**EQIP 2018 Screening Criteria Worksheet**

Applications to the Beginning Farmer and Socially Dis advantaged fund codes must be evaluated using this worksheet

Instructions: This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP fund codes listed above. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are efficiently allocated to address priority conservation needs addressed as priorities in the 2014 Farm Bill. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of an EQIP contract. This screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file and the screening priority (High, Medium or Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of the screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet - Complete for each eligible EQIP applicant

### Applicant Name: [ ]
### County: [ ]
### Application Number: [ ]
### Field Office: [ ]
### Evaluator Name: [ ]
### Date: [ ]

Instructions: For each eligible applicant, complete the following worksheet.

#### Step One - Basic Eligibility

| A. | Is the application on a NRCS CPA 1200 complete, signed and dated? | Yes, Continue To B | No, Continue To C |
| B. | Do the EQIP planned practices address one or more of the national program priorities? [EQIP 515.3B] The application must support at least one national program priority. | Yes, Continue To C | No, Continue To B |
| C. | Does the application meet the EQIP policy criteria for producer eligibility, land eligibility, and the proposed project addresses at least one natural resource concern? See EQIP manual Subpart F and CPC manual Subpart C. | Yes, Continue to Step 2 | No, Continue to B |

#### Step 2 - Priority determination for ProTracts - Check the box that applies after answering the questions below. Check only 1 Priority

- High Priority: [ ]
- Low Priority: [ ]
- Medium Priority: [ ]
- Do Not Rank Application: [ ]
- Ineligible Application: [ ]

The priority determination of High, Medium or Low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant

**Answer (circle the Question answer that applies)**

1. If applying for a Waste Storage Facility or grazing practices, does the applicant currently have livestock?
   - If a Waste Storage Facility or grazing practices are not planned proceed to question 3. If Yes, proceed to the next question. If No, set the priority to LOW. Screening is complete.
     - Yes
     - No

2. If a Waste Storage Facility or grazing practices are planned, have animals been excluded from ALL sensitive areas (streams, wetlands, etc.) or will they be excluded with this application?
   - If Yes, set the priority to HIGH. If no, set the priority to LOW. Screening is complete.
     - Yes
     - No

3. Does the application include multi species cover crop or practices that will reduce concentrated erosion?
   - If Yes, set the priority to High.
   - If No, proceed to the next question
     - Yes
     - No

4. Does this application include Nutrient Management or a practice that will reduce sheet and rill erosion? OR Does the application include Maryland Milestones?
   - If Yes, set the priority to Medium.
   - If No, proceed to the next question
     - Yes
     - No

5. Is the applicant maintaining previously installed practices, which are still within their lifespan, that were installed using Federal/State/Local funds when there have been no substantial changes to their operation?
   - If Yes, set the priority ranking to LOW. Screening is complete
   - If No, set the priority ranking to LOW. Screening is complete

**FINAL PRIORITY DETERMINATION**

D.C. Approval: [ ]
Date Approved: [ ]