

EQIP Organic Initiative
National Screening Criteria Worksheet – Fiscal Year 2011
Transition to Organic Production Applicant

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP Organic Initiative assistance. 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 or approval of an EQIP contract. The original screening worksheet must be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and 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. If the applicant is certified organic or in the exempt category, do not use this worksheet, use the Organic Production screening worksheet.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant

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|---------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Applicant Name: | | County: | |
| Application Number: | | Field Office: | |
| Evaluator Name: | | Date: | |

Instructions: For each eligible application submitted by March 4, 2011, complete the following worksheet. Applications submitted after this date must be “deferred” until the next funding cycle. Use of this screening tool is mandatory and must be completed prior to final ranking.

| Step One – Basic Eligibility: | | Yes | Action: | No | Action |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------------|-----------|---|
| A | Is the applicant eligible? (EQIP 515.51 and CPM 512.22): Applicant has provided documentation to indicate producer eligibility for the EQIP Organic Initiative. | | Yes, Continue to B | | No, do not process until application is complete. |
| B | Is the land eligible? (EQIP 515.52 and CPM 512.22): Applicant has provided documentation and evidence to indicate land meets program eligibility requirements. | | Yes, Continue to C | | No, application is ineligible |
| C | Do the planned practices address one or more of the national primary resource concerns for the EQIP Organic Initiative (i.e. soil condition, soil erosion, domestic animals, plant condition, water quality, or fish and wildlife)? | | Yes, Continue to D | | No, application is ineligible |
| D | Applicant has provided the contact information of their accredited certifying agent, and is implementing conservation practices consistent with an Organic System Plan. (Sec. 1240(B)) | | Yes, Continue to Step 2 | | No, application is ineligible |

Step Two – Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

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| High Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least five State-approved conservation practices. OR -Application will result in implementation of a State-approved suite of three or more conservation practices. (A suite of organic practices approved in any State will tie practices together to address resource concerns) OR -Application is for development of an EQIP Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). | High Priority Status in ProTracts |
| Medium Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of at least two State-approved conservation practices. | Medium Priority Status in ProTracts |
| Low Priority Category: -Application will result in implementation of only one State-approved conservation practice. | Low Priority Status in ProTracts |
| Application is for conservation practices that do not assist the producer’s transition to an organic production system, are not consistent with requirements of an OSP, or both. 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.

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| D.C. Approval: | | Date Approved: | |
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