

<p>Beginning Farmer/Rancher Forestland EQIP Fund Pool Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet <u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u></p>			
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>			
<p>All applications for the Beginning Farmer/Rancher Forestland EQIP Fund Pool will be considered for veteran priority status before, and regardless of, all other screening criteria.</p>			
<p>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next section of screening criteria.</p>	<p>Application screening priority is 'High' if all of the following are true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant is a veteran farmer or rancher (VFR) who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and 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 ranch; or b) not have operated a farm or ranch 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 and a beginning farmer or rancher on the CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application. 		
<p>Did applicant meet the veteran screening priority? (check box for yes or no)</p>	Yes:		No:
<p>If the applicant does not meet the criteria as a veteran farmer or rancher then priority will be based on the following screening criteria for Low, Medium and High.</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"> a. Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or, b. Failed to implement contract items in as 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, 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>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>The EQIP schedule of operations includes a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP).</p>		
<p>If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority in ProTracts.</p>	<p>Conservation practices planned in the EQIP schedule of operations will address resource concern, Degraded Plant Condition: Inadequate Structure and Composition or Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health. Treatment(s) include at least one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Reforestation</u> to address legacy harvesting practices or catastrophic events - and/or, b. <u>Overstocked Stands</u> where forest thinning is needed to reduce tree densities to site appropriate rates - and/or, c. <u>Competing Vegetation</u> where understory canopy is either dense brush or overstocked smaller trees (1" to 4"). 		
<p>If Yes, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>Conservation treatment will result in reduced fire hazard and treatment area is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within one mile of other fuel reduction and/or forest stand improvement treatment areas – and/or, b. Designated as a "High" fire threat as determined by CAL FIRE 'FRAP' map. 		
<p>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>Conservation treatment will result in reduced fire hazard and treatment area is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adjacent to or within ½ mile of other fuel reduction and/or forest stand improvement treatment areas – and/or b. Designated as a "Very High" fire threat as determined by CAL FIRE 'FRAP' map. 		
<p>Application Screening Priority:</p>			
<p>Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>	