

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been designed to optimize environmental benefits in the Nation. NRCS is optimizing environmental benefits through an approach that integrates consideration of key program components: 1) National Priorities 2) National Measures and 3) the application ranking process. The North Dakota EQIP Evaluation Ranking Sheet has been designed to integrate and target the key program components. Ranking criteria are referenced in the evaluation worksheet as to what key component(s) it reflects.

National Priorities

With the advice of Federal agencies, NRCS established priorities that reflect our most pressing natural resource needs and emphasize off-site benefits to the environment.

- N1 Water Quality / Quantity
- N2 Soil Erosion
- N3 Air Quality
- N4 At-Risk Wildlife Habitat

State Priorities

With the advice of the State Technical Committee and Local Work Groups, NRCS established priorities that reflect the most pressing natural resource needs and benefits to the environment.

- S1 Water Quality
- S2 Soil Erosion / Quality
- S3 Grazing Lands Health

Local Priorities

With the advice of the Local Work Group, NRCS established local priorities that reflect the natural resource concerns of the community.

- L1 Locally Identified Resource Priority

National Measures

NRCS identified National measures that can help EQIP achieve its National priorities and statutory requirements more efficiently. They include:

- M1 Multiple Resource Concerns
- M2 Innovation
- M3 Supports 60% Livestock Related Practices
- M4 Comprehensive Tools

Ranking Criteria

The ranking process will evaluate applications according to the magnitude of the environmental benefits resulting from the treatment of priority natural resource concerns. The ranking criteria includes:

- R1 Cost-effective Practices
- R2 Multiple Resource Concerns
- R3 Long-Lived Practices
- R4 Collaborative Efforts
- R5 Measure of Performance
- R6 Compliance with Environmental Regulations