

FY2017 General Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) APPLICATION SCREENING TOOL

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application under applicable funding pools. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs.

Completion of this worksheet and associated documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file, and the screening priority (high, medium or low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Applicant Name: _____

Application Number: _____

County: _____

Step 1. Automatic high priority application if any of the following apply:

- Tribal application meeting program priorities
- Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) application
- Wayne County High Tunnel System Initiative
- Applicant has self-certified as both a Veteran Farmer or Rancher (VFR) and Beginning Farmer or Rancher (BFR) on the NRCS-CPA-1200 and any of the following apply:**
 - Will compete in the BFR fund pool.
 - Has self-certified as Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (SDA), and will compete in the SDA fund pool.

If a box is checked above, the application is high priority. Stop here and proceed to signature. If a box is not checked above, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. Automatic low priority application if any of the following apply.

- Applicant has had a previous contract terminated within the last 3 years for reasons within their control.
- Applicant has or had a contract, and was notified of a contract violation for reasons within their control.
- Application for animal waste storage, treatment, application or handling on Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) without a current approved Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

If a box is checked above, the application is low priority. Stop here and proceed to signature. If a box is not checked above, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3. High priority application if any of the following apply:

- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) fund pool application
- Applicant requested a conservation plan by the end of Conservation Plan Sign-up Period (April 30, 2016).

If a box is checked above, the application is high priority. Stop here and proceed to signature. If a box is not checked above, proceed to Step 4.

Step 4. Medium priority application if the following applies:

- The application addresses 2 or more State Priority Resource Concerns (see below). Check the applicable State Priority Resource Concerns below.

If the box is checked above, the application is medium priority. Stop here and proceed to signature. If the box is not checked above, proceed to Step 5.

Step 5. Low priority application if the following applies:

- The application addresses 1 or 0 State Priority Resource Concerns (see below). If applicable, check a State Priority Resource Concern below.

If the box is checked above, the application is low priority. Proceed to signature.

State Priority Resource Concerns (which have been documented on the land in the application, and will be treated to quality criteria by the practices in the application; applicable to Steps 4 and 5 only):

- Water Quality Degradation**
 - Nutrients in surface water and groundwater
 - Excessive sediment in surface water
 - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications in surface water and groundwater
 - Pesticides in surface water and groundwater
 - Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water and groundwater
- Soil Erosion**
 - Sheet and rill erosion
 - Wind erosion
 - Concentrated flow erosion
 - Streambank and shoreline erosion
- Fish and Wildlife Inadequate Habitat**
 - Cover/Shelter
- Soil Quality Degradation**
 - Organic matter depletion
 - Compaction
- Degraded plant condition**
 - Undesirable plant productivity and health
 - Inadequate structure and composition
 - Excessive plant pest pressure

This application is:

- High Priority**
- Medium Priority**
- Low Priority**

NRCS Representative Signature

Date