

Part 610 – National Environmental Compliance Handbook

Subpart H – Exhibits

610.112 Prime and Unique Farmlands Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheet

PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS EVALUATION PROCEDURE GUIDE SHEET

STEP 1

Using the criteria found in the FPPA Rule (7 CFR Section 658.5), does the proposed action or alternative convert farmland to a nonagricultural use? (**Note:** Conversion does not include construction of on-farm structures necessary for farm operations. Also, Form AD-1006, "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating," and Form NRCS-CPA-106, "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects," are used to document effects of proposed projects that may convert farmland.)

If "No," additional evaluation is not needed concerning prime and unique farmland. **Document the finding on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.**

If "Yes," go to Step 2.

If "Unknown," consult section II of the FOTG and FPPA rule and **repeat Step 1**. If you are still uncertain about the effects on prime and unique farmlands in your planning area, consult the State soil scientist.

STEP 2

Are prime or unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide or local importance present in or near the area that will be affected by the proposed action or alternative?

If "No," additional evaluation is not needed concerning prime and unique farmland. **Document the finding on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.**

If "Yes," go to Step 3.

STEP 3

Can the proposed action or alternative be modified to avoid adverse effects or conversion?

If "No," document the adverse effects on the NRCS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.

If "Yes," modify the proposed action and **repeat Step 1 or contact the State soil scientist** for further assistance.