

Ranking Categories–WATER QUALITY/CROPLAND HEALTH  
(BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER,  
LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER,  
SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER)

**Primary Resource Concern–**

- **Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality–Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality–Excessive Level of Pesticides in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality–Excessive Level of Pesticides in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality–Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water**
- **Soil Erosion–Streambank**
- **Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion**
- **Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land**

**Secondary Resource Concern–**

- **Fish and Wildlife–Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (only species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2012/criteria>)**

**Eligible Land Uses–**

- **Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture**

**State Issues–**

1. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to nitrate-leaching potential. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”.
  - (a) A HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (1000 points)
  - (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (500 points)
2. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Potential Soil Loss Index (PSLI). If neither applies leave the answers “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, answer both questions “NO”:
  - (a) PSLI of HIGH exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (1000 points)
  - (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH PSLI exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (500 points)

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3. Answer the following question related to gully erosion. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:
  - Measurable gully erosion (classic or ephemeral) occurs on ALL fields of the application. (50 points)
  
4. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply leave the answers “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, 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 eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides AND is targeted to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Strategic Plan to improve water quality nationwide by 2012. (100 points)
  - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located in the KDHE identified high priority TMDL watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides AND is targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan to improve water quality nationwide by 2012. (75 points)
  - (c) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KDHE identified high priority TMDL watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (50 points)
  - (d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified high priority TMDL watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (25 points)
  
5. If a Water Quality resource concern will be treated, answer ONE of the following two questions related to receiving water bodies. (Receiving water body is defined as permanent water bodies greater than 0.5 acres in size; rivers; streams, including U.S. Geological Survey blue line intermittent streams; and Food Security Act wetlands for which hydrology has not been altered.) If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:

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- (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 180 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with frequent flood frequency. (50 points)
  - (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located between 180.1 to 300 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with Occasional flood frequency. (30 points)
6. 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”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, 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. (50 points)
  - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (30 points)
7. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply leave the answer “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (40 points)
  - (b) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (30 points)
  - (c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (20 points)
  - (d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (10 points)

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8. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, 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. (45 points)
  - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (25 points)
  
9. Answer the following question related to Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs). If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:
  - Any part of the unit of concern is located in a WRAPs implementation area. (25 points)
  
10. Answer the following question related to applications considered joint agreements. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:
  - Application is a joint agreement, as defined in Title 440-Conservation Programs Manual, Conservation Program Contracting , Part 512, Section 512.41, with multiple participants in the effort of streambank stabilization. (50 points)
  
11. If applicable, answer ALL of the following questions related to at risk species. If none apply leave the answers “NO”:
  - (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) 12 digit watershed that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (5 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2012/criteria>

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- (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 300 feet of a stream that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (10 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2012/criteria>.

- (c) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a terrestrial at-risk species habitat area or Bobwhite Quail Initiative areas **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the terrestrial at-risk species habitat or bobwhite quail habitat. Only bobwhite quail or TERRESTRIAL species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (10 points)

Reference: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2012/criteria>.

- (d) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Greater Prairie-Chicken (GPC) or Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) priority habitat area and native grass and forbs will be planted according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards and specifications on a minimum of 40 contiguous acres. (25 points)

12. Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:

- Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost–share programs. (10 points)

13. Answer EACH of the following four questions related to nutrient management and waste utilization. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, leave the answers “NO”:

- (a) The nutrient management plan includes the application of livestock waste that will be applied by injection/subsurface application. (10 points)

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- (b) As a part of the nutrient management plan, split nitrogen applications will be implemented for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation, to provide nutrients at the time for maximum crop utilization. (10 points)
  - (c) The nutrient management plan includes the application of phosphorous by band applying for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation. (10 points)
  - (d) Wastewater applied by irrigation will use an approved irrigation scheduling system. (10 points)
14. If only Soil Condition—Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity—Inefficient Water Use on Non-irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, answer ONE of the following three questions related to the Erosion Index (EI). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ALL soils (100.0 percent) in the unit of concern. (50 points)
  - (b)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ANY soil on greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern, but not ALL soils (less than 100.0 percent), in the unit of concern. (40 points)
  - (c)  $EI \geq 8.0$  for ANY soil, but less than 50 percent, in the unit of concern. (30 points)
15. If only Soil Condition—Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity—Inefficient Water Use on Non-irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) and Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 0 and less than 5.0, as determined by Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE 2) prediction model. (100 points)
  - (b) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 5.0 and less than 7.5, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (90 points)
  - (c) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR greater than or equal to 7.5 and less than 10.0, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (80 points)

Ranking Categories–WATER QUALITY/CROPLAND HEALTH  
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- (d) Unit of concern will be converted to a management system that has a positive SCI and a STIR index greater than or equal to 10.0 and less than 30.0, as determined by RUSLE2 prediction model. (60 points)
16. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, answer ONE of the following three questions related to Available Water Storage Index (AWSI). (No points are available for those units of concerns with a VERY HIGH available water storage.) If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is VERY LOW. (100 points)
  - (b) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is LOW. (90 points)
  - (c) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is MEDIUM. (80 points)
  - (d) The AWSI for the dominant soil condition in the unit of concern is HIGH. (60 points)
17. Crop types are defined as winter broadleaf, winter grass, summer broadleaf, and summer grass. If only Soil Condition–Organic Matter Depletion and/or Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Non–irrigated Land resource concerns exist on the unit of concern, answer EACH of the following three questions related to cropping rotation. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:
- (a) There are four crop types in the cropping rotation. (5 points)
  - (b) The cropping rotation includes at least three continuous years of perennial grasses or legumes. (5 points)
  - (c) Cover crops are included in the cropping rotation (at least one during a three-crop type cycle or two during a four-crop cycle). (5 points)

**Local Issues–**

Answer the following questions related to the application:

- (1) Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (5 points)

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- (2) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)
- (3) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2011. (5 points)
- (4) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts) (5 points)
- (5) If applicable, where livestock are wintered on grazing land where perennial streams are located, plan of operations will limit or manage livestock access to the streams. Limiting or managing livestock access may include but not be limited to alternate watering locations, controlled access points, or limiting time of access by livestock during winter months by either removal of livestock or grazing systems where livestock are rotated. (The 1:24,000 scale geospatial hydro-layer will be used to define perennial streams.) (5 points)
- (6) Greater than or equal to 33.3 percent of the unit of concern will be planted to native grass and forbs according to NRCS eFOTG standards and specifications. (5 points)
- (7) Native plant species will be used in a financially-assisted vegetative practice. (5 points)