

Worksheet User Instructions:

EQIP Application Screening Tool and Practice(s) Sheet

Enter the applicants name

Answer the screening tool questions in the light blue cells.

Applications that meet at least one of the National Measures for EQIP satisfy the minimum threshold level for funding consideration. All other applications are considered low priority and the application will not be ranked further. The following questions shall be answered within the Screening Tool for National Measures.

1. Does the application contain an innovative practice(s)? Answer "yes" if innovative technology; for example, new and emerging solutions or equipment is used to satisfy common problems. An innovative practice may be a practice that is not

2. Does the application contain a livestock related practice?

Answer "yes" if a practice in the application will address livestock related concerns.

3. Does the application employ comprehensive tools such as CNMP or IPM?

Answer "yes" if the application includes a practice or suite of practices that comprehensively treats a number resource

Those applications that support the selection of one or more of the boxes within the screening tool will be proceed through the remaining ranking procedure. If the applicant's EQIP application will not support any of the National Measures, inform the applicant of its low priority and inform them of potential conservation planning enhancements that would advance their application for further consideration

If the application includes an agricultural waste containment practice (holding pond, lagoon, stacking facility) to address livestock waste or non-point pollution from animal waste, use the Animal Feeding Operation Evaluation Worksheet to rank the application. These applications will compete within Statewide AFO funding pool. Field Offices shall provide application information through ProTracts to the State Office for consideration.

If the application includes the reorganization to improve irrigation water efficiencies, use the Ground and Surface Water (G&SW) Evaluation Worksheet to rank the application. These applications will compete within the Statewide G&SW funding pool. Field Offices shall provide application information through ProTracts to the State Office for consideration.

Applications within the G&SW must answer the two additional screening tool questions relating to soil irrigability and irrigation water compatability . The screening tool is designed to assign high priority to irrigation systems that are compatible with the system's underlying soils and irrigation water. Refer to GS&W Screening Tool tab for details. If the system is not compatible with the soils or irrigation water the application is considered low priority and will not be considered further for funding.

Enter the acreage that will have conservation treatment as a result of the application. The acreage treated shall be consistent with the acreage that will be reported as treated in the Performance Results Management System (PRMS).

Enter the practices applied for in the EQIP application from the dropdown frame.

Enter "1" for structural/vegetation practices or enter the amount of years an incentive payment will be issued.

Once all practices are entered move on to the "Component Cost Calculator" tab at the bottom of the screen.

EQIP Component Cost Calculator

For each of the practices that were automatically populated from the "Screening Tool and Practice" screen, select the cost-share component(s) necessary for the installation from the drop down menu.

Enter the "Extent" that the practice will be implemented in the blue box.

Select the "Cost-share Type" from the drop down menu. The selection will be conducted as follows:

If the practice will receive typical EQIP cost-share rates, select "EQIP".

If the practice is part of an animal waste system for a **new** animal feeding operation (AFO), select "New AFO".

If the practice is part of an animal waste system for an **existing** animal feeding operation (AFO), select "Existing AFO".

If the practice will be installed by a Limited Resource farmer, select "LRF"

If the practice will be installed by a Beginning farmer, select "BF"

If practice is part of a new animal waste system for an AFO and will be installed by a Limited Resource Farmer select "LRF new AFO "
If practice is part of an existing waste system for an AFO and will be installed by a Limited Resource Farmer select "LRF existing AFO "
If practice is part of a new animal waste system for an AFO and will be installed by a Beginning Farmer select "BF new AFO "
If practice is part of an existing waste system for an AFO and will be installed by a Beginning Farmer select "BF existing AFO "

Costs for TSP's will not be entered in the calculator.

This form may be printed out by selecting the file/print option. This form is helpful in development of the CCC-1200 form.

Evaluation Worksheets:

Select the evaluation worksheet from the tabs below that fits the producer's conservation objective. If the producer will compete for funding within the LWG drawing account, select the [EQIP Evaluation Sheet](#). If the producer will compete for the AFO funding, select the [AFO Evaluation Sheet](#). If the producer will be increasing water efficiency in an existing irrigation system, select the [G&SW Evaluation Sheet](#). Click check boxes that apply to the application. Blank cells need to be completed. Green shaded cells are complete. Instructions for automatically determined criteria is highlighted in blue.

Fill in Total Acres in contract.

Fill in Field Office. Farm and Tract numbers are optional.

EQIP Evaluation Worksheet:

Water Quality/Water Quantity

Practice(s) will positively impact water quality within a Section 303(d) listed watershed or wellhead protection area? Points shall be awarded if the practices to be applied lie within a watershed listed as a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list. The priority waterbodies are depicted within the maps located on the Waterbody Map Worksheet in the EQIP Ranking Workbook. Points shall also be awarded if a practice within the application lies within 1000 feet of a wellhead protection area. The Wellhead Protection Map is also included in the Waterbody Map Worksheet.

Practice(s) will adjust application amounts and/or timing of organic/inorganic fertilizers according to soil test. Points are awarded when the application includes nutrient management.

Practice(s) will reduce agricultural wastes from impacting water quality. Points shall be awarded when the practices planned for installation will reduce ag waste's impact on water quality.

EQIP application provides improved quality of livestock drinking water. Points are awarded when the application includes a practice that will improve the quality of livestock drinking water. For example: water well, livestock water pipeline, spring

Practices will mitigate potential environmental risk of pest control measures. Points are awarded when the application

Soil Erosion/Soil Quantity

Practice(s) will provide additional erosion control in one of the following situations:

Points shall be awarded if practices within the application will provide additional erosion control.

The key is additional erosion control. Points are awarded according to the erodibility of the soil. If the field to be treated is considered HEL according to the NFSAM (33% or 50 acres of the soils in the field have an EI of 8 or greater based on the frozen soil list), the first box shall be checked. If the design soil for the treated field(s) has an I factor of ≥ 86 or slope of $\geq 6\%$, the second box shall be checked. If the fields meet neither criteria, but there will be a soil saving over the current

EQIP application provides for adoption of mulch or no-till system.

Points are awarded when the application includes the practices 329 or 345. An applicant is not eligible for an incentive payment if he/she has already adopted the practice. This includes applying for the incentive on different lands than it is

Practices will address saline soils/seeps and/or recharge areas.

Points shall be awarded if the implementation of practices will address the problems of saline seeps and the recharge area, or the practices will return cropped acres of saline soils to salt tolerant vegetation

Conversion of cropland to permanent introduced or native forage production.

Points are awarded when the application includes introduced or native herbaceous planting.

Air Quality

Practice(s) will reduce number of tillage operations on cropland.

Points are awarded when the practices to be implemented in the application that will reduce the number of tillage operations that the participant generally performs. For example, this includes practices such as residue management, pasture/hayland planting, range planting, etc... The reduction in tillage operations would reduce fuel exhaust emissions, particulate matter

EQIP application includes one of the following carbon sequestering practices: 329, 345, 380, 528, 422, 512, 550, 391, 612,

Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application. Points are restricted to the practices

EQIP application includes organic component of 590.

Points shall be awarded when organic materials are used in nutrient management.

EQIP application acreage lies within identified buffer surrounding a non-containment air quality area.

Points shall be awarded when acreage within the application lies within the buffer surrounding the Class I air quality areas of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North and South Units), the Elkhorn Ranch, and the Lostwood Wildlife Refuge. The location of the buffer shall be accessed through Air Quality Worksheet in the EQIP Ranking Workbook.

At Risk Wildlife Habitat

*EQIP applicant has included **one** of the following wildlife habitat improvement practices:*

The purpose of this criterion is to specifically focus on a practice that has the greatest opportunity to create habitat for those animal species which are at risk because of habitat loss.

*EQIP application includes **two or more** of the different conservation practices from the list above.*

Sometimes more is better.

Grazing Land Health

Practice(s) will facilitate improved grazing distribution.

Points shall be awarded when the practice(s) to be applied in this application result in improved grazing distribution. This will improve the vegetative cover resulting in increased production, improvement in trend and condition and/or reduced erosion or non-point pollution. Practices such as water wells, water tanks, fencing, or livestock water pipelines, etc could have this

Grazing system rotates through 4 or more pastures per grazing season.

pastures per grazing season. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

Season of use varies annually.

Points shall be awarded when the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract will ensure that the season of use on a particular grazing unit does not occur at the same within the grazing system.

Grazing system is designed to ensure native pastures are grazed during different periods of the grazing system in consecutive

Points shall be awarded when the applicant's current or future grazing system is designed to ensure that turnout times on a particular pasture vary in consecutive years. This determination shall be documented in the grazing system included in the conservation plan that accompanies the EQIP application or contract.

Conversion of cropland to introduced and/or native forage production

Points are awarded when the application includes the practices 512 or 550.

Locally Identified Priorities to be Addressed

Local work groups can identify 3 resource concern criteria to assist communities in solving their natural resource concerns.

Cost Effectiveness of Conservation Treatment

The average lifespan of all practices:

This automatic calculation is based on-

1. Each practice to be applied in the EQIP application and the corresponding lifespan. This can be found in the EQIP
2. The lifespan years are added together. Note: If a conservation practice is scheduled multiple times within the application, the practice lifespan shall be included in the sum of lifespan years that corresponds to the number of times scheduled.
3. The sum is divided by the total number of practices scheduled. This is the average lifespan for the EQIP application
4. Points are awarded by the group this number falls into. (0-5 yrs = 0 pts, 6-10 yrs = 7 pts, 11-15 yrs = 10 pts, >16 yrs = 15

Cost/Environmental Point will be considered in cost-effectiveness of the application. Points are awarded by the grouping the final number corresponds with. (<\$300/pt=10 pts, \$301-\$550/pt = 5 pts, \$551-750/pt = 2 pts, >\$751/ac = 0 pts)

AFO Evaluation Worksheet:

Water Quality

Distance to blue line stream or other waterbody according to topo map.

Identify the location of the livestock feeding operation on a USGS Quad topographic map. Measure the distance from the feeding operation location to the nearest blue line stream symbol, waterbody identified by a blue basin color or blue colored line or the blue marsh symbol. If the topographic feature is blue or purple, it is a waterbody or stream and points will be

Depth to aquifer or groundwater

Using the applicant's well log, the North Dakota Geological Survey County Geological and Ground Water Resource Studies books, or producer observations determine the depth to groundwater at the feeding location. The points are awarded based

Permeability of the least permeable soil layer of the most predominate map unit underlying the facility.

Using the county soil survey, determine the predominant soil mapping unit underlying the facility. Now determine the least permeable layer of that soil mapping unit according to the soil's description. Points shall be awarded appropriately.

Potential runoff from soil between livestock facility and surface waterbody:

Click on cell E31 to select the Soil Hydrologic Group, and on cell G31 to select the Slope Group from the drop-down lists of the soil with the greatest runoff potential between the livestock facility and the nearest waterbody. Hydrologic Group A has the least runoff potential, and Group D the greatest. The greater the slope the greater the runoff potential. Soil Hydrologic

Facility is located within a frequently flooded floodplain.

The facility is flooded at least once in every five years. This is an observation based on local knowledge.

Applicant is in potential non-compliance with State water quality regulations and the application contains practices to prevent

Award points if the either of the following situations exist and the animal feeding operation is not permitted:

>200 AU on location at one time

> 100 AU within a floodplain

located within 2ft/AU of waters of the State

The facility meets the EPA's definition of:

Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (Large CAFO)

An AFO is defined as a Large CAFO if it stables or confines as many or more than the numbers of animals specified in any of the follow

700 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry;

1,000 veal calves;

1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves. Cattle includes but is not limited to heifers, steers, bulls and cow/calf pairs;

2,500 swine, each weighing 55 pounds or more;

10,000 swine, each weighing less than 55 pounds;

500 horses;
10,000 sheep or lambs;
55,000 turkeys;
30,000 laying hens or broilers, if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system;
125,000 chickens (other than laying hens), if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system;
82,000 laying hens, if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system;
30,000 ducks (if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system); or
5,000 ducks (if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system)

Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)

Lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

Animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more
Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or fa

Is the facility located within a Section 303(d) listed watershed or wellhead protection area? Click the box if the facility lies with a 303(d) watershed or wellhead protection area.

Facility currently poses a threat to natural resources.

Click this box if the system will treat an existing or expanding facility. Do not check if this is a new facility.

Air Quality

Application practices will improve current air quality condition. Determine proximity from the perimeter of the facility to the nearest urban development.

An urban development is defined as a location where home density exceeds 4 houses on 40 acres.

EQIP application includes one of the following carbon sequestering practices: 329, 345, 380, 528, 422, 512, 550, 391, 612,
Points are awarded when the practices that sequester carbon are part of the application. Points are restricted to the practices listed in the ranking criteria.

Other National and State Conservation Priorities

EQIP application will provide additional erosion control on: HEL; I>86; other map units

Points shall be awarded if practices within the application will provide additional erosion control.

The key is additional erosion control. Points are awarded according to the erodibility of the soil. If the field to be treated is considered HEL according to the NFSAM (33% or 50 acres of the soils in the field have an EI of 8 or greater based on the frozen soil list), the initial box shall be checked. If the design soil for the treated field(s) has an I factor of ≥ 86 or slope of $\geq 6\%$, the second box shall be checked. If the fields meet neither criteria, but there will be a soil saving over the current

EQIP application includes at least one of the following wildlife habitat improvement practices:

The purpose of this criterion is to specifically focus on a practice that has the greatest opportunity to create habitat for those animal species which are at risk because of habitat loss.

Practice(s) will facilitate improved grazing distribution.

improve the vegetative cover resulting in increased production, improvement in trend and condition and/or reduced erosion or non-point pollution. Practices such as water wells, water tanks, fencing, or livestock water pipelines, etc could have this desired result.

Cost Effectiveness of Conservation Treatment

Waste system installation cost per animal unit.

1. Enter the total ESTIMATED installation cost for the ag waste system. Component costs do not need to be entered in the component cost calculator to determine this value. An educated estimate will suffice.
2. The total animal units that will have waste treated by the system will be determined.
3. The total cost will be divided by the treated AU.
4. Points are awarded by the grouping the final number corresponds with (<\$150/AU =10 pts, \$151-\$200/AU=5pts \$201-

Facility currently poses a threat to natural resources.

Click this box if the system will treat an existing or expanding facility. Do not check if this is a new facility.

G&SW Evaluation Sheet:

Water Quality/Water Quantity

EQIP application provides for net water savings of an existing irrigation system of. Points shall be awarded according to the estimate water savings. The accompanying spreadsheet "WaterSaved.xls" shall be used to estimate water savings. Water savings is based on the net water savings for converting a irrigation system operated two out of the last five years.

Any portion of the G&SW applicaion acreage is above a sensitive aquifer. Aquifer is located in under the maps index tab.

Any portion of the G&SW application acreage is within a watershed listed as a TMDL priority waterbody in the Clean Water Act Sec. 303(d) list. The priority waterbodies are depicted within the maps located on the Waterbody Map Worksheet in the EQIP Ranking Workbook. Points shall also be awarded if a practice within the application lies within 1000 feet of a wellhead protection area. The Wellhead Protection Map is also included in the Waterbody Map Worksheet.

Soil Erosion/Soil Quality

Practices will provide additional erosion control on HEL lands, fields that have a predominant soil I greater than 86 or slopes greater than 6%, or other soil map units.

Points shall be awarded if practices within the application will provide additional erosion control.

The key is additional erosion control. Points are awarded according to the erodibility of the soil. If the field to be treated is considered HEL according to the NFSAM (33% or 50 acres of the soils in the field have an EI of 8 or greater based on the frozen soil list), the first box shall be checked. If the design soil for the treated field(s) has an I factor of > 86 or slope of > 6%, the second box shall be checked. If the fields meet neither criteria, but there will be a soil saving over the current

Other National and State Conservation Priorities

Practice(s) will facilitate improved grazing distribution.

Points shall be awarded when the practice(s) to be applied in this application result in improved grazing distribution. This will improve the vegetative cover resulting in increased production, improvement in trend and condition and/or reduced erosion or non-point pollution. Practices such as water wells, water tanks, fencing, or livestock water pipelines, etc could have this

EQIP application includes at least one of the following wildlife habitat improvement practices:

The purpose of this criterion is to specifically focus on a practice that has the greatest opportunity to create habitat for those animal species which are at risk because of habitat loss.

EQIP application includes one of the following carbon sequestering practices: 329, 345, 380, 528, 422, 512, 550, 391, 612, listed in the ranking criteria.

Irrigation system will decrease PM10 emissions or increase energy efficiency.

Click this box if the irrigation conversion will include pump and engine work which will reduce emissions or conserve energy.

Cost Effectiveness of Conservation Treatment

The average lifespan of all practices:

This automatic calculation is based on-

1. Each practice to be applied in the EQIP application and the corresponding lifespan. This can be found in the EQIP
2. The lifespan years are added together. Note: If a conservation practice is scheduled multiple times within the application, the practice lifespan shall be included in the sum of lifespan years that corresponds to the number of times scheduled.
3. The sum is divided by the total number of practices scheduled. This is the average lifespan for the EQIP application
4. Points are awarded by the group this number falls into. (0-5 yrs = 0 pts, 6-10 yrs = 7 pts, 11-15 yrs = 10 pts, >16 yrs = 15

Cost/Environmental Point will be considered in cost-effectiveness of the application. Points are awarded by the grouping the final number corresponds with. (<\$300/pt=10 pts, \$301-\$550/pt = 5 pts, \$551-750/pt = 2 pts, >\$751/ac = 0 pts)