

Maine NRCS 2019 Financial Assistance Program - General Fund Pool Screening Criteria Worksheet

All applications to the 2019 AMA and EQIP local and statewide category fund pools must be evaluated using this worksheet. Applications for National Initiative fund pools (National Water Quality Initiative, On-Farm Energy, and Working Lands for Wildlife) shall NOT be evaluated using this worksheet, as specific screening tools for these initiatives have been developed.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each application for FY 2019 funding consideration in one of the Financial Assistance (FA) programs listed above. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and program benefits are efficiently allocated to address prioritized conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide NRCS FA program benefits nor approval of a FA program contract. This screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant's case file and the screening priority (High, Medium, or Low) shall be recorded in ProTracts by the first ranking deadline. Upon request, a copy of the screening worksheet will be provided to the applicant. Initially, only HIGH priority eligible applications will be ranked and considered for funding. MEDIUM priority eligible applications in a particular funding category will be ranked and considered for funding ONLY if all HIGH priority eligible applications within the category are funded or are otherwise not being considered (deferred, cancelled, etc.) and if funds remain available for obligation in that category (NOTE: surplus funds may be swept to obligate Eligible, High Priority applications in other fund pool categories). LOW priority eligible applications will not be ranked.

Applicant Name:		County:			
Application Number:		Field Office:			
Step One - Evaluation		Yes or N/A?	Action:	No?	Action
A	Is the application form NRCS CPA 1200 complete, signed, and dated by the batching period deadline?		Yes = Keep going: Continue To B		No = STOP : Do not process until application is complete. If application is not complete and eligible by end of ranking period, change application status to "Ineligible" in ProTracts. Continue to Step 2.
B	Is the applicant self-certified as a Veteran/Beginning Farmer/Rancher or a Veteran/Beginning/Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher and is the application competing in an EQIP Beginning Farmer/Rancher or Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher fund pool?		Yes = STOP : Application is high priority. Continue to Step 2.		No=Keep going: Continue to C
C	The applicant has not had two or more NRCS-CPA-153 non-compliance forms issued for contract violations due to reasons within their control in the past 3 fiscal years (2016-2018)?		Yes = Keep going: Continue to D		No = STOP : Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.
D	The applicant has not had a contract terminated for a non-compliance reason (other than loss of control of the land due to hardship or reasons beyond the control of the participant) in the past 3 fiscal years (2016-2018)?		Yes = Keep going: Continue to E		No = STOP : Application is Low Priority. Continue to Step 2.
E	Will the proposed practices address two or more eligible resource concerns or is application for AOP, High Tunnel, On-Farm Energy, Pollinator Habitat, or CAP and only has one identified resource concern?		Yes = STOP : Application is High. Continue to Step 2.		No = Keep going: Continue to F
F	Application is addressing at least one resource concern?		Yes = Application is Medium. Continue to Step 2.		No, there are no resource concern issues identified = STOP : Application is INELIGIBLE . Continue to Step 2.
Step 2 - Priority determination for ProTracts - Select One: Priority setting is based on the lowest screening result.					
High Priority Category:			Mark application as HIGH priority in ProTracts and proceed with eligibility determination and ranking		
Medium Priority Category:			Mark application as MEDIUM priority in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK at this time.		
Low Priority Category:			Mark application as LOW priority in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK!		
Ineligible:			Change status of application to INELIGIBLE in ProTracts and DO NOT RANK! If changes occur to make the application eligible prior to ranking deadline, you must re-do the screening to determine priority setting.		
The priority determination of HIGH, MEDIUM or LOW must be recorded in Protracts for this application by the first ranking deadline.					
Evaluator Signature:	Date:		If Evaluator is NOT the DC, DC Signature:	Date:	