

Local Work Group development of local EQIP.

Chisago

District FY08 EQIP

1. List the local resource concerns that EQIP can address:

Soil erosion, wildlife habitat, nutrient management, pest management, livestock management, soil quality, grazing, water quality, use exclusion, CNMP

2. If applicable, list any geographic regions (i.e. watersheds, townships, etc.) and their respective resource concerns within the District to receive priority:

North Branch of the Sunrise River – reduce fecal coliform, excess nutrients, reduce sediment loading

Lawrence Creek Watershed – reduce excess nutrients

St. Croix river basin – reduce P loading in the St. Croix 20% by 2020

3. From items 1 & 2 above prioritize the local resource concerns to be addressed with EQIP funding for the district. Describe a minimum of 3 categories of the highest priority applications which you would want to receive funding.

Address soil quality to improve landscape health and increase biologically active soil. Use the soil conditioning index as a tool to increase the quality of the soil. As we promote reduced tillage and nutrient management, we're promoting improved soil quality. With the acres of farmland decreasing, we need to maintain and increase the quality of what is left

Improving water quality via minimizing impact of livestock on water sources. Promote use exclusion to water sources through stand-alone practices. Do not have them available only through an intensive grazing system. i.e., use exclusion including fencing, pipeline, wells. There are smaller livestock farms or acreages that with ponds and streams providing the water source. These farms may not necessarily need an intensive grazing system but should address the livestock having unlimited access to water

Prioritize wildlife habitat and restoration enhancements. Chisago county is being heavily developed with homes and communities. The natural areas within the county need to be preserved.

4. Develop a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 yes/no questions to determine if an application is addressing the high priority concerns described in item 3.

SOIL QUALITY – the application will improve the soil conditioning index if positive or from negative to positive 10 pts

WATER QUALITY – the application will install practices to eliminate unlimited access of livestock to water through use exclusion, pipeline, pond, well 10 pts

WILDLIFE HABITAT – the application will improve wildlife habitat or restore wetlands 10 pts

WATER QUALITY – the application will install practices that address fecal coliform bacteria, excess nutrients, and sediment loading in the North Branch of the Sunrise River, Lawrence Creek, or St. Croix river basin. 10 pts

5. Assign points to the questions in Item #4 as desired to reflect local priorities. The total points assigned to the questions must equal exactly 40 points.
6. Submit this worksheet to your respective ASTC(FO). After approval from the state office, the questions will be entered into the Local Issues section of the ranking tool.

The local EQIP program description, cost-share docket changes, and ranking worksheet must be reviewed and approved by the State Conservationist before any EQIP contract is approved and signed.

This document serves as the Local Work Group recommendation for FY 08 EQIP. Attached is a roster of participation in the Local Work Group.

Chair, Local Work Group

Date