

FY 2014 Rhode Island Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Pre-Screening Tool (FY14 Round 1)

Program applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are taken by NRCS on a continuous basis. Interested parties may submit an application any time during the fiscal year. Once received, applications will be pre-screened to determine if the application is of High, Medium or Low priority. In essence the pre-screening tool determines if the applicant is ready to select eligible Conservation Practices from their approved Conservation Plan so that their application can be ranked in the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool. All pre-screened applications that are prioritized as High or Medium will be ranked in the next Application-Ranking period.

Any applicant that receives a Low priority will be assigned a NRCS Conservation Planner. The planner will work with the applicant to develop an approved conservation plan and assist the applicant in acquiring the required eligibility certifications. Once an applicant moves to a high or medium priority the application will be ranked in the next available Application-Ranking period.

Pre-Screening Question	Priority
The applicant has an approved Conservation Plan developed by NRCS or by a certified Technical Service Provider and all eligibility requirements in the Protracts contracting system are certified.	High
The applicant has an approved Conservation Activity Plan developed by a certified Technical Service Provider and all eligibility requirements in the Protracts contracting system are certified.	Medium
The applicant does not have an approved Conservation Plan or Conservation Activity Plan.	Low
The application is not eligible in the Protracts application and contracting system by December 6, 2013 because one or more of the following eligibility certifications have not been completed by the applicant: Adjusted Gross Income; Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Certification; control of land certification; common land unit designation with the Farm Service Agency	Low
The applicant has had an NRCS contract terminated within the last 12 months.	Low