

Ranking Category – WATER QUANTITY – QUICK RESPONSE AREAS

Quick Response Areas (QRAs) ONLY

Primary Resource Concerns –

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

Secondary Resource Concern –

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, and Species of Concern

Eligible Land Uses –

- Crop, Hay, and Pasture

Additional Requirements for this Category –

- The Kansas EQIP Self-Assessment Worksheet will be completed and signed by the applicant prior to the evaluation period cut-off date to be considered for funding.
- Must be located in a state designated QRA
- Producer reports to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of net water savings. Producers will furnish reports from the previous five years to determine the average benchmark condition, and each year during the contract to ensure net water savings.
- Application Water Usage for the water right must meet or exceed the minimum use guideline of 66 percent. Of the years irrigated, the application acres must have been irrigated at an average rate of at least six acre-inches/acre/year.
- Producer must ensure proper wellhead protection to ensure groundwater protection.
- Producer will verify that water savings (water rights) will not be used elsewhere. All acres under the water right/well will be taken out of irrigation for the contract period.

State Issues –

Answer the following question related to enrollment into a Water Rights Conservation Program (WRCP) with the state of Kansas:

- (1) The entire unit of concern will be enrolled into a WRCP contract with the state of Kansas for the duration of ten years, if the land is located in an eligible area. Applicant must sign a WRCP contract prior to receiving any Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) payment and provide a copy of the WRCP to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). (400 points)

Answer the following question related to additional funding for this project:

- (2) Producer has secured funding for portions of this project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to the state of Kansas or groundwater management districts. (200 points)

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If applicable, answer ONE of the following seven 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 as “NO:”

- (3a) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 1. (45 points)
- (3b) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 1.5. (40 points)
- (3c) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 2. (35 points)
- (3d) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 2.5. (30 points)
- (3e) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 3. (25 points)
- (3f) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 3.5. (20 points)
- (3g) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within a Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area, Priority 4. (15 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Geological Survey identified sensitive groundwater areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO:”

- (4a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Geological Survey identified sensitive groundwater area. (20 points)
- (4b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a Kansas Geological Survey identified sensitive groundwater area. (15 points)

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

- (5a) 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. (20 points)
- (5b) 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. (15 points)

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

- (6a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (20 points)
- (6b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located within a Kansas Source Water Assessment Area. (15 points)

Answer the following question related to the proposed Pawnee-Buckner Intensive Groundwater Use Conservation Area:

- (7) Any part of the unit of concern is located in the proposed Pawnee-Buckner Intensive Groundwater Use Conservation Area. (20 points)

Answer the following question related to the Arkansas River Shiner:

- (8) The point of diversion (well/water source) is located within an Arkansas River Shiner critical habitat area and acres will be converted from irrigated to non-irrigated. (20 points)

Answer the following question related to lesser prairie chicken and greater prairie chicken habitat:

- (9) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a lesser prairie chicken or greater prairie chicken habitat area and native grass and forbs will be planted according to the NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards and specifications on a minimum of 40 contiguous acres. (20 points)

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.)

- (10a) Application water usage, by water right, is at least 90.0 percent. (15 points)
- (10b) Application water usage, by water right, is between 80.0 and 89.9 percent. (10 points)
- (10c) Application water usage, by water right, is between 70.0 and 79.9 percent. (5 points)

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EACH of the following questions MUST BE ANSWERED “YES” in order for this application to be considered eligible for this resource concern:

- (11) The following requirements must be met: (1) The appropriate Kansas Self-Assessment Worksheet(s) has been completed, signed, and returned to NRCS by the applicant prior to the application evaluation period cut-off date; (2) Producer reports to the DWR or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of net water savings. Producer has furnished reports from the previous five years to determine the average benchmark condition. Producer will provide these reports to NRCS each year during the contract to ensure net water savings; (3) Producer will verify that water savings (water rights) will not be used elsewhere. All acres under the water right will be taken out of irrigation for the contract period; and (4) Producer must ensure proper wellhead protection to ensure groundwater protection. (1 point)
- (12) Application Water Usage for the water right meets or exceeds the minimum use guideline of 66 percent. Of the years irrigated, the application acres were irrigated at an average rate of at least six acre-inches/acre/year. One hundred percent (100 percent) of application acres will be converted from irrigated to non-irrigated. (1 point)