

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Grazingland
NRCS Tahlequah FO/ Cherokee County CD
Screening Criteria Worksheet –FY 2013**

A Screening Worksheet is required to be completed for each eligible EQIP application being considered in the Cherokee County Grazingland fund category.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP Grazingland funds in Cherokee County. 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 the priorities of Cherokee County. The primary resource concerns are as follow: Plant Condition-Productivity, Health and Vigor; Plant Condition-Forage Quality and Palatability; and Domestic Animals-Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage. These resource concerns will be addressed on grazingland in Cherokee County.

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. If any funding is left in any of the 3 categories due to lack of applications the money can be moved to one of the other priorities until the money is exhausted.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet- Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant

Applicant Name:		
Application Number:		
Evaluator Name:		Date:

Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

<p>High Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application primarily addresses resource concerns of plant productivity, health and vigor; forage quality and palatability; and forage quantity and quality. Planned practice(s) will promote even grazing distribution or reduce pressure on sensitive areas. Planned practice(s) will be planned for completion within 36 months of contract approval. 	High Priority Status in ProTracts
<p>Medium Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application does not meet “High Priority Category” criteria, but does address resource concerns of plant condition-noxious or invasive plants. Planned practice(s) will be planned for completion within 36 months of contract approval. 	Medium Priority Status in ProTracts
<p>Low Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application does not meet “High Priority Category” or “Medium Priority Category” criteria, but does address a resource concern identified as National, State, or Local priority (can answer “Yes” to at least one Resource Concern Priority Question on AERT). Planned practice(s) will not be planned for completion within 36 months of contract approval. 	Low Priority Status in ProTracts
Application is for conservation practices that do not meet the criteria set forth in the EQIP criteria. Defer application (or refer application to other program).	Defer

D.C. Signature for Approval		Date Approved:	
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