

Ranking Category—Environmental Quality Incentive Program—Equus Beds Groundwater
Management District No. 2
(BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER, LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER,
SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER)

Primary Resource Concerns—

- **Insufficient Water—Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water**

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Pasture**

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- **Must be located in designated project area (see map—Attachment 1).**
- **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.**
- **On irrigated land, the well capacity must be able to meet the seasonal Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR), with 50 percent chance rainfall, for the crop grown.**
- **On irrigated land, 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.**
- **On irrigated land, no end gun or similar appurtenances will be present or used on the pivot system for the lifespan of a system installed with financial assistance.**
- **State policy will be followed in determining land eligibility for irrigated land. See Kansas Supplement, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, Section KS515.52. National policy, CPM, Part 515, Section 515.80(C)(7), states that a participant may receive assistance to implement an EQIP schedule of operations for water conservation if the assistance will facilitate a reduction in ground and surface water use on the agricultural operation.**
- **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.**
 - **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 Section 512.57 on documenting hardships.**
- **Conservation Practice 449, Irrigation Water Management, is required in the conservation plan and will receive financial assistance if not already established, per program policy.**

State Issues–

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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If 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)

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”:

- (2a) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 1. (100 points)
- (2b) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 2. (80 points)
- (2c) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 3. (60 points)
- (2d) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 4. (40 points)

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”:

- (3a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (50 points)
- (3b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (25 points)

Answer one of the following questions related to Intensive Groundwater Use Control Areas (IGUCAs). If none apply, leave answers “NO”:

- (4a) All points of diversion are located in the McPherson IGUCA. (250 points)
- (4b) At least one point of diversion is located in the McPherson IGUCA. (150 points)

Local Issues–

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If 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)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following three questions describing your plan to obtain a net water savings in your agricultural operation. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a) The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by at least 20 points. (200 points)
- (2b) The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by 10 to 19.9 points. (140 points)
- (2c) The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by 5 to 9.9 points. (90 points)

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (3) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)