

CROPLAND SCREENING WORKSHEET FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP

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 to question 1 on their NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application, established farm records with USDA's Farm Service Agency. 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.

- Is the applicant eligible (given the latest exceptions issued from the NRCS State Office, e.g. software AGI issues, etc.)?
 - Refer to the Producer-Applicant Eligibility section of latest [515.152 EQIP Eligibility Documentation Checklist](#).
 - All applicable responses to the 515.152 EQIP Eligibility Documentation Checklist **must be a Yes to** proceed. If not, immediately send the applicant the [512.91 Eligibility Certification Request Letter](#) which will inform the applicant of any missing certifications or eligibility issues. Additionally, the letter will state, "Failure to complete this action within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter, but no later than 5:00 PM 2/17/2017, will result in your application being determined as ineligible."

CROPLAND SCREENING WORKSHEET FY 2017
Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP Cropland
(Applicants MUST be Eligible to be Screened)

Applicant Name: _____ County: _____

Application Number: _____ Field Office: _____

Evaluator Name: _____ Date Application Accepted: _____

Before proceeding, this statement must apply to the application: The land offered in the application must be agricultural land* on which an agricultural commodity* is being produced.

* Refer to [440-502 Terms and Abbreviations Common to all Programs](#).

Scope of the Application: While the minimum size for an EQIP application is a field, (512.23.A.5), and the minimum unit for planning is a Planning Land Unit (PLU), conservation planners MUST use their professional judgement in determining the Planning Area.

A Planning Area is generally the entire operating unit, but it can be a group (or groups) of fields with similar land use and management (see “conservation management unit”) in which the decision has been made to initiate the planning process. A field is normally the smallest increment for planning resource management systems or practices. (NPPH Edition 1. 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.*

High Priority Resource Concerns:

WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters	Nutrients - organic and inorganic - are transported to receiving waters through surface runoff and/or leaching into shallow ground waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications	Pathogens, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals carried by land applied soil amendments are transported to receiving waters in quantities that degrade water quality and limit use for intended purposes. This resource concern also includes the off-site transport of leachate and runoff from compost or other organic materials of animal origin.
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excessive sediment in surface waters	Off-site transport of sediment from sheet, rill, gully, and wind erosion into surface water that threatens to degrade surface water quality and limit use for intended purposes

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP

(Follow these steps to determine when to proceed with processing of the application.)

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 ranked or considered for funding until all eligible applications with a higher priority, that address an eligible resource concern, have been ranked and considered for funding.

- Has the applicant had a contract terminated within the last five fiscal years? If yes, this application is a Low Priority.

_____ Yes _____ Contract Number
_____ No

- Does the applicant have Active contracts that are behind schedule as of October 1st 2016? If yes, this application is a Low Priority.

_____ Yes _____ Contract Number
_____ No

- Does the applicant have Active OR Completed contracts 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, the application is a Low Priority.

_____ 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 NRCStechical references.

- The land to be offered in the application, i.e., the Conservation Management Unit, has existing Water Quality resource concerns, AND, the applicant is not willing to address them in this application or other conservation program options;

_____ Yes
_____ No

High Priority

To be considered a High Priority Application, there must be at least one “Yes” response to the questions below. (Photographs are encouraged.) All other applications will be a Medium Priority or Low Priority.

- 1) On the land being offered, i.e., the Conservation Management Unit, has the applicant (or NRCS) observed active gully and or rill erosion and or concentrated flow erosion (see images below) from cropland that is adjacent (100’ or less from water’s edge to the edge of field*) to vulnerable water features listed below, **AND**, the application will include a practice or suite of practices that will, when implemented together, eliminate the water quality degradation that is occurring?

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.



_____ Yes _____ No

Vulnerable Water Features:

- Ponds: that drain to other water features;
- Streams: Perennial or intermittent, that have a definable stream channel with bed and bank. This determination should be made in the field based on planner observations;
- Wetlands;
- Sinkholes in karst topography;
- Springs

OR

- 2) Has the land being offered in the application, i.e., the Conservation Management Unit, been without a purposely seeded, living crop, during the past two consecutive winters (December 1 to March 1); and, the application will include practices that will establish, in a timely manner, a living crop during this same period?



_____ Yes _____ No

Medium Priority

All other applications that did not screen as a Low or High, and that address one or more of the following Resource Concerns: Water Quality, Soil Erosion, or Soil Quality.

_____ Yes

NRCS District Conservationist

Date