

**Program Ranking Sheets
State Technical Committee Recommendations**

All ranking tools include national, state and local ranking elements. The national priorities in the ranking criteria are established nationally and not subject to any modification on our part.

The state ranking elements are open for recommendations from the State Technical Committee. The local ranking elements are open for recommendations from the USDA Local Work Groups.

EQIP Ranking Tool:

We are polling the State Technical Committee for statewide priorities in the EQIP ranking tool. Please review the file named "2009 EQIP AERT Worksheet.doc". For the most part, the state elements are based on our resource concerns as described in our field office technical guide. Please indicate your top 5 resource concerns under the state elements. We will collect this input and assign additional points to these elements prior to its release to our service centers. The elements that reflect statewide priorities will be "locked" and will not be changed by Local Work Group input.

Note: if you are unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday Feb 24th you may send your input or recommendations to Bill Yamartino for inclusion in our final decision on the matter of state priorities. Please send these no later than Friday Feb 27th to: bill.yamartino@me.usda.gov.

Local Work Groups will have an opportunity to review the ranking criteria and recommend changes to reflect their local priorities

WHIP Ranking Tool:

The general WHIP ranking tool is unchanged from last year. Please review prior to the State Technical Committee. We will discuss this at the meeting and will entertain any recommendations for weighting the various elements differently.

There are also separate ranking tools for the WHIP special project areas (salmon/brook trout and New England cottontail). Please review for a short discussion at our meeting.