

## TENNESSEE EQIP SCREENING TOOL (Revised 7-25-16)

*APPLICANT* \_\_\_\_\_ *DATE* \_\_\_\_\_  
*FARM(S)* \_\_\_\_\_  
*TRACTS(S)* \_\_\_\_\_  
*APPLICATION NUMBER* \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** Each year Tennessee NRCS receives more EQIP applications than can be funded. In order to work effectively with all our customers, we are implementing this screening process.

**Instructions:** Answer the three questions below. Below each question are the criteria used to answer that question. Only applications with all "Yes" answers will be marked Eligible and ranked for funding. All other applications will remain in Pending status (or deferred, as appropriate) until all questions can be answered "Yes".

**1. Have all the applicable application forms been properly signed and submitted? (Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_)**

- Conservation Program Application:* Form NRCS-CPA-1200 with Appendix, signed by all program participants or authorized persons.
- Signature authority:* Businesses, joint operations and entities can self-certify on current form CCC-901 or CCC-902E. NRCS policy on evidence of signature authority for individuals, including spouses and minors, remains the same. Participant can delegate person(s) authorized to sign current FSA 211 Power of Attorney form, if applicable.
- Control of Land:* Participant self-certifies control of land unit and relationship (owner, operator or both) on *Conservation Program Application* NRCS-CPA-1200. If not owner, operator or both, participant must obtain written evidence or assurance of control of land for contract period from the landowner prior to contract obligation: lease, rental agreements, landowner co-signs contract, etc.
- Concurrence to Install Structural and/or Vegetative Practices (if participant is not owner):* must have written concurrence from owner for implementing any practice with a life span greater than one year.
- FSA Eligibility Records:* must be up-to-date for records that include *Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information* (CCC-941 or current form) and *Highly Erodible Land (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification* (AD-1026).
- Producer Certification of Irrigation History:* must have been irrigated a minimum of 2 out of the last 5 years, if applicable
- DUNS/SAM Validation:* DUNS Number has been obtained and SAM registration is submitted (DUNS/SAM must be active prior to obligation)

**2. Does the NRCS Environmental Evaluation CPA-52 Worksheet show resource concerns that can be addressed by cost effective conservation practice(s) or is this application for a needed Conservation Activity Plan? (Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_)**

**3. Is the applicant "ready to implement" the planned conservation practices for which they are applying? (Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_)**

- Practice implementation is on schedule for all existing EQIP contracts.
- Producer has taken steps to secure a design for any practices requiring designs through either a certified planner, private engineer, technical service provider (TSP), or other means.
- Estimated price of work and materials needed to complete the project have been determined by the applicant.
- Permits – when required: Permit applications must be properly submitted to the appropriate permitting agency. Permits must be obtained prior to commencement of practices.
  - Exception – For 580/584 only: When a participant plans to install 580/584 with NRCS financial assistance only (not CTA), TDEC permits should be submitted after application is preapproved and before contract obligation. This prevents TDEC from reviewing unnecessary permit applications. Permits must still be obtained prior to commencement of practice(s).*
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is in hand when the applicant is applying for animal waste storage or treatment facility.

**4. Is the answer to at least one National Priority Question for the Program answered "Yes" (National Priority Questions are on a separate page)? (Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_)**

Planning, designs and permits can take significant time depending on complexity. Cultural resources and threatened and endangered species reviews must be completed before work can begin. Deadlines for ranking in Tennessee are set at the state office level and are consistent statewide.

By signing this Screening Tool, I acknowledge that I will only be ranked for funding after all answers are "Yes".

Conservationist Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_