

National Certified Organic Initiative 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>		
Screening Criteria Questions		
<p>If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>The applicant has reviewed and approved the EQIP schedule of operations that will be uploaded to the NRCS business tool, ProTracts, before or by the ranking deadline.</p>	
<p>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or, 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 – and/or, 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, 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>If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations are consistent with an Organic System Plan (OSP).</p>	
<p>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>The EQIP schedule of operations includes practices that will facilitate an increase in groundwater withdrawal – for example, switching from flood irrigation to a sprinkler irrigation system and switching the water source from surface (e.g. water from an irrigation district) to ground water (e.g. well water).</p>	

Screening Criteria Questions			
If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.	The EQIP schedule of operations includes practice(s) that require a permit and the applicant has not provided NRCS with information to support they have applied for the permit; AND/OR, the applicant has not provided NRCS information that scheduled practice(s) will meet regulatory or permitting requirements.		
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP schedule of operations is for a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP).		
If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.	Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address at least ONE of the priority resource concerns listed below.		
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts.	Conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations are scheduled to be implemented within three years of the obligation date.		
National Certified Organic Initiative Priority Resource Concerns			
(Check the box for the resource concern(s) addressed by conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations.)			
SOIL EROSION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet and Rill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ephemeral Gullies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Classic Gullies
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Bank Erosion from Streams, Shorelines or Water Conveyance Channels			
SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organic Matter Depletion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Concentration of Salts and Other Chemicals
INSUFFICIENT WATER			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water		
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excess Nutrients in Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excess Nutrients in Groundwater
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-Solids, or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Water		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Sediment in Surface Water		
AIR QUALITY IMPACTS			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emission of Particulate Matter (PM) - PM and PM Precursors		
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health		
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat Degradation		
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inadequate Livestock Water		
INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipment and Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operation
Application Screening Priority:			
Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:		Date Approved:	