

# ON-FARM CONSERVATION:

## Resource Inventory Checklist

The Resource Inventory Checklist focuses on current agricultural land use, farm infrastructure and natural resources. This worksheet will help you assess both your current situation and future-plans for your land whether you manage it yourself or lease it to a farmer. Answer the questions based on what is happening now on your farm and what you hope will happen in the future. If you lease your land, you may want to work on this with your tenant. When completed, this checklist can serve as a useful tool as you take steps toward improving the conservation practices on your land.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

#### Grassland

1. Do you have grassland on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

2. If you have grassland, how do you use it? (*select as many as apply*)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Fallow ( <i>e.g. not in use, naturalized or mown</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Pasture ( <i>e.g. grazed</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Same ground is both grazed and cut for hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If you have hay land, what type of hay operation do you have? (*select as many as apply*)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. For on-farm use ( <i>e.g. feeding livestock on property</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. For sale ( <i>e.g. off-farm use</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Specialty ( <i>e.g. square bales for horses, alfalfa</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Round bales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For trade ( <i>e.g. in exchange for use of land</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. If you have grazed pasture, what type of livestock do you have? *(select as many as apply)*

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Goats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Horses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Conventional Cropland (e.g. row crops like corn and soybeans)**

5. Do you have traditional cropland on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

6. If you have conventional cropland, what type of crop are you producing? *(select as many as apply)*

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Corn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Beans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. If you or your lessor produce a conventional crop, how it is it used? *(select as many as apply)*

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Crops used on farm (e.g. corn for feed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Crops sold off-farm for profit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Crops both used on farm and sold off-farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Specialty Cropland**

8. Do you have specialty cropland on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

9. If you have specialty cropland, what specialty crop are you growing? (*select as many as apply*)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Vegetable Production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Fruit/Orchard/Berries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Agritourism ( <i>e.g. pick your own, corn maze</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Silviculture ( <i>e.g. manage/plant trees, nursery stock</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Horticulture ( <i>e.g. cut flowers, nursery stock</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. If you have specialty cropland, how do you use your specialty crop? (*select as many as apply*)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Pick your own	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Off-farm sales ( <i>e.g. farmers market, restaurants</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Crops both picked on farm and sold off farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Is there a market for the specialty crop you produce or what you'd like to produce?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

## **FARM INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Fencing**

1. Do you have adequate boundary fencing? (*e.g. Does your fencing keep your livestock on your property?*)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

2. Do you have adequate interior fencing? (e.g. Is the farm broken into different fields?)
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
3. Would you consider using temporary electric fence to maximize rotational grazing? (e.g. using temporary fence to divide large fields into several smaller fields to be grazed one at a time?)
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know

### **Structures**

4. Do you have the farm structures you need for your operation? (e.g. barns, shade structures, silos, equipment or hay storage)
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
5. Are the existing farm structures in good, usable condition?
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know

### **Equipment**

6. Do you have the adequate equipment for your farm operation?
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
7. If you do not have adequate equipment, would you consider renting it?
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know

## **Water Supply**

8. Do you have an adequate water supply for your livestock?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

9. Do you have an adequate water supply for your crops?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

10. Do you feel your water system could be updated/improved?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

## **Human Resources/Labor**

11. Do you have adequate labor to operate your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

12. If not, do you have a labor force available to you?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. Do you know what types of soils are on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

2. Are there water features on your farm? *(select as many as apply)*

- Yes
  - Stream Pond
  - Seasonally flowing streams
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- I don't know

3. If you have water features and livestock, do your livestock have access to streams and ponds?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

4. Are there environmentally sensitive areas on your farm? *(select as many as apply)*

- Yes
  - Wet Areas
  - Springs
  - Sink Holes
  - Steep Hillside
  - Special Plants or Trees
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- I don't know

5. Are there eroding areas on your farm? *(select as many as apply)*

- Yes
  - Gullies
  - Ditches
  - Exposed Soil
  - Sloughs in Hillside
  - Streambank
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- I don't know

6. Do you have forest on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

7. What type of trees are on your property?

8. How do you use your forest? (*select as many as apply*)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
a. Timber products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Enjoyment of the forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Shade for livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Hunting (Personal Use)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Hunt Club Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Are there areas where you would consider planting trees?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

### **Conservation Planning**

10. What are your conservation goals for your property? (*select as many as apply*)

- Wildlife Habitat
- Erosion Reduction
- Water Quality
- Aesthetic Value
- Native Species
- Organic Farming
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't know

11. Do you soil test to determine what fertilizer you might need?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

12. Do you have a conservation plan?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

13. Do you have a nutrient management plan?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

14. Do you have any conservation practices on your farm?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

15. If you do have conservation practices, were they installed using any government or outside (local or non-profit) funding?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

16. Do you know your local conservation agencies? (e.g. Farm Service Agency, Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil & Water Conservation District)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

17. Do you know your local natural resource professionals at the conservation agencies?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

*This resource was initially developed by Dana D. York, DBA through her consulting work for American Farmland Trust. This resource was further developed by Great Lakes Conservation Connect, a partnership among American Farmland Trust, Utah State University, The IPM Institute of North America, Cornell Cooperative Extension (New York), and Wood Soil and Water Conservation District (Ohio), with support from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Project partners work with retailers, farmers and landowners to implement agricultural practices that will improve water quality of the Great Lakes. More information about the project can be found at: [www.farmland.org/greatlakes](http://www.farmland.org/greatlakes)*

*For more resources about on-farm conservation, transferring your farm or ranch, and farmland protection visit American Farmland Trust's Farmland Information Center at: [www.farmlandinfo.org/landowner-options](http://www.farmlandinfo.org/landowner-options)*



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