

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service		NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013		A. Client Name: <b>Joe and Cindy Farmer</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET</b>				B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): NA Program Authority (optional): CTA and EQIP	
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): (Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.			C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required): Farm ###, Tract ### Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5 Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8 Farmstead (FS): 6		
E. Need for Action: (Conservation Resource Need: What Resource Concerns are practice/plan/contract addressing?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.		H. Alternatives			
		No Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS		Alternative 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS	
No Action = Benchmark Condition		Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.		Alternative 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2013 (Progressive Plan)	
<b>Resource Concerns</b>					
In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).					
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)		I. Effects of Alternatives			
		No Action		Alternative 1	
Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	
<b>SOIL: EROSION</b>					
Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion <i>Wind erosion generally NA in PA</i>	C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Concentrated flow <i>Formerly gully erosion (ephemeral, classic)</i>	Meets PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels <i>Formerly streambank &amp; shoreline erosion</i>	Excessive streambank erosion due to animal access to streams in Fields 2 and 7 -- OR -- NA (no streams or ponds on Tract)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
	Streambank erosion reduced by excluding animals from streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
	Reduced erosion in Field 2 due to restricted access, no effect in Field 7 -- OR -- No Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
<b>SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION</b>					
Compaction	C - penetrometer and root systems show signs of compaction in Field 3, 4 due to cropping activities and daily haul; P meets PC; FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion	C - Field 3, 4, 5 have negative SCI (see RUSLE2 report); P - meets PC; FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Other <i>Only use resource concerns that are applicable to PA according to the Planning Criteria document (FOTG Section III)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
<b>WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER</b>					
Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted) <i>Formerly Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding, &amp; Excessive Seepage, &amp; Excessive Subsurface Water</i>	C - meets PC; P - seasonal high water table/flooding potential in Fields 2 and 7; FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Other		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC
<b>WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION</b>						
Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters <i>Formerly Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater &amp; Surface Water</i>	C - Field 3 high in P, near stream; P - animals have access to stream; FS - ACA located within 30 feet of well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	P - reduce nutrient contamination by installing streambank fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C - reduce by following Nutrient Management Plan and implementing manure storage; P - reduce by restricting animal access to streams in Field 2, continued access in Field 7; FS - reduce by installing manure storage and HUAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters <i>Formerly Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater &amp; Surface Water</i>	Certified Organic operation applies NOP (National Organic Program) approved substances according to label recommendations and setbacks. -- OR -- Substances stored near well head with signs of leakage and spills. (Not meet PC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Reduce potential for pesticide contamination through increased level of beneficial insect management, pollinator habitat and pest management plan. -- OR -- Reduce potential for pesticide contamination through "pesticide" storage facility	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications <i>Formerly Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater &amp; Surface Water</i>	C - meets PC; P - animals have access to stream; FS - ACA contaminated runoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	P - reduce by restricting livestock from stream	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C - no change; P - reduced through limited stream access in Field 2, no change Field 7; FS - reduced by implementing manure storage and HUAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Excessive sediment in surface waters <i>Formerly Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water</i>	C - perennial vegetated buffer on Field 3; P - excessive sediment primarily due to upstream management (off farm); FS - NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C - no effect; P - reduced turbidity through implementation of grazing system, no-till, streambank fencing; FS - no change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Elevated water temperature <i>Formerly Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</i>	P - increased water temperatures due to lack of overhanging vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	P - decreased surface water temperature by excluding livestock from riparian area and establishing trees	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Other		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS</b>						
Pennsylvania air quality non-attainment counties can be found at: PM 2.5: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/final/region3.htm">http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/final/region3.htm</a> Ozone: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/reg3airtd/airquality/ozone8hrmaintareas_2.htm">http://www.epa.gov/reg3airtd/airquality/ozone8hrmaintareas_2.htm</a>						
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors <i>Formerly Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers &amp; 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 10 &amp; 2.5)</i>	Tract located in PM 2.5 county. -- OR -- Tract not located in PM 2.5 county, NA (PC met)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Planned practices have positive effect, reduce PM 2.5 -- OR -- No Change	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors <i>Applies to Non-attainment counties: basic, moderate, marginal. NA for "In Attainment" and "Maintenance"</i>	In attainment	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Practices have positive effect on ozone precursors	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Objectionable odors <i>Formerly Objectionable Odors &amp; Ammonia (NH3)</i>	Potential issues due to manure application and proximity to housing development	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Odor potential reduced through windbreak establishment	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Other		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC
<b>PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION</b>						
Undesirable plant productivity and health <i>Formerly Plants not adapted or suited, &amp; Productivity, Health and Vigor, &amp; Forage Quality and Palatability</i>	C - Vegetable plants not adapted to site, poor yield, frequent frost damage; P - meets PC; FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C - improve plants with proper high tunnel management and soil testing; P - no effect; FS - no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Inadequate structure and composition <i>NEW</i>	C - NA; P - poor plant diversity. Presence of undesirable reed canary grass; FS - NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C & FS - no effect; P - pasture management and reseeding will improve composition	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure <i>NEW</i>	Producer manages. C - minimal Jimsonweed and Johnson grass in Fields 1 & 3; P - Multiflora rose and Canada thistle present; FS - none	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No invasive or noxious species will be introduced. Producer will maintain control over existing. -- OR -- C - continue to manage; P - pasture manage and reseeding will reduce weed pressure; FS - no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Other		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>						
Habitat degradation <i>Formerly Inadequate Cover/Shelter, &amp; Food, &amp; Space, &amp; Water, &amp; Habitat Fragmentation, &amp; Imbalance Among and Within Populations for Fish/Wildlife</i>	Inadequate cover throughout year due to cropping practices and intensive grazing (See PA Wildlife Evaluation -- OR -- Inadequate, PA Wildlife Evaluation Crop 0.3 and Pasture 0.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Wildlife cover increased through buffer establishment. Wildlife habitat worksheet > 0.5	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No change - PC not met. See worksheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION</b>						
Inadequate feed and forage	P - Forage stand in Field 8 is limited by overgrazing; C & FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	P - improved quality and quantity through implementing 528, rotational grazing, reseeding	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Inadequate livestock water	C - NA; P - inadequate; FS - meets PC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	P - improved through watering system; FS - no change	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Other		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE</b>						
Equipment and facilities <i>NEW</i>	C & P - NA; FS - old vacuum pump, incandescent light bulbs,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	FS - CFL bulbs and variable speed vacuum installed	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations <i>NEW</i>	C - conventional tillage; P - meets PC; FS - NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	C - no-till system reduces fossil fuel use; P - no change	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>						
Labor	Currently daily haul, conventional tillage, and minimal pasture management.				1 - 2 fewer hours of labor for daily haul, short term increase for periodic unloading of manure storage. Increased pasture management. Decrease cropland labor via no-till system.	
Management Level	Currently daily haul, conventional tillage, and minimal pasture management.				Increased management of nutrients, livestock, crop rotation, and manure storage.	
Public Health and Safety	NA (omit due to sensitive information)				Public health improved through improved surface and ground water quality, ag waste safety features installed.	

**Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.**

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "•" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions) (Information Source)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2</i> EPA Website, SIP for PM 2.5 and 8 hour ozone	NA: in attainment --OR-- PM2.5/Ozone nonattainment county	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect NA --OR-- Practices planned have positive impact on air quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> WRAS's, TMDL's, wetland determinations, 303(d) list of impaired water bodies	High quality waters exist on farm -- OR-- 303(d) listed stream due to nutrients and suspended solids	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No actions planned that result in discharge of dredge or fill materials. Planned actions reduce nutrients, pathogens, and sediment entering stream. No NPDES requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> CMZ plan	NA --OR-- Located in Lake Erie Coastal Zone	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect NA --OR-- Planned actions in compliance with CMZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> NA in PA	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Practice Effects Guidance, National Register, State Website	Not present in planning area --OR-- -- Multiple buildings greater than 50 years old.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect See CRRW. All practices reviewed for impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> PNDI	Positive PNDI search result - 1 potential impact. No other indications of T&E or listed species. --OR-- No PNDI hits	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Avoidance measures followed -- OR-- DCNR contacted (see documentation) --OR-- Upon review, NA (see PNDI receipt)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Observation, census	NA - none identified	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> NA in PA	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> FEMA - FIRM, Soils	No 100 year floodplain exists (NA) - -OR-- 100 year floodplain exists	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect NA --OR-- Activities will not change or otherwise impact floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Observation, landowner	Producer manages. C - minimal Jimsonweed and Johnson grass in Fields 1 & 3; P - Multiflora rose and Canada thistle present; FS - none	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Producer will control existing invasive species. No invasive or noxious species will be introduced.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> PNDI, observation	Moderate quality habitat for migratory birds exists.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect - No measurable adverse impacts. --OR-- May effect - Improved habitat through XXX practice(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>	NA - no formally or informally designated natural area exists	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Soils	XXX acres of prime farmland -- OR-- prime farmland exists --OR-- -- NA	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No adverse impacts, no important farmland will be converted to non-ag use. --OR-- NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Observation, water bodies	Animal access to stream riparian area results in limited tree shading, reduced water quality, and fragmented wildlife corridors. --OR-- NA - No riparian (surface water) area exists.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Animal access to streams completely restricted resulting in further water quality improvement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Animal access to stream limited, resulting in improved water quality, increase tree cover, and improved wildlife corridors. --OR-- NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>	Viewshed is composed of agricultural and forested land	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Viewshed considered, practices planned to minimize impact	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions) (Information Source)		J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
		No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
		Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
•Wetlands <a href="#">Guide Sheet</a> <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> <a href="#">Wetland determination</a>		Wetland area identified and determined by NRCS -- OR -- Wetland determination complete, no wetlands exists -- OR -- No wetland determination exists.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No effect, no draining or filling planned. Planned actions will maintain vegetative cover and reduce delivery of sediment, nutrients, and organic materials to wetlands. -- OR -- NA -- OR -- Wetland determination complete, wetland exists/does not exist, no effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Wild and Scenic Rivers <a href="#">Guide Sheet</a> <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a> <a href="#">PA DCNR website</a>		Scenic river exists. -- OR -- No scenic river exists.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Compatible with Clarion Scenic Rivers designation. -- OR -- NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns		No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.		NA -- OR -- Farmland Preservation/WRP/etc. easement exists. -- OR -- CREP Contract for riparian area with FSA				NA -- OR -- WRP easement, GP-9 needed, and PNDI - Consultation with Game Commission in progress -- OR -- CREP contract for riparian area with FSA.	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)		Continued sheet and streambank erosion and water quality degradation.				Existing and planned practices in local watershed will cumulatively improve all resources except as noted: None	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)		None needed				None needed	
M. Preferred Alternative	√ preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Supporting reason			Producer is not interested in fencing stream or establishing additional wildlife habitat at this time.		Producer has agreed to implement plan once NRCS FA becomes available.	
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)			local	HUC # Watershed	Chesapeake Bay Watershed		
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.							

**O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances**

**Intensity:** Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

**If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.**

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

**P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:**

In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

<b>Qualified* <u>non-NRCS</u> individual</b>		
Signature (TSP if applicable)	Title	Date
<b>RFO <u>or</u> qualified* NRCS employee</b>		
Signature (NRCS)	Title	Date

**\*For more information about the requirements to be a Qualified Planner, refer to PA Supplemental Policy CM 130, Part 400.14, Supplement 5.**

**If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.**

Farm Service Agency

**The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)**

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

**Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)**

The preferred alternative:

**Action required**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CTA</b>	1) is <b>not a federal action</b> where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/> <small>Use when applicable</small>	2) is a federal action <b>ALL</b> of which is <b>categorically excluded</b> from further environmental analysis <b>AND</b> there are <b>no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O"</b> .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FA Programs</b>	3) is a federal action that has been <b>sufficiently analyzed</b> in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document <b>and</b> there are no predicted <u>significant adverse</u> environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A in PA</b>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects <b>and has been formally adopted by NRCS</b> . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. <b>(Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)</b>	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Call State Office</b>	5) is a federal action that has <b>NOT</b> been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

**R. Rationale Supporting the Finding**

<b>R.1</b> Findings Documentation	Finding 1 - CTA Planning only, all fields except Field 5. -- OR -- Finding 2 - Cat. Ex. # XXX -- OR -- Finding 3 - NRCS Programmatic NEPA document for EQIP
<b>R.2</b> Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)  7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	(20) Implementing soil control measures on existing agricultural lands, such as grade stabilization structures (pipe drops), sediment basins, terraces, grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian forest buffer, and critical area planting; <i>(Remember - if selecting a Cat. Ex, all practices within the plan must be covered by one or more Cat. Ex.)</i>  (1) Planting appropriate herbaceous and woody vegetation, which does not include noxious weeds or invasive plants, on disturbed sites to restore and maintain the sites ecological functions and services; Requires that the established vegetative community maintain the sites ecological functions and services, which could not be accomplished by converting native forests or grasslands.

*I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.*

**S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:**

RFO - Typically District Conservationist and/or Supervisory DC

Signature

Title

Date

**Additional notes**