

DETERMINING POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY AND RANKING CRITERIA
High Plains Aquifer Groundwater Conservation Area
(Section 1240I Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002)

The following guide is provided for determining those applications having potential to earn environmental points in EQIP High Plains Aquifer Groundwater Conservation Area. It is to be used by USDA personnel in evaluating the resource issues being considered in 2002 and where appropriate to aid clients in determining whether their particular resource concern(s) would receive ranking points in this year's evaluation. **Maintain this record with the CCC-1200 and 1201 for documentation of the environmental benefit.**

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Tracts: _____

Assisted By: _____ Assisting Agency: NRCS

<p>1) Primary Resource Concern – Water Conservation (Water Quantity) Pursuant to the Act cost share and incentive payments for groundwater conservation measures must provide a net savings in groundwater resources in the agriculture operation of the producer. These criteria must be met before environmental points can be assigned. Otherwise, score zero environmental points. The application will not be ranked for water conservation funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land must be under existing irrigation system (furrow or sprinkler irrigated within the last 12 months) deriving its water supply from a well into the Ogallala Aquifer. Water conservation benefits are evaluated based on the last irrigation system used on the land. The operating unit must currently, or be planned to, meet the NRCS Irrigation Water Management standard and specification (449) during the EQIP contract period. 	
<p>2) Will the plan include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to one or more of the following systems? (check one and score; add irrigated land converted to dryland if applicable)</p>	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler w/lower elevation, spray nozzles (Nozzle height 36" to 60") 1 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPIC Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle height 18" to 36") 4 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEPA or LESA Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle height 18" or less) 8 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation (SDI) 8 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
Dry Land Cropland or Dry Land Pasture (includes Pivot corners) 6 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<p>3) Will the plan include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to one or more of the following systems? (check one and score; add irrigated land converted to dryland if applicable)</p>	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler w/lower elevation, spray nozzles (Nozzle height 36" to 60") 1 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LPIC Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle height 18" to 36") 2 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LEPA or LESA Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle height 18" or less) 6 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation (SDI) 6 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
Dry Land Cropland or Dry Land Pasture (includes Pivot corners) 6 X Total Annual Water Conserved (Ac.Ft.)	
<p>4) Does the plan include one or more of the following measures to increase the efficiency of an existing system? (check and score all that apply)</p>	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Furrow Diking? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Row pattern planting under sprinkler? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-row Chiseling? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, score an additional 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Well Decommissioning 1000 points per well	

(MORE)

5) Does the Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan include provisions for any or all of the following? IWM system will be maintained for a five-year minimum.	Score
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Flow Measurement & Monitoring? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, score an additional 200 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Scheduling & Record Keeping? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, score an additional 100 points	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Soil Moisture Monitoring? Yes ___ No ___ (minimum of one time per week) If yes, score an additional 50 points	
6) Does the planned treatment include adoption of conservation tillage practices in addition to irrigation system conversions or modifications (Residue management, No-till, Mulch till, or Ridge till)? Tillage system will be maintained for a five-year minimum. Yes ___ No ___ If Yes , score additional 1000 points	Score
7) Does planned treatment include conversion of irrigated cropland to permanent vegetation? Yes ___ No ___ If Yes , score 60 points/ac for native grass &/or 10 points/ac for introduced grass	Score
8) Does planned treatment include application of conservation buffer practices (contour buffer strips, field borders, filter strips, herbaceous wind barriers, hedgerow planting, or windbreak/shelterbelts) on land currently irrigated? Yes ___ No ___ If Yes , score an additional 50 points/buffer practice for establishing a new buffer &/or 20 points/buffer practice for protecting existing buffers.	Score
TOTAL SCORE: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	

 Signature of Applicant

 Date