

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
(EQIP) FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FY23)
GENERAL SCREENING WORKSHEET
To be used for ALL FY23 EQIP Non Livestock Applications**

Applicant Name*: _____

County: _____

Application Number: _____

Field Office: _____

Evaluator Name: _____

Date Application Accepted: _____

Accepting Applications

Do not accept Applications from applicants that have not, as indicated by their response on their NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application, established farm records with USDA's Farm Service Agency.

*Applicants must apply using their full legal name and the last four digits of their tax identification number. The legal name, and tax identification number, should be, in most cases, identical to the name by which they file their federal income tax returns. Assist the applicant with completing the following: AD-2047, AD-1026, CCC-941, and the appropriate Farm Operating Plan form.

For applications that are accepted/received:

- All signed and dated applications for which the applicant has established farm records with FSA must be immediately:
 - Date stamped; (in lieu of a date stamp, the application MUST be entered into ProTracts the same day as the received/signed by the participant;)
 - Entered into ProTracts; the Signup Date should be the same as the date stamp and,
 - Reviewed for completeness.

Before proceeding, this statement must apply to the application: The land offered in the application must be agricultural land as defined in [440-502 Terms and Abbreviations Common to all Programs](#).

Scope of the Application: While the minimum unit for planning is a Planning Land Unit (PLU) - *A PLU is a unique geographic area, defined by a polygon, that has common land use and is owned, operated, or managed by the same client or clients* - Conservation planners MUST use their professional judgement in determining the Planning Area.

A Planning Area can be the entire operating unit of the client or be an individual land unit or group of land units in which the decision has been made to initiate the planning process. An individual land unit is normally the smallest increment for planning resource management systems or practices. The planning area must be large enough to encompass the area that influences, and the area that is impacted by, the resource management system or practice being planned.. (NPPH Edition 7. 600.2 Definitions)

A Conservation Management Unit (CMU).—A field, CLU, group of fields, or other land units of the same land use and having similar treatment needs and planned management. A CMU, made up of one or more planning land units (PLU), has definite boundaries, such as fence, drainage, vegetation, topography, soil lines, or land use, and is used by the planner to simplify planning activities and facilitate development of management systems.

**Operating Unit: Any parcels of land, whether contiguous or noncontiguous, constituting a single management unit for agricultural purposes. (An operating unit is designated as located in the county in which the principal dwelling is situated, or, if there is no dwelling thereon, it is regarded to be in the county in which the major portion of the land is located.) From 440-502 Terms and Abbreviations Common to all Programs.*

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Low Priority Determination

A "Yes" to one or more of the questions below will result in the application being assigned a Low Priority. Applications assigned a Low Priority will not be assessed or ranked or considered for funding until all eligible applications with a higher priority, that address an eligible resource concern, have been assessed, ranked and considered for funding. **(Unless the DC has requested, in writing, and obtained, in writing, a waiver from the EQIP Program Manager.)**

- Has the applicant had a contract terminated within the last five fiscal years?

_____ Yes _____ Contract Number
_____ No

- Does the applicant have Active contracts that are behind schedule as of October 1st 2022?

_____ Yes _____ Contract Number
_____ No

- Does the applicant have Active OR Completed contract(s), that used Federal funding, where they have not exhibited proper Operation & Maintenance for the Practice Lifespan*, and such findings have been documented by the field staff in the case file?

_____ Yes _____ Contract Number
_____ No

*Practice Lifespan: Conservation practice lifespans are established and maintained in the Conservation Practice Standards Web application. *All conservation practices established through a CPC should be maintained for the established lifespan.* Operation and maintenance (O&M) must be included for each practice with O&M requirements. This can be incorporated as part of the practice narrative or through a separate O&M plan, as necessary. The lifespan of a practice may extend beyond the length of the program contract. The practice lifespan is defined as the time period in which the conservation practices are to be used and maintained for their intended purposes, as defined by NRCS technical references.

- The land to be offered in the application, i.e., the Conservation Management Unit, has Existing (determined by visual assessment or use of the appropriate assessment tool) Water Quality resource concerns, AND, the applicant is not willing to address them in this application or other conservation program options;

_____ Yes _____ No

NRCS District Conservationist Date