

Ranking Category—WATER QUANTITY

Primary Resource Concerns—

- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water—Inefficient Moisture Management

Eligible Land Uses—

- Crop, Pasture

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- If the land continues to be irrigated, producer must currently have or will install a functioning state-approved water measuring device to state installation specifications (Kansas Administrative Regulations [K.A.R.] 5-1-6) before financial assistance is received.
- If the land continues to be irrigated, well capacity must be able to meet the seasonal Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR), with 50 percent chance rainfall, for the crop grown.
- If the land continues to be irrigated, the producer will stay within the certified rate, amount, and location of the existing water right at the time the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract is obligated.
- If the land continues to be irrigated, the producer will use an irrigation scheduling system that meets Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).
- If the land continues to be irrigated, no end gun or similar appurtenances will be present or used on the pivot system for the lifespan of the system.
- Producer reports to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of water use in the ag operation. Producers will furnish reports from the previous five years to determine the average benchmark condition, and each year during the contract to ensure a reduction in the ground and surface water use in the ag operation.
 - o If there are hardships that result in discrepancies in the previous five years of irrigation used to determine the benchmark condition of water use, another year can be substituted (hardship example—the producer stops irrigating due to hail damaged crops). Refer to Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, Section 512.57, on documenting hardships.
- Conservation Practice (CP) 449, Irrigation Water Management is required in the conservation plan and will receive financial assistance if not already established, per program policy.

State Issues—

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

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- (a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)
2. If applicable, answer ONE of the following six questions describing your plan to obtain a net water savings in your agricultural operation. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) Producer will install a three–year crop rotation that will reduce their benchmark use by at least 50 percent, using their current irrigation system. (320 points)
- (b) Producer will install a three–year crop rotation that will reduce their benchmark use by greater than or equal to 35 percent, but less than 50 percent, using their current irrigation system. (250 points)
- (c) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) will be converted from irrigated to non–irrigated (STARTING with the first FULL cropping season of the contract) on the entire water right. Producer will install proper wellhead protection and will verify that water rights will not be used elsewhere. (200 points)
- (d) The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by at least 20 points. (150 points)
- (e) The FIRI will be increased by 10 to 19.9 points. (125 points)
- (f) The FIRI will be increased by 5 to 9.9 points. (100 points)
3. Answer the following question related to enrollment into a water conservation agreement:
- The water right associated with the entire unit of concern (100 percent) will be enrolled into a Water Right Conservation Program (WRCP) with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources. (40 points)
4. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Areas (if the application has multiple wells, points will only be taken for the highest priority well). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 1. (20 points)
- (b) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 2. (15 points)

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- (c) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 3. (10 points)
- (d) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 4. (5 points)
5. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) identified sensitive groundwater areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (5 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (3 points)
6. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority TMDL watershed for dissolved oxygen but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Strategic Plan. (5 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified high priority TMDL watershed for dissolved oxygen but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (3 points)
7. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area (KSWAA). (5 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area (KSWAA). (3 points)
8. Answer the following question related to Intensive Groundwater Use Conservation Areas (IGUCAs):
- Any part of the unit of concern is located in an IGUCA or a proposed IGUCA. (5 points)

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Local Issues –

Answer the following questions related to the application:

1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)
2. Application includes at least one CP with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (75 points)
3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years. (75 points)
4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2013. (50 points)
5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)