

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

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:

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.

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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EQIP Organic Initiative
National Screening Criteria Worksheet – Fiscal Year 2011
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 operation is not certified organic or in the exempt category 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 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	For certified organic producers, 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)). For exempt producers, applicant has provided documentation that they sell less than \$5,000 in organic products annually and agrees to implement conservation practices consistent with an OSP.		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 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
For certified organic producers, application is for conservation practices that do not help producer maintain or implement conservation practices documented in an Organic System Plan. Or for exempt producers, application is for conservation practices that are not consistent with 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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