	Map Algebra A		4.2		Montgomery County soils not available in digital format	
Group 1 Results (each cell receives highest rating from any one of 3 layers)															
Group 2 -- locational factors															
Density (population)	urban				transition				rural		Overlay 1	3.7	5	71.4	Census 2000 population per square mile: rural <200, transition 200-500, urban >500; related to PIZA layer
Primary roads -- Interstate and US	< 0.25 mi.				0.25 - 1 mi.				> 1 mi.		Overlay 1	2.9	2	28.6	Interstate and US highways
Group 2 Results													7	100.0	
Group 1 Results											Overlay 2			60	Enter weight for group 1 results
Group 2 Results											Overlay 2			40	Calculated weight for group 2 results
														100	
Group 3 -- areas not rated (cells not counted in final results)															
Developed land (from land cover)															Added to pick up developed land outside of municipal boundaries and infrastructure; developed land not rated in final map
Military bases															Military bases not rated in the final map
Waterbodies															Waterbodies are not rated in final map
Lands managed for conservation & open space not farmland preservation															Lands already in permanent conservation or open space status including preserved farmland, state parks, riparian buffers, and others.
Note: Assigned weight: 1 to 5 with 5 the most important for conservation of agricultural working landscapes; relative weights may be changed when evaluating model results to achieve the best balance between the multiple factors.															
Note: Cell size is 98.6 feet or 30 meters on a side or about 9,687 square feet or one-fifth acre. This is consistent with the lowest resolution of the available --land cover data (30-meter resolution); most of the data layers used in the model are mapped at a scale of 1:24,000 or better which implies precision to plus or minus 40 feet or less.															
Sources: The criteria were developed by project teams and technical advisors from 2003 through 2006, including the following: William B. Farris, CGIA and Division of Coastal Management, Land Suitability Analysis, 2003; Frederick Steiner, <i>The Living Landscape</i> ; Carteret County Land Suitability Analysis; Steiner et al, A Decade with LESA; NRCS Farmland Protection Program Attachment 3; Conservation Trust for North Carolina, Farmland Conservation Potential in the Progress Energy Region, 2005; Tar River Land Conservancy, Farmland Suitability in North Carolina, 2006, Sustainable Sandhills focus group, 2007.															