

Definitions for Salinity EQIP/Parallel Ranking 2006

The priorities set by the local workgroups separate out projects that have organized into groups, with additional consideration for those with non-USDA financial partners.

Group planning achieves the following:

1. The cost of the project is reduced by elimination of duplicate practices and by sharing of practices between landowners.
2. It is more efficient use of the NRCS planners' time which reduces the program related cost to the NRCS.
3. It uses a watershed approach that is based on sound ecological principles which achieves more efficient and cost effective salt load reduction.

Section F:

An applicant is **high** priority if they:

- Are part of an organized group with delivery in place.
Or
- Are completing a new system with previously installed infrastructure.
And
- Agree to three years of contracted irrigation water management.

An applicant is **medium** priority if they:

- Are an individual with no delivery in place and have written canal company approval.
Or
- Are part of a group with no delivery in place and at least 70% of the land base participation.
And
- Agree to at least two years of contracted irrigation water management.

An applicant is **low** priority if they:

- Are rehabilitating a previously cost-shared system.
Or
- Any situation other than listed above.
Or
- Agree to at least one year of contracted irrigation water management.

Fiscal Year 2006 Programmatic National Priorities

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

1. Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDLs where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and reduction of point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations;

2. Conservation of ground and surface water resources;

3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (Nox) , volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depletors that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;

4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and

5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.