



[http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/ConservationChoices_2012_FINAL%20\(1\).pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/ConservationChoices_2012_FINAL%20(1).pdf)

Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship

Bernard Daigle

What is Envirothon Competition?



Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewards



Helps reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff; may add organic matter to the soil.



Helps protect or improve water quality.



May help increase profits by reducing costs, increasing production or both.



Provides wildlife habitat or food.



Helps improve air quality by reducing odors or other pollutants.



May qualify for state or federal cost-share assistance.

What is Scenario?

Based on current topic -
Agricultural Soil and Water
Conservation Stewardship

Worth 1/3 of mark

Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife

Most important part of competition

Important to know what judges
are looking for



How does it work?

- Given scenario Sunday evening
- Opportunity to ask questions (all teams together)
- Given necessary materials
- Sequestered for 3-4 hours that evening
- Have additional 30 minutes next morning

Scenario Presentation

Two rounds of judging

Teams present to panel of 5 judges

Maximum duration 20 minutes

Timer will let you know 5, 2 ,1 minute left

Stop at 20 minutes

Top 3 **overall** teams will present second time



Who are the judges (5)?

Experts in at least one of the fields

Good understanding of current topic

They are **not** the enemy



A well-balanced presentation is easy to judge



Envirothon NB Judges' Scoring Sheet for Team Presentations

Team Number _____
Room Number _____
Judges Initials _____

Scale for Scoring		
0 -	Not at all	6 - Good
2 -	poor or poorly	8 - Excellent
4 -	fair or slightly well	10 - Outstanding

Part I Preparation & Presentation of Plan (60 points maximum)

Circle score	
0 2 4 6 8 10	A. How well did the presentation address or identify:
0 2 4 6 8 10	• The interrelationship between the environment, natural resources, and the different natural resource management strategies?
0 2 4 6 8 10	• All the different players/interest groups affected by the problem?
0 2 4 6 8 10	• The major natural resources areas (soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife)?
0 2 4 6 8 10	• The current issue?
0 2 4 6 8 10	• The specific environmental problem and related issues regarding the problem?
0 2 4 6 8 10	B. Were references and resources cited in the team presentation?

Part I - Subtotal

Part II - Application of Data (80 points maximum)

Circle score	
0 2 4 6 8 10	A. Team demonstrated a solid understanding of political issue(s) related to the problem (regulations, mandates, impact on political system/community).
0 2 4 6 8 10	B. Team demonstrated a solid understanding of ecological/environmental issue(s) related to the problem.
0 2 4 6 8 10	C. The team demonstrated a solid understanding of economic issue(s) related to the problem including the cost and benefits of the proposed plan, cost of implementing the plan, economic impact on local resources, cost of doing nothing, future costs, funding source(s), etc.
0 2 4 6 8 10	D. The team demonstrated a solid understanding of social and/or cultural issue(s) related to the problem (private property rights, traditions, clean and healthy environment, right to farm, urban issues, cultural issues, environmental justice).
0 2 4 6 8 10	E. The team presented one viable solution to the problem addressing the resource issue.
0 2 4 6 8 10	F. The main parts were clearly stated and supported.
0 2 4 6 8 10	G. Solution in the presentation has potential to be applied or implemented with long term sustainability to natural resources.
0 2 4 6 8 10	H. Did the solution reflect or address the concerns of all affected groups and issues?

Part II - Subtotal

Part III - Quality of Presentation (40 points maximum)

Circle score	
0 2 4 6 8 10	A. Presentation was well organized with a clear introduction and strong conclusion.
0 2 4 6 8 10	B. Participants enhanced the presentation (eye contact, gestures, voice inflection, originality, exhibited professionalism, etc.).
0 2 4 6 8 10	C. Visual aids were used to make major points and show conclusions. (Visual aids should be correct, eye appealing, readable, neat, etc.).
0 2 4 6 8 10	D. Questions were answered logically and concisely by all team members participating.

Part III - Subtotal

Part IV - Required Elements (20 points maximum)

Circle score	
0 2 4 6 8 10	A. Add up to ten points for team member participants in presentation. (Each team member gets up to 2 points for equal oral participation in presentation).
0 1 2 3 4 5	B. Add up to five points if the presentation was accomplished in the allotted time scale and the team made effective use of their time. (Time scale is 17-20 minutes).
0 1 2 3 4 5	C. Add up to five points if the presentation accomplished the task of presenting a plan.

Part IV - Subtotal

5 pts : 17-20 min	4 pts : 15-16 min	3 pts : 13-14 min	2 pts : 11-12 min	1 pt : 9-10 min
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Final Score	
Total points for part I (60 maximum)	
Total points for part II (80 maximum)	
Total points for part III (40 maximum)	
Total points for part IV (20 maximum)	
Final Score (out of 200 points)	

Scale for scoring (general)

- 0 Not at all
- 2 Major misconceptions and gaps; ineffective, inadequate, inappropriate
- 4 Some misconceptions and flaws, minimally effective, somewhat appropriate
- 6 Complete and accurate; effective, adequate, and appropriate
- 8 Complete, very detailed, logical, ideas well supported and well organized; highly effective, all details appropriate
- 10 Profound, in-depth, done in an insightful manner; extremely effective, points to a most effective strategy

Sample Outline

- Introduction (topic and team members)
- Background (tell judges about the situation)
- Plan (how to address the problem)
- Implementation (what needs to be done)
- Benefits (society, environment, economy, etc.)
- Other????





General comments

- You have 20 minutes – use it!
- Use strengths of your team
- Avoid gimmicks (keep it serious)
- Areas of concern when preparing
 - Forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils
 - Using references
 - Political issues (legislation, regulations)
 - Economic issues (should not be problem)
 - Environmental issues are key
- Make sure you have time to PRACTICE



How to prepare

Study resource materials

Focus on the key topics and learning objectives

Know what judges are looking for (scoring sheet)

Make use of your team's strong points

Work on introduction

Work on **strategies**

PRACTICE



Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship

Key Topics

1. Soil and Water Conservation BMPs; their purpose and implementation.
2. How are soil and water conservation BMPs interrelated to the management of wildlife, forestry and aquatic systems?
3. How do agriculturists maintain a balance between their quality of life versus the quality of the environment?

Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship

Learning Objectives

- 1, Identify and recommend soil and water conservation best management practices in agriculture.
2. Describe the role of the federal government in conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.
3. Identify the concept of soil quality/health to provide the needed functions for the conservation planning process.
4. Identify various types of soil erosion and utilize different methods to estimate and predict soil erosion to assess land use impacts.
 - a. RUSLE 2 Equation
 - b. Aerial Photographs
 - c. Topographic Maps
 - d. Soil Maps
 - e. USDA Classification System
 - f. Soil Surveys
5. Explain why land-use planning is important to our ecosystems and to our economy to achieve sustainable agriculture.

What do I mean by “strategies”

- **Focus on Key Topics**
- **Best Management Practices** (Conservation Choices)
- **Ways to control sediment and improve water quality**
- **Tools: Maps, photos, LiDAR**
- **Impacts on wildlife, forestry and aquatics**
- **Financial Aid Programs**
 - **Federal** (Canadian Grants Business Centre – Farm Grants)
 - **Provincial** (Agriculture Direct Loans, New Entrant Farmer Loan Program, Others ?)

Materials you will be using for your presentation

Poster Boards – maximum of 3 (may use both sides)

Use colored markers only (no printed material or pictures)

15 cue cards (3 x 5 inches) must be hand written

Other materials that may be provided at competition





Thank you