



2002 Farm Bill

Environmental Quality

Incentives Program (EQIP)

Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC)

Quick Response Areas (QRAs)

Fact Sheet

Salina, Kansas

January 2008

Overview

To improve the effectiveness of EQIP GSWC funds, four Western Kansas Groundwater Management Districts (GMD) and the Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR) identified areas of the High Plains Aquifer and hydraulically interconnected alluvial and surface waters. These areas have been designated as QRAs. (See map on next page)

QRAs were identified and are approved by the Chief Engineer, DWR, and the Director, Kansas Water Office (KWO) as important for reducing consumptive water use. Each GMD and DWR defined QRA is based on various conditions identified within each district including aquifer conditions, withdrawal patterns, and socio-economic considerations.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide EQIP financial assistance for eligible applications located within QRAs that convert irrigated cropland to nonirrigated cropland or grassland.

Information for Kansas

- Kansas EQIP: The Irrigation Quick Response Area Self-Assessment Worksheet for Fiscal Year 2008 must be completed and returned to the NRCS office by the application period cutoff date of February 8, 2008. The Self-Assessment Worksheet is available from your local NRCS office or on the Web site at:
<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2008/>.

- Conservation practice payments are only eligible on land that has been physically irrigated at least two of the past five years.
- Applicant acreage benchmark water usage must meet or exceed the minimum use guideline of 66 percent. Water usage equals the average acres irrigated divided by acres authorized by permit. Of the years irrigated, the application acres must have been irrigated at an average rate of at least six acre-inches/acre/year.
- Conservation practice payments of \$100 per acre annually for three years are authorized on eligible acres that convert irrigated land to nonirrigated land. Applicants may continue to produce crops under dryland rotations and conservation tillage practices, or the land may be seeded to perennial grasses.
- Financial assistance is available for grass seedings and water developments.

Where can producers access information about the EQIP?

Information can be found at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2008/index.html>. Again, the best thing for producers to do is visit their local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center and talk to the NRCS or conservation district office staff. They will be able to assist producers wanting to address local natural resource concerns.

The NRCS is listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.