

**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Organic Initiative
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET – Fiscal Year 2010
EQIP Application Supporting “Transition to Organic Production”**

A Screening Worksheet is required to be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

Instructions:			
This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP organic-initiative assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, cutoff dates are established for purposes of ranking and funding allocation. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are efficiently allocated to address priority conservation needs related to organic provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.			
Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits or approval of an EQIP contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant. If the applicant is already certified organic, do not use this worksheet; use the “Certified” screening worksheet to determine priority.			
Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant			
Applicant Name:		County:	
Application Number:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	
Instructions: For each eligible application submitted by March 12, 2010, complete the following worksheet. Applications submitted after this date must be “deferred” until the next funding cycle. Use of this screening tool is mandatory and completed prior to final ranking.			
Step One – Basic Eligibility:		Yes	Action: No Action
A	Is the application NRCS-CPA-1200 complete, signed and dated?	Yes, Continue to B	No, do not process until application is complete.
B	Do the EQIP planned practices address one or more of the national program priorities in ProTracts? The application must support at least one national program priority.	Yes, Continue to C	No, application is ineligible
C	Is the land eligible? (EQIP 515.52 and CPM 512.22): Applicant has provided documentation and evidence to indicate land meets program eligibility requirements and proof of control.	Yes, Continue to D	No, application is ineligible
D	Applicant has provided written self-certification agreeing to develop an Organic System Plan (OSP), has provided evidence of contact with an AMS certified agent, and agrees to implement conservation practices consistent with EQIP statute. (Sec. 1240(B))	Yes, Continue to Step 2	No, application is ineligible
Step Two – Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:			
High Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least five State-approved conservation practices. OR -Application will result in implementation of a State-approved suite of three or more organic conservation practices. (A suite of organic practices approved in any State will tie practices together to address resource concerns) OR -Application is for development of an EQIP Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Supporting Organic Transition.			High Priority Status in ProTracts
Medium Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least two State-approved organic conservation practices.			Medium Priority Status in ProTracts
Low Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of only one State-approved organic conservation practice.			Low Priority Status in ProTracts
Application is for conservation practices that do not assist the producer’s transition to an organic production system, are not consistent with requirements of an OSP, or both. Defer application (or refer application to other program).			Defer

The priority determination of High, Medium or Low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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