EVALUATION

PERSONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TOOL

An official publication of Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management

Latest Revision: 2013
EVALUATION
PERSONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TOOL

Each member has the option to complete the evaluation by himself, or with the assistance of the Delta F.A.R.M. staff. If you choose to complete the evaluation by yourself, please return the completed Evaluation to Delta F.A.R.M. before March 1. An enclosed return envelop has been provided for you convenience.

**General Information:**
*Please fill out each blank completely*

Farm Name___________________________________________________
Name of Landowner or Operator___________________________________
Mailing Address______________________________________________
City, State, Zip______________________________
Office or Cell Phone No.:______________________________
Email Address:________________________________________________

**Land Use:**
*Please fill out each blank completely base upon the cropping year just completed*

Total Acres (owned, rented, and/or leased)________________________
Cotton______________________________________________________
Rice_________________________________________________________
Soybeans_____________________________________________________
Corn_________________________________________________________
Wheat________________________________________________________
Milo_________________________________________________________
Catfish_______________________________________________________
Other Crops_________________________________________________
Timber or lands not farmed_____________________________________


**1st Assessment Tool**

**Instructions:** In this section, use the answers “yes,” “no,” or “n/a” to accurately answer the stated question in the specific context of your individual farming operation during the immediate past cropping year. Only use “n/a” if the mentioned practice does not apply to your farming operation. For example, an “n/a” would be an appropriate answer for anyone answering questions related to aquaculture that does not grow catfish, prawns, or other freshwater aquaculture commodities. This specific information is confidential, but will be added to the information gathered from all other Delta F.A.R.M. members to document the composite environmental benefits generated by all Delta F.A.R.M. members.

**Soil Conservation, Water Quality & Water Supply**

Do you... 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes – No – N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a Soil Conservation Plan?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have filter strips or buffers on your farm?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have grass waterways (vegetative ditches)?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have terraces or contour farm on extreme slopes?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use conservation tillage practices?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use water-control structures (pipes with riser)?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage crop residues?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-soil or chisel in the fall?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotate crops?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have raised turnrows or pads around your fields?</td>
<td>______________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Soil Conservation, Water Quality & Water Supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you...</th>
<th>Yes – No – N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double crop?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use cover crops?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain riparian areas near water (buffers)?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold winter water on your fields?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain good grass cover on exterior pond levees?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use 6/3 water management system in catfish ponds?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extend catfish pond drains past the toe of the levee?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize seining pads in catfish ponds?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision landform fields for irrigation?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use straight levees in rice production?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use zero grade fields in rice production?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use side inlet irrigation in rice production?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a flowmeter to monitor water use?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a timer on irrigation water wells?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capture and use surface water for irrigation?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a formal tail water recovery system?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a formal on farm storage pond?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use sprinkler irrigation systems?</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use PHAUCET? ___________

Use Surge valves? ___________

Use Soil Moisture Probes to schedule irrigation events? ___________

Use the Mississippi Irrigation Scheduling Tool, Arkansas Irrigation Scheduling Tool, or a similar “check book” style irrigation scheduling tools? ___________

**Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Petroleum Stewardship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you...</th>
<th>Yes – No – N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have filter strips around mixing facilities?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have back-siphon check valves?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize a closed or a semi-closed mixing systems?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use precision application technologies?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use drift reduction BMPs (wind, droplet size, etc.)?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Integrated Pest Management System (IPM)?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select genetics packages that reduce pesticide use?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotate crops?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage crop residues?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impound winter water?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use variable rate mixed fertilizer applications?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a “spring burn down” to manage winter weeds?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use resistance management tools and strategies?</td>
<td>____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Optimize your planting times for early harvest? __________

Use seed treatments? __________

Apply multiple nitrogen applications? __________

Use an independent crop consultant? __________

**Hazardous and Solid Waste Disposal**

*Do you...*  
Yes – No – N/A

Recycle empty pesticide containers? __________

Recycle used oil? __________

Recycle used batteries? __________

Recycle used tires? __________

Recycle used polypipe? __________

**Wildlife Management and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement**

*Do you...*  
Yes – No – N/A

Have a wildlife management plan? __________

Leave crops for wildlife? __________

Maintain riparian areas around rivers and wetlands? __________

Plant supplemental food sources for wildlife? __________

Flood fields for waterfowl? __________

Construct or maintain habitat for wildlife? __________
Instructions: In this section, producers should answer the following questions to the best of their ability, using numeric values. Most questions are intended to quantify the amount of voluntary conservation practiced on your farm. This specific information is confidential, but will be added to the information gathered from all other Delta F.A.R.M. members to document the composite environmental benefits generated by all Delta F.A.R.M. members.

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation that drains through filter strips or grass waterways. _______________________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation that you can control water through the use of water control structures. (i.e. slotted board risers, flash board risers, overfall pipes, etc...). ______________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation on which you: practice no-till________________________________________
minimum till________________________________________
reduced-tillage_______________________________________
conventional tillage___________________________________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation that has been land formed. ________________________________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation, which is contained by a levee system in the form of raised turnrows or pads. __________________________________________________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation, which is flooded each year for waterfowl, erosion control, and/or weed control. __________________________________________________

Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation, which is in a straight levee production system. ________________________________
Estimate the number of acres on your farming operation, which is irrigated with:
Groundwater ___________________________________________________________________
Surface water from natural ditches, streams and lakes_________________
Formal tail water recovery system__________________________
Formal on-farm storage system___________________________________________
Phaucet________________________________________________________
Surge Valves________________________________________________________
Use of Soil Moisture Probes to trigger irrigation events______________
Use of other irrigation scheduling tools to trigger irrigation___________

Estimate the number of acres of:
Timberland________________________________________________________
Wildlife food plots______________________________________________
Recreational ponds or lakes________________________________________
Acres of riparian areas (buffers)____________________________________
Lands you consider wildlife habitat___________________________________

Estimate how many rolls of polypipe you recycle each year. __________

Estimate the number of acres you have enrolled in the following USDA Programs:
CRP____________________________________________________________________________
WRP____________________________________________________________________________
WHIP________________________________________________________
CSP____________________________________________________________________________

Estimate the number of acres you have “treated” with conservation practices partially funded through EQIP:
Pads __________________________________________________________________________
Pipes___________________________________________________________________________
Underground Irrigation Lines_______________________________________________
Tail Water Recovery System__________________________________________
On-Farm Storage________________________________________________
Other: Specify_________________________________________________________________
Other: Specify_________________________________________________________________
**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS**

Delta F.A.R.M. encourages all members, cooperators, sponsors, and other interested parties to submit comments or questions. The success of the program depends on the cooperation, guidance, and help of its members and concerned parties. If you have any ideas or suggestions to strengthen the program or the evaluation, please submit your suggestions or comments to:

*Delta F.A.R.M.*
P.O. Box 257
433 Stoneville Road
Stoneville, MS 38776

Web: www.deltafarm.net
Phone: (662) 686-3370
Fax: (662) 686-3382

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