

<b>High Tunnel System EQIP Initiative Fund Pool</b> <b>Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet</b> <u style="color: red;">A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u>		
Applicant Name:		
Evaluator Name:		
Date:	Batching Number:	Application No:
<p>EQIP is a competitive financial assistance program and applications are screened and ranked based on the expected conservation benefits of planned practices in the EQIP schedule of operations. This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible applicant applying for financial assistance. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, application batching periods are established for purposes of ranking and funding decisions. A screening worksheet can be processed for each application batching period. 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 documentation does not constitute an 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 unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>		
Screening Criteria Questions		
If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, <b>Low Priority</b> Status in ProTracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant has reviewed and approved the EQIP schedule of operations that will be uploaded to the NRCS business tool, ProTracts, before or by the ranking deadline.</li> </ul>	
If Yes, <b>Low Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or,</li> <li>b. Failed to implement contract items in an existing EQIP contract according to the schedule in Form, NRCS-CPA-1155, "Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations," and the contract was modified to reschedule contract items - installation delays were not due to NRCS error or design delay – and/or,</li> <li>c. Failed to implement rescheduled contract items agreed to according to Form, NRCS-CPA-153, "Agreement Covering Non-Compliance with Provisions of Contract," and Form, NRCS-CPA-1156, "Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract," – and/or,</li> <li>d. Installed conservation practices with financial assistance from NRCS that have not been maintained according to the practice operations and maintenance for the practice lifespan.</li> </ol>	
If Yes, <b>Low Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP schedule of operations includes practices that will facilitate an increase in groundwater withdrawal – for example, switching from flood irrigation to a sprinkler irrigation system <i>and</i> switching the water source from surface (e.g. water from an irrigation district) to ground water (e.g. well water).	
If Yes, <b>High Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	Both of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer to <u>extend the growing season of seasonal crops</u>.</li> <li>Practice(s) will be scheduled, if needed, to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.</li> </ul>	

Screening Criteria Questions			
<p>If Yes, <b>High Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>Both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer <u>to grow plants in areas where they are not typically suited or adapted to grow.</u></li> <li>• Practice(s) will be scheduled, if needed, to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.</li> </ul>		
<p>If Yes, <b>High Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>Both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer <u>to grow plants that would otherwise be damaged by excessive sunlight.</u></li> <li>• Practice(s) will be scheduled, if needed, to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.</li> </ul>		
<p>If Yes, <b>High Priority</b> Status in ProTracts. If No, <b>Low Priority</b> Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>Both of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a seasonal high tunnel which will assist the producer <u>to grow plants otherwise be damaged by excessive wind.</u></li> <li>• Practice(s) will be scheduled, if needed, to mitigate for erosion around the perimeter of the high tunnel.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Application Screening Priority:</b></p>			
<p>Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>	