

Ranking Category–WATER QUANTITY

Primary Resource Concerns–

- **Water Quantity–Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land**
- **Water Quantity–Aquifer Overdraft**
- **Water Quantity–Insufficient Flows in Water Courses**

Eligible Land Uses–

- **Crop, Hay, 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.**

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.
 - **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)**
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”:

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- (a) Producer will install a three–year crop rotation that will reduce their current water use by at least 50 percent, using their current irrigation system. The producer will also stay within a three–year average of 1.5 years of the NIR for corn (using 80 percent chance rainfall). (320 points)
 - (b) Producer will install a three–year crop rotation that will reduce their current water use by greater than or equal to 35 percent, but less than 50 percent, using their current irrigation system. The producer will also stay within a three–year average of 1.95 years of the NIR for corn (using 80 percent chance rainfall). (250 points)
 - (c) The entire unit of concern (100.0 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) Participant will irrigate at 75 percent of evapotranspiration starting when the contract is obligated. (150 points)
 - (e) Irrigation rating will be increased by at least 30 points. (100 points)
 - (f) Irrigation rating will be increased by 20 to 29 points. (75 points)
 - (g) Irrigation rating will be increased by 10 to 19 points. (50 points)
3. Answer the following question related to enrollment into a Groundwater Conservation Agreement with a Kansas Groundwater Management District (GMD) for conversions to non–irrigated:
- The entire unit of concern (100 percent) will be enrolled into a Groundwater Conservation Agreement with a Kansas GMD, if the land is located in an eligible area. Applicant must sign agreement with the GMD prior to receiving any EQIP payment and provide a copy of the GMD agreement to the NRCS. (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)
 - (c) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 3. (10 points)

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- (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. (5 points)
 - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (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 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 practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (75 points)
- (3) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (75 points)
- (4) Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2012. (50 points)
- (5) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts) (50 points)