

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Rolling Red Plains Irrigation LEA**

National Priorities Addressed	
Issue Questions	Responses
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 national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO ₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH ₄ (Methane), and N ₂ O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Responses
1. Sheet and Rill Erosion – Does the offer include planned treatment of sheet and rill erosion to the quality criteria level on the offered acres where sheet and rill erosion will be controlled to "T" or less?	35 Point(s)
2. Irrigation – Will the proposed project improve irrigation efficiency or reduce the acres of irrigated cropland on the operation?	40 Point(s)
3. Erosion Control: Classic Gullies – Will the planned project address classic gully erosion on cropland or grazing land?	35 Point(s)
4. Invasive Species: Cedar Control – Will the planned project eradicate or control eastern redcedar?	40 Point(s)

5. Stream bank Erosion – Will the planned project include practices to address active stream bank erosion?	30 Point(s)
6. Energy Conservation – Will the planned project include practices that will result in energy conservation benefits?	30 Point(s)
Surface Water: Nutrients/Organics – Will the planned project include practices to address surface water nutrients?	
7. a. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrient/organics in a nutrient limited watershed?	20 Point(s)
7. b. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrient/organics in a nutrient limited watershed?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Will the planned practices address surface water nutrients/organics in a field that adjoins a water body that extends beyond the applicants property boundary?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Will the planned practice address surface water nutrients/organics on a field that adjoins a pond or other water body that lies entirely within the property boundary of the applicant?	5 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Water Quantity -Does the offer include currently irrigated land that will be taken out of irrigation (includes pivot corners)?	10 Point(s)
2. Does the offer include currently non-irrigated land will be brought under a new irrigation system and makes up 0-25% of the acres in the new system?	-20 Point(s)
3. Does the offer include currently non-irrigated land will be brought under a new irrigation system and makes up 26-50% of the acres in the new system?	-40 Point(s)
4. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to SDI (Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation)?	50 Point(s)
5. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to LEPA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle Height 18" or less from soil surface)?	20 Point(s)
6. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to LESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle Height 18" or less from soil surface)?	14 Point(s)
7. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to LPIC Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle Height 18" to 36" from soil surface)?	10 Point(s)
8. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing surface irrigation system to MESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System (Nozzle Height 36" to 60" from soil surface)?	4 Point(s)
9. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to SDI (Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation)?	40 Point(s)
10. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to LEPA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System?	8 Point(s)
11. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to LESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System?	6 Point(s)
12. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to LPIC Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System?	4 Point(s)
13. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include conversion of the existing sprinkler irrigation system to MESA Center Pivot or Linear Sprinkler System?	2 Point(s)
14. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include measures to increase the efficiency of the irrigation system by Furrow Diking?	17 Point(s)
15. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include measures to increase the efficiency of the irrigation system by Row pattern planting under the sprinkler?	12 Point(s)
16. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include measures that will protect water quality, groundwater and surface water by decommissioning an irrigation well?	25 Point(s)
17. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include measures that will protect water quality, groundwater and surface water by decommissioning a livestock or domestic well?	18 Point(s)
18. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include an Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan that includes provisions for Continuous Flow Measurement & Monitoring?	35 Point(s)
19. Water Quantity- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land - Does the offer include an Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Plan that includes provisions for Irrigation Scheduling, Record Keeping, & Monthly Soil Moisture Monitoring?	12 Point(s)
20. Soil Erosion - Does the offer include the planned adoption of conservation tillage practices, on all cultivated land under contract such No Till, Ridge Till, or Strip Till?	75 Point(s)
21. Plant Condition – Plants not Adapted or Suited - Does the offer include the planned treatment of converting irrigated cropland to non-irrigated permanent vegetation?	76 Point(s)
22. Soil Erosion - Does the offer include the establishment of new conservation buffer?	15 Point(s)
23. Water Quality- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water -Does the offer include the adoption of the nutrient management practice, on all cultivated land under contract? - Nutrient Management.	15 Point(s)
24. Water Quality- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water -Does the offer include the adoption of the nutrient management practice, on all cultivated land under contract? A Chemigation System will be installed as part of overall irrigation system conversion.	12 Point(s)
25. Does the offer include conversion of permanent vegetation to cultivated land (breaking out grass)?	-150 Point(s)
26. Other- Has the applicant ever had a previous USDA contract that was not fulfilled (cancelled, terminated, and or currently out of compliance)?	-100 Point(s)