Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

§ 1466.20 Application for contracts and selecting applications.

(a) In evaluating EQIP applications, the State Conservationist or designated conservationist, with advice from the State Technical Committee or local working group, takes into account the following guidelines:

(1) Any producer who has eligible land may submit an application for participation in EQIP. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Producers who are members of a joint operation may file a single application for the joint operation.

(2) The State Conservationist, to the greatest extent practicable, will group applications of similar crop, forestry, and livestock operations for evaluation purposes.

(3) The State Conservationist will evaluate applications within each established grouping.

(b) In selecting EQIP applications, the State Conservationist or designated conservationist, with advice from the State Technical Committee or local working group, may establish ranking pools to address a specific resource concern, geographic area, or agricultural operation type or develop a ranking process to prioritize applications for funding that address national,