



Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Educational Foundation
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Virginia's Dominion Envirothon - 2018 Oral Presentation Problem

Pasture and grasslands serve as a unique resource to citizens and the environment throughout the United States. Virginia is home to 3.1 million total pasture acres and 1.3 million acres of harvested forage¹. These lands can serve as a source of financial income, a foundation for recreational activities, a source of habitat for wildlife, and protection for the quality of our natural resources, especially soil and water. In order for these lands to meet the highest level of productivity and profitability, it is imperative that all land owners, citizens, and government officials work together to implement efficient and environmentally sound practices.

The Jones Family has owned and operated their 28.2 acre property in Franklin County, Virginia for 50 years. For at least the last 10 years, the property has been severely mismanaged through overgrazing and poor nutrient management. Thanks to recent educational opportunities, the Jones family has learned that there are ways they can improve the sustainability and profitability of their property. In order to keep their farm, the Jones family has hired your team to develop a farm management plan to improve the farm's productivity with conservation in mind. The property consists of a total of 28.2 acres of pasture and a total of 33.24 acres including barns and green houses. The Jones family is only seeking assistance with the management of their pasture system but you may include use of the other facilities if necessary.

Envirothon Challenge:

Your team has been tasked with developing a farm management plan to assist the Jones family in improving the profitability and sustainability of their farm. Your plan will be presented to the Jones family.

Your presentation should address the following in addition to the objectives provided in the Presentation Score Sheet:

- Economic profitability
- A nutrient management plan and other appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and how they impact livestock production, pest management, wildlife habitat maintenance, soil health, and water quality.
- Carbon Sequestration

i. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)