



FY2025 Minnesota EQIP ACT NOW Guidance

Minnesota will be implementing ACT NOW through EQIP 2025. ACT NOW is an expedited process to approve and obligate a ranked application in a designated ranking pool when an eligible application meets or exceeds a State determined minimum ranking threshold without waiting until the NRCS field office ranks all applications in the ranking pool.

ACT NOW Application Processing

- Applications eligible for the identified ACT NOW ranking pools will be accepted on a continuous basis and will be preapproved until funds are exhausted.
- **The ACT NOW High Tunnel sign up deadline is May 16, 2025.** Applications received after this date should be entered into Protracts under Sign-Up 2.
- **The ACT NOW sign-up deadline for ACT NOW MRBI ends on June 13, 2025.** Applications received after this date should be entered into Protracts under Sign-Up 2.
- **The ACT NOW sign-up deadline for ACT NOW NWQI ends on June 20, 2025.** Applications received after this date should be entered into Protracts under Sign-Up 2.
- The ACT NOW Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher sign up deadline is **August 1, 2025.** Applications received after this date should be entered into Protracts under Sign-Up 2.
- Upon receiving an application that is eligible for an ACT NOW pool, the field office will complete the assessment and ranking in a timely manner.
- For applications that have been received and are on file, complete the planning and assessment so they are ready to be ranked. Applicants must be notified as soon as possible of any records that must be filed or updated to meet FY24 EQIP eligibility.
- Due to the compressed timeline with ACT NOW, field staff must ensure that resource concerns, fields, practices, and cost estimates are correct and meet with the applicant to verify these items prior to submitting ranking.
- Applications can be ranked in all applicable ACT NOW pools (example: SD applicant applying for High Tunnel practice. The application can be ranked in The SD ACT NOW pool and the ACT NOW High Tunnel pool)

Application Preapprovals and Obligations

All applications will be preapproved if the ranking score is above the minimum threshold until funds are exhausted. Applications which do not meet the minimum ranking threshold may be preapproved later if there are funds remaining in the ranking pool.



FY2025 MN ACT NOW Ranking Pools

Ranking Pool	Eligible Practices (codes)	Minimum Ranking Score
FY25 MN ACT NOW High Tunnel	325 only	115
FY25 MN ACT NOW Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher	All practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW NWQI – Buffalo River	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	100
FY25 MN ACT NOW NWQI – Doran Creek	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW NWQI – Whiskey Creek	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW MRBI – Backes Lake	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW MRBI – Goose Lake	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW MRBI – Lower St. Croix	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10
FY25 MN ACT NOW MRBI – West Indian Creek	Refer the Watershed Implementation Plan for the list of available practices	10

**Only the practices listed in the table above are eligible for that designated ACT NOW pool.*