

**Beginning Farmer/Rancher Fund Accounts**

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER**

SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET

A screening worksheet will be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

<p>Instructions:                  Complete a screening worksheet for each eligible producer applying for assistance in this fund account. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) will be recorded in ProTracts application priority. A copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>	
<p>Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP applicant</p>	
Applicant Name:	County:
Application No (optional):	Field Office:
Evaluator Name:	Date:
<p>Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select and circle one:</p>	
<p><b>High Priority Category:</b>                  The applicant is a Veteran Farmer or Rancher (VFR). The term veteran farmer or rancher (VFR) means a person who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable and who also meets the definition of beginning farmer or rancher (BFR). The VFR must: a) not have operated a farm or ranch; or b) not have operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 consecutive years. For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a VFR entity, all members must meet the definition of VFR.</p> <p>The applicant self-certified on Form NRCS-CPA-1200, “Conservation Program Application” as VFR and BFR.</p>	<p>High Priority                  Status in ProTracts</p>
<p><b>Medium Priority Category:</b>                  All other eligible applicants.</p>	<p>Medium Priority                  Status in ProTracts</p>
<p><b>Low Priority Category:</b>                  Not Applicable.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>The priority determination of high, medium, or low will be recorded in ProTracts application priority for this applicant.</p>	
District Conservationist Approval:	Date: