

**APPENDIX H
FARMLAND ASSESSMENT**

The following corridor assessment criteria is used to determine the score of each alternative on Form SCS-CPA-106, *Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects*.

CORRIDOR-TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria are to be used for projects that have a linear or corridor-type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land. These include utility lines, highways, railroads, stream improvements, and flood control systems. Federal agencies are to assess the suitability of each corridor-type site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation information.

1. How much land is in non-urban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended?
 - More than 90 percent - 15 points
 - 90 to 20 percent - 14 to 1 point(s)
 - Less than 20 percent - 0 points

2. How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in non-urban use?
 - More than 90 percent - 10 points
 - 90 to 20 percent - 9 to 1 point(s)
 - Less than 20 percent - 0 points

3. How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last 10 years?
 - More than 90 percent - 20 points
 - 90 to 20 percent - 19 to 1 point(s)
 - Less than 20 percent - 0 points

4. Is the site subject to state or unit of local government policies or programs to protect farmland or covered by private programs to protect farmland?
 - Site is protected - 20 points
 - Site is not protected - 0 points

5. Is the farms unit(s) containing the size (before the project) as large as the average-size farming unit in the County? (Average farm sizes in each county are available from the NRCS field offices in each state. Data are from the latest available Census of Agriculture, *Acreage of Farm Units in Operation with \$1000 or more in sales*).
 - As large or larger - 10 points
 - Below average - Deduct 1 point for each 5 percent below the average, down to 0 points if 50 percent or more below average - 9 to 0 points

6. If the site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become non-farmable because of interference with land patterns?
 - Acreage equal to more than 25 percent of acres directly converted by the project - 25 points
 - Acreage equal to between 25 percent and 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 24 to 1 point(s)

- Acreage equal to less than 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 0 points

7. Does the site have available adequate supply of farm support services and markets, i.e., farm suppliers, equipment dealers, processing and storage facilities and farmers' markets?

- All required services are available - 5 points
- Some required services are available - 4 to 1 point(s)
- No required services are available - 0 points

8. Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage buildings, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures?

- High amount of on-farm investment - 20 points
- Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 19 to 1 point(s)
- No on-farm investment - 0 points

9. Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to non-agricultural use, reduce the demand for farm support services so as to jeopardize the continued existence of these support services and thus, the viability of the farms remaining in the area?

- Substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 25 points
- Some reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 24 to 1 point(s)
- No significant reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 0 points

10. Is the kind and intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of surrounding farmland to non-agricultural use?

- Proposed project is incompatible to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 10 points
- Proposed project is tolerable to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 9 to 1 point(s)
- Proposed project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 0 points