Ranking Category—Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3

Primary Resource Concerns

- **Water Quantity—Aquifer Overdraft**

Eligible Land Uses

- **Crop, Hay**

Additional Requirements for this Category

- **Applicants must be located in designated priority area.**
- **Producer will verify that water savings (water right) will not be used elsewhere if transitioning to non-irrigated land. If transitioning, all acres under the current water right will be taken out of irrigation for the contract period..**
- **Application Water Usage for the water right must meet or exceed the minimum use guideline of 45 percent. Of the years irrigated, the application acres must have been irrigated at an average rate of at least six acre-inches/acre/year.**
- **State policy will be followed in determining land eligibility for irrigated land. See Kansas Supplement, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 515, Section KS515.52. National policy, CPM, Part 515, Section 515.80(A)(6), states that assistance received will facilitate a reduction in ground and surface water use on the agricultural operation.**
- **Producer must ensure proper wellhead protection to ensure groundwater protection.**

State Issues

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."

- (1a) Producer will install a five-year crop rotation that will reduce their current water use by at least 50.0 percent, using their current irrigation system. The producer will also stay within a three-year average of 1.5 years of the Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR) for corn (using 80 percent chance rainfall). (50 points)

- (1b) Producer will install a five-year crop rotation that will reduce their current water use by greater than or equal to 35.0 percent, but less than 50.0 percent, using their current irrigation system. The producer will also stay within a three-year average of 1.95 years of the Net Irrigation Requirement (NIR) for corn (using 80 percent chance rainfall). (25 points)

- (1c) The entire unit of concern (100 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. (75 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following three questions related to application water usage: {Water Usage = Average Acres Irrigated (divided by) Authorized Acres}. Only years that have been irrigated in the last five years will be averaged. If none apply, leave all answers as "NO."

- (2a) Application Water Usage, by water right, is at least 90.0 percent. (20 points)

- (2b) Application Water Usage, by water right, is between 80.0 and 89.9 percent. (15 points)

- (2c) Application Water Usage, by water right, is between 66.0 and 79.9 percent. (10 points)

The following question MUST BE ANSWERED "YES" in order for this application to be considered eligible for this ranking category.

- (3) The following requirements must be met: (a) Producer will verify that water savings (water right) will not be used elsewhere (if transitioning to non-irrigated)and (b) Application Water Usage for the water right meets or exceeds the minimum use guideline of 45 percent. Of the years irrigated, the application acres were irrigated at an average rate of at least six acre-inches/acre/year. (1 point)

Answer the following questions related to the application acres.

- (4a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the application acres are on soils unsuitable for dryland farming and will be converted to permanent cover. (4 points)

- (4b) Any part of the application acres, but less than 50.0 percent are on soils unsuitable for dryland farming and will be converted to permanent cover. (2 points)

Local Issues

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the application acres. If none apply, leave the answers "NO."

- (1a) Application acres have historically had 8.1 to 13.0 acre-inches applied, as determined by data from the state annual water report record, supplied by Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD 3).
(20 points)

- (1b) Application acres have historically had over 13.0 acre-inches applied, as determined by data from the state annual water report record, supplied by GMD 3.
(30 points)

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (2) The applicant will retire water rights by filing a Voluntary Waiver of Hearing and Dismissal of Water Rights with the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources. (35 points)