**FY 2014 Rhode Island Environmental Quality Incentives Program**

**Prescreening Tool**

Program applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are taken by NRCS on a continuous basis. Interested parties may submit an application any time during the fiscal year. Once received, applications will be pre-screened to determine if the application is oh high, medium or low priority. In essence the prescreening tool determines if the applicant is ready to select eligible conservation practices from his or her approved conservation plan so that their application can be ranked in the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool. All prescreened applications that are prioritized as High or Medium will be ranked in the next application ranking period.

Any applicant that receives a Low priority will be assigned to an NRCS Conservation Planner. The planner will work with the applicant to develop an approved conservation plan and assist the applicant in acquiring the required eligibility certifications. Once an applicant moves to a high or medium priority the application will be ranked in the next available application ranking period.

| **Prescreening Question** | **Priority** |
|---|---|
| The applicant has an approved Conservation Plan developed by NRCS or by a certified Technical Service Provider and all eligibility requirements in the Protracts contracting system are certified. | High |
| The applicant has an approved Conservation Activity Plan developed by a certified Technical Service Provider or a Forest Management Plan approved by RIDEM for the Forest Program and all eligibility requirements in the Protracts contracting system are certified. | Medium |
| The applicant does not have an approved Conservation Plan or Conservation Activity Plan. | Low |
| The application is not eligible in the Protracts application and contracting system 14 days prior to the ranking date because one or more of the following eligibility certifications have not been completed by the applicant: *Adjusted Gross Income* (currently not required); Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification; control of land certification; common land unit designation with the Farm Service Agency; and Direct Deposit information. | Low |
| The applicant has been issued a NRCS-CPA-153, which is not due to an NRCS delay, and they have failed to take any actions as required on the CPA-153. | Low |
| The applicant has had a contract terminated for non-compliance in the past 12 months. | Low |