

Ranking Categories – WATER QUALITY (WQL);
WQL-BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER;
WQL-LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER;
WQL-SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER

Primary Resource Concerns –

- **Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality – Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water**
- **Soil Erosion – Streambank**

Secondary Resource Concern –

- **Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Topeka Shiner)**

Eligible Land Uses –

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

Additional Requirement

- **No State Issue points will be awarded to any applicant who has had a cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract in the past.**

State Issues –

If, applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to nitrate leaching potential. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) A HIGH nitrate leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (400 points)
- (1b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH nitrate leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (200 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Potential Soil Loss Index (PSLI). If neither applies leave the answer “NO”:

- (2a) PSLI of HIGH exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (400 points)
- (2b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH PSLI exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (200 points)

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If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply leave the answers “NO”:

- (3a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority Total Maximum Daily Load (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. (30 points)
- (3b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a 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. (25 points)
- (3c) Greater than or equal to 50.0 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 targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (20 points)
- (3d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a KDHE identified high priority TMDL watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides but is NOT a TMDL targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (15 points)

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 applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to receiving water bodies. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (4a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 180.0 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with Frequent flood frequency. (20 points)
- (4b) 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. (15 points)

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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”:

- (5a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (20 points)
- (5b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (15 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply leave the answer “NO”:

- (6a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (20 points)
- (6b) The entire unit of concern (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)
- (6c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (15 points)
- (6d) 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. (5 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”:

- (7a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (15 points)
- (7b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (10 points)

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Answer the following question related to Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs):

- (8) Any part of the unit of concern is located in a WRAPs implementation area. (10 points)

Answer the following question related to applications considered joint agreements:

- (9) Application is a joint agreement, as defined in the Conservation Programs Manual, Conservation Program Contracting (CPC), Section 512.41, with multiple participants in the effort of stream bank stabilization. (20 points)

Answer the following question related to at-risk species:

- (10) Any part of the unit of concern is located within an at-risk species habitat area for Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Eastern Spotted Skunk, or Topeka Shiner and treatment of the resource concern will benefit the at-risk species. (10 points)

Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

- (11) 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. (5 points)

Answer EACH of the following four questions related to nutrient management and waste utilization:

- (12) The nutrient management plan includes the application of livestock waste that will be applied by injection/subsurface application. (5 points)
- (13) 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. (5 points)
- (14) The nutrient management plan includes the application of phosphorous by band applying for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation. (5 points)
- (15) Waste water applied by irrigation will use an approved irrigation scheduling system. (5 points)

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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 electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). (5 points)
- (2) Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)
- (3) Participant completed the appropriate Self-Assessment Worksheet (SAW) prior to the application evaluation period cut-off date and returned it to the appropriate Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. SAW was NOT completed by NRCS staff. (5 points)
- (4) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the ProTracts Contracts System. (5 points)
- (5) If applicable, where livestock are wintered in 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 is planted to native grass and forbs according to NRCS eFOTG standards and specifications. (5 points)
- (7) Native plant species are used in a financially assisted vegetative practice. (5 points)