

Socially Disadvantaged EQIP Fund Pool Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet <u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u>				
Applicant Name:				
Evaluator Name:				
Date:	Batching Number:	Application No:		
<p>EQIP is a competitive financial assistance program and applications are screened and ranked based on the expected conservation benefits of planned practices in the EQIP schedule of operations. This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible applicant applying for financial assistance. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, application batching periods are established for purposes of ranking and funding decisions. A screening worksheet can be processed for each application batching period. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute an agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>				
Socially Disadvantaged EQIP Fund Pool Priority Resource Concerns				
<p>Directions: Answer the questions below to determine High or Low Priority. Designate the appropriate priority in ProTracts. Only rank High priority applications.</p>				
<p>All applications for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer EQIP Fund Pool will be considered for veteran priority status before, and regardless, of all other screening criteria. DO NOT assign a Tracking Code to ANY application.</p>				
<p>If Yes to all, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No to any, continue to the next section of screening criteria.</p>	<p>Application screening priority is 'High' if the following is true:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant is a veteran farmer (VFR) who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and/or Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. 2. The VFR must a) not have operated a farm; or b) not have operated a farm for more than 10 consecutive years. 3. For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a VFR entity, all members must meet the definition of VFR. 4. Applicant self-certified as a veteran, a beginning and a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher on the CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application 			
Did applicant meet the veteran screening priority? (check box for yes or no)	Yes		No	

<p>If the applicant does not meet the criteria as a veteran farmer then priority will be based on the following screening priorities for Low and High.</p>			
<p>If Yes to any, application is a Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No to all, High Priority Status in ProTracts</p>	<p>In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Had a NRCS contract cancelled or terminated due to circumstances within their control – and/or, b. Failed to implement contract items in an existing EQIP contract according to the schedule in Form, NRCS-CPA-1155, “Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations”, and the contract was modified to reschedule contract items – installation delays were not due to NRCS error or design delay or adverse weather conditions outside the participant’s control – and/or, c. Failed to implement rescheduled contract items agreed to according to Form, NRCS-CPA-153, “Agreement Covering Non-Compliance with Provisions of Contract”, and Form, NRCS-CPA-1156, “Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract”, -and/or, d. Installed conservation practices with financial assistance from NRCS that have not been maintained according to the practice operations and maintenance for the practice lifespan. 		
	<p>Application Screening Priority:</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Natural Resource Planner Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>	