

Attachment A:

**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Organic Initiative
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2009
EQIP Application Supporting “Transition to Organic Production”**

A Screening Worksheet is required to be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

Instructions:			
This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP organic-initiative assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, “cut-off” dates are established for purposes of ranking and funding allocation. 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 related to organic provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.			
Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of an EQIP contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant. If the applicant is already certified organic do not use this worksheet, use the “Certified” screening worksheet to determine priority.			
Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant			
Applicant Name:		County:	
Application Number:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	
Instructions: For each eligible application submitted by COB June 5, 2009, complete the following worksheet. Applications submitted after this date must be “deferred” until the next funding cycle. Use of this screening tool is <u>mandatory</u> and should be completed prior to final ranking, but no later than June 5, 2009.			

Step One Basic Eligibility:		Yes	Action:	No	Action
A	Is the application NRCS-CPA-1200 complete, signed and dated?		Yes, Continue to B		No, do not process until application is complete.
B	Do the EQIP planned practices address one or more of the national program priorities? (EQIP515.3B): The application must support at least one national program priority.		Yes, Continue to C		No, application is ineligible
C	Is the Land Eligible? (EQIP 515.52 and CPM 512.22): Applicant has provided documentation and evidence to indicate land meets program eligibility requirements and proof of control.		Yes, Continue to D		No, application is ineligible
D	Applicant has provided written self-certification agreeing to develop an Organic System Plan (OSP) and implement conservation practices consistent with EQIP Statute and the OSP. (Sec. 1240(B))		Yes, Continue to Step 2		No, application is ineligible

Step Two Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:	
High Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least three of the “Core 6” conservation practices. (New application of Core 6 practices) OR -Application will result in implementation of a suite of three or more “Core 6” conservation practices. (Applicant has already applied some Core 6 practices) OR -Application is for development of an EQIP Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Supporting Organic Transition.	High Priority Status in ProTracts
Medium Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least two of the “Core 6” Management Practices (New application of practices and no Core 6 practices currently installed).	Medium Priority Status in ProTracts
Low Priority Category: -Application will not result in implementation of any of the “Core 6” Management Practices.	Low Priority Status in ProTracts
Application is for conservation practices that do not assist the producer’s transition to an organic production system and/or are not consistent with requirements of an OSP, defer application (or refer application to other program).	Defer

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

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Organic Initiative
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2009
EQIP Application for “Certified” Organic Operation.**

A Screening Worksheet is required to be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

Instructions:			
This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP organic-initiative assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, “cut-off” dates are established for purposes of ranking and funding allocation. 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 related to organic provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.			
Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of an EQIP contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant. If the applicant operation is not “certified organic” do not use this worksheet, use the “Transition to Organic Production” screening worksheet.			
Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant			
Applicant Name:		County:	
Application Number:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	
Instructions: For each eligible application submitted by COB June 5, 2009, complete the following worksheet. Applications submitted after this date must be “deferred” until the next funding cycle. Use of this screening tool is <u>mandatory</u> and should be completed prior to final ranking, but no later than June 5, 2009.			

Step One Basic Eligibility:		Yes	Action:	No	Action
A	Is the application NRCS-CPA-1200 complete, signed and dated?		Yes, Continue to B		No, do not process until application is complete.
B	Do the EQIP planned practices address one or more of the national program priorities? (EQIP515.3B): The application must support at least one national program priority.		Yes, Continue to C		No, application is ineligible
C	Is the Land Eligible? (EQIP 515.52 and CPM 512.22): Applicant has provided documentation and evidence to indicate land meets program eligibility requirements and proof of control.		Yes, Continue to D		No, application is ineligible
D	Applicant has provided NRCS with a copy of their current approved Organic System Plan (OSP) and agrees to implement conservation practices consistent with EQIP Statute and the OSP. (Sec. 1240(B))		Yes, Continue to Step 2		No, application is ineligible

Step Two Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

<p>High Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Application will result in implementation of at least three of the “Core 6” conservation practices. (New application of Core 6 practices) OR -Application will result in implementation of a suite of three or more “Core 6” conservation practices. (Applicant has already applied some Core 6 practices) 	High Priority Status in ProTracts
<p>Medium Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Application will result in implementation of at least two of the “Core 6” Management Practices (New application of practices and no Core 6 practices currently installed). 	Medium Priority Status in ProTracts
<p>Low Priority Category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Application will not result in implementation of any of the “Core 6” Management Practices. 	Low Priority Status in ProTracts
<p>Application is for conservation practices that do not assist producer maintain or implement conservation practices documented in an Organic System Plan, defer application (or refer application to other program).</p>	Defer

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

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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