

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher Pastureland EQIP Fund Pool Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet <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>			
All applications for the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher Pastureland EQIP Fund Pool will be considered for veteran priority status before, and regardless of, all other screening criteria.			
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next section of screening criteria.	Application screening priority is 'High' if the following is true. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant is a veteran farmer or rancher (VFR) 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. 2. 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. 3. For a legal entity or joint operation to be considered a VFR entity, all members must meet the definition of VFR. 4. Applicant self-certified as a veteran, a beginning and a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher on the CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application. 		
Did applicant meet the veteran screening priority? (check box for yes or no)		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If the applicant does not meet the criteria as a veteran farmer or rancher then priority will be based on the following screening criteria for Low, Medium and High.			
Screening Criteria Questions			
If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.	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.		
If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	EQIP 'schedule' of operations includes practices that will facilitate an increase in groundwater withdrawal – for example, switching the water source from surface (e.g. water from an irrigation district) to ground water (e.g. well water).		

Screening Criteria Questions			
<p>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or, Failed to implement contract items in as 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, 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, Installed conservation practices with financial assistance from NRCS that have not been maintained according to the practice operations and maintenance for the practice lifespan. 		
<p>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>Both are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, for drought resiliency and soil health. Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address at least TWO of the priority resource concerns listed below. 		
<p>If Yes, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address at least ONE of the priority resource concerns listed below.</p>		
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher Pastureland Priority Resource Concerns (Check the box for the resource concern(s) addressed by conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations.)			
SOIL EROSION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Classic Gullies		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Bank Erosion from Streams, Shorelines or Water Conveyance Channels		
SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Compaction		
INSUFFICIENT WATER			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water		
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excess Nutrients in Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Sediment in Surface Water
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-Solids, or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Water		
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inadequate Structure and Composition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Excessive Plant Pest Pressure		
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat Degradation		
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inadequate Livestock Water		
INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations		
Application Screening Priority:			
Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:		Date Approved:	