

EQIP Land Eligibility and NPPH Land Use Chart

Completing a Land Eligibility Determination

When making a land eligibility determination, planners must:

1. Determine the land use of the PLU. When making a land use determination for a PLU, it is important to do so based on the site conditions of the PLU and the criteria in the NPPH definitions. Eligibility is based on the land use, not the operation type. The chart below includes examples of operation types that may be typically found on each land use to assist with this determination.
2. Evaluate the criteria in the chart below to determine if the identified land use meets land eligibility in 7 CFR 1466.3 which includes:
 - Cropland
 - Grassland
 - Rangeland
 - Pastureland
 - Nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF); and
 - Other agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, environmentally sensitive areas as identified by NRCS, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which identified or expected resource concerns related to agricultural production that may be addressed by a contract under EQIP, as determined by the Chief.

Note: Associated agricultural land, farmstead, and submerged land may be eligible for enrollment in EQIP under “other agriculture lands” when the criteria in 440-CPM-530, Section 530.402 is met.

Note: Municipality zoning designations do not dictate a PLU’s land use designation.

Note: Water is not eligible to be enrolled in EQIP, but the land use is used when enrolling submerged land to implement practices and/or activities that will be tied to the submerged land to address natural resource concerns associated with the submerged land.

Production Examples (not all inclusive)	NPPH Land Use	NPPH Land Use Definition	7 CFR § 1466.3 defined eligible land	EQIP Policy 530.402 D. Documenting Land Eligibility
Hay w/in rotation, row crop, vineyards, orchards, rice, high tunnels, elevated/container bed, etc.	Crop	Land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural, orchard, vineyard, or energy crops.	Cropland, grasslands (<i>permanent haying</i>)	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The crop type produced is identified.
CAFO, AFO, greenhouses, controlled environment agricultural, high tunnel, elevated/container bed, etc.	Farmstead	Land used for facilities and supporting infrastructure where farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and ranching activities are often initiated. This may include dwellings, equipment storage, plus farm input and output storage and handling facilities. Also includes land dedicated to the facilitation and production of high-intensity animal agriculture in a containment facility where daily nutritional requirements are obtained from other lands or feed sources.	Other agricultural land	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The crop or livestock type produced is identified and the operation utilizes agricultural structures on land that supports or allows agricultural production, and the structure has a primary purpose of agricultural production.

Enclosure A EQIP Land Eligibility and NPPH Land Use Chart

Grazing operation	Pasture	Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of livestock. Pastures receive periodic renovation and cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pastures are not in rotation with crops.	Pastureland, grassland	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The livestock type produced is identified. <i>Note that grassland may be identified as range, pasture, or hayed cropland.</i>
Grazing operation	Range	Land on which the historic and/or introduced vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs managed as natural ecosystem. Range land may include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, tundra, alpine communities, marshes and meadows.	Rangeland, grassland	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The livestock type produced is identified. <i>Note that grassland may be identified as range, pasture, or hayed cropland.</i>
Timber management	Forest	Land on which the historic and/or introduced vegetation is predominantly tree cover managed for the production of wood products or non-timber forest products.	Nonindustrial private forestland (NIPF)	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The land has existing tree cover or is capable of growing trees and is owned by any nonindustrial private forest land individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private entity. <i>Note: Cropped woodlands are included as an eligible use of forest.</i>
			Not NIPF	Forest that is not NIPF is not eligible for EQIP
Non-production land correlated to nearby production land. Water feature, banks, etc.	Associated Agricultural Land	Land associated with farms and ranches that are not purposefully managed for food, forage, or fiber and are typically associated with nearby production or conservation lands. This could include incidental areas, such as idle center pivot corners, odd areas, ditches and watercourses, riparian areas, field edges, seasonal and permanent wetlands, and other similar areas.	Other Agricultural land	EQIP land eligibility is met if: Associated to another eligible land use under control of same applicant.
Catfish, crawfish, alligator, oyster beds, fin fish hatchery, etc.	Water	Geographic area whose dominant characteristic is open water or permanent ice or snow.	Other agricultural land	EQIP land eligibility is met if: The conservation practices and/or activities will be tied to <u>submerged land</u> ; and the proposed conservation practices address an identified natural resource concern; and the Farm Service Agency has established farm records for the <u>submerged land</u> area; and the crop or livestock type produced is identified.

Enclosure A EQIP Land Eligibility and NPPH Land Use Chart

Greenhouse, high tunnel, shipping container, roof top gardens, flowerpots, etc.	Developed Land	Land occupied by buildings and related facilities used for residences, Title 180 – National Planning Procedures Handbook (H_180_600 - NPPH, 1st Ed., Amend. 9, Dec. 2021) commercial sites, public highways, airports, and open space associated with towns and cities. May include intermingled land, including tidal-influenced coastal marsh lands.	Not a defined eligible land	Developed land is not eligible for EQIP
Former strip mine areas	Other	Land that is barren, sandy, rocky, or that is impacted by the extraction of natural resources, such as minerals, gravel or sand, coal, shale, rock, oil, or natural gas.	Not a defined eligible land	Other land is not eligible for EQIP