

Kansas Technical Committee

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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AGENDA

- Review Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 accomplishments
- Review recommendations from the Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) subcommittee meeting on August 26, 2010

FY 2010 Accomplishments

- See Handout
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) – three approved proposals
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative – two nationally approved proposals

For Discussion Today

➤ National Ranking Tool “weightings”

Category	2010	Recommended 2011
Efficiency	25	10
National Issues	25	25
State Issues	25	40
Local Issues	25	25

➤ Payment Percentages

Ranking Categories

- Cropland Health
- Forestland Health
- Grazing Lands Health
- Livestock Waste
- Sedimentation above Federal Reservoirs
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity (Ogallala Aquifer – *National Initiative*)
- Water Quantity – Quick Response Areas (QRAs)
- Tribal
- Wildlife
- Lesser Prairie Chicken – *National Initiative*
- Organic – *National Initiative*

Ranking Categories

- Historically Underserved categories under
 - Cropland Health
 - Grazing Lands Health
 - Water Quality

Forestland Health

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

- Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, Vigor (Forestland/Agroforest)
- Soil Erosion – Streambank
- Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

■ Secondary

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

Forestland Health

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout
 - *Add 441, Irrigation System, Microirrigation*

- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop, Grazed Range, Pasture, Forest

- Additional Requirements
 - Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with Kansas Forest Service
 - No state issue points are awarded to any applicant who has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract

- Ranked at AREA level

Forestland Health

- State Ranking Criteria
 - Forest Stewardship Potential
 - Conservation Tree/Shrub Plantings and Windbreak Suitability Groups 1 and 2
 - Treatment of at-risk species habitat
 - Leveraging of funds

Forestland Health

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Grazing Lands Health

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

- Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, Vigor (Grazing Land, Pastureland, Hayland)
- Plant Condition – Noxious, Invasive Plants
- Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water

■ Secondary

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Species designated – Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Topeka Shiner

Grazing Lands Health

➤ Eligible Practices

- See Handout
 - *Require Wildlife Escape Ladders on all watering facilities*
 - *Add 561, Heavy Use Protection Area*

➤ Eligible Land Uses

- Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture

Grazing Lands Health

- Additional Requirements
 - Grazing Plan
 - Modified Harvest Method (grazing exclusion cages)
 - Cropland converted to grazing land is no more than 20 percent of the application acres
 - No state issue points are awarded to any applicant who has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract
- Ranked at COUNTY level

Grazing Lands Health

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- Resource Concerns of Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, Vigor; or Invasive Species
- Rest in planned grazing system
- Sericea lespedeza and/or Tamarisk control – rank lowest infestations first
- Treatment of at-risk species habitat area
- Brush treatment

Grazing Lands Health

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices scheduled to be completed in four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self-Assessment Worksheet *OR* participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date

Grazing Lands Health

- Local Ranking Criteria (cont)
 - Livestock wintered in grasslands where perennial or intermittent streams are located, and plan of operations will remove livestock access to the stream
 - Expiring or expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres
 - Conservation plan includes a prescribed burn after brush management
 - Continuous burning will not occur

Livestock Waste

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

- Air Quality – Objectionable Odors
- Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
- Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics In Ground Water

■ Secondary

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

Livestock Waste

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout
- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop, Grazed Range, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture
- Additional Requirements
 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) developed and implemented (payment can not be made on a waste storage facility until a CNMP has been developed)
 - No state issue points are awarded to any applicant who has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract
- Ranked at AREA level

Livestock Waste

➤ State Ranking Criteria

■ Type of Animal Feeding Operation

- Existing Animal Feeding Operation (AFO), not previously treated
- Existing AFO, received written notice from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for insufficient treatment
- Existing AFO, improving efficiency
- Existing AFO, expansion

Livestock Waste

➤ State Ranking Criteria (cont)

■ Location

- Within one mile of a population center
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Area
- Within 180 feet of a receiving water body
- Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) Sensitive Groundwater Area
- *Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas – delete???*
- Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) Implementation Areas – *distinguish between HUC s*
- At-risk species habitat area

Livestock Waste

- State Ranking Criteria (cont)
 - Other considerations
 - CNMP developed prior to application
 - Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) includes injection/subsurface application
 - If irrigated, participant will use irrigation scheduling system

Livestock Waste

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

- Soil Erosion – Streambank
- Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

■ Secondary

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Species designated – Arkansas Darter, Bald Eagle, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Topeka Shiner

Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

➤ Eligible Practices

- See Handout
- *Remove 345, Mulch Till; 346, Ridge Till; and 595, Pest Management (on cropland as a management practice) from this ranking category, as well as, Cropland Health/Water Quality and Tribal*
- *Change requirement on 329, No Till of a three crop type rotation to just strictly converting to no till and include 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, with payment for three crop type rotation*
- *Require 391, Riparian Forest Buffer with all 580, Streambank Protection practices*
- *Set limit for 580, Streambank Protection*

➤ Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture

Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

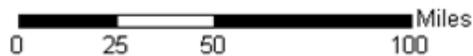
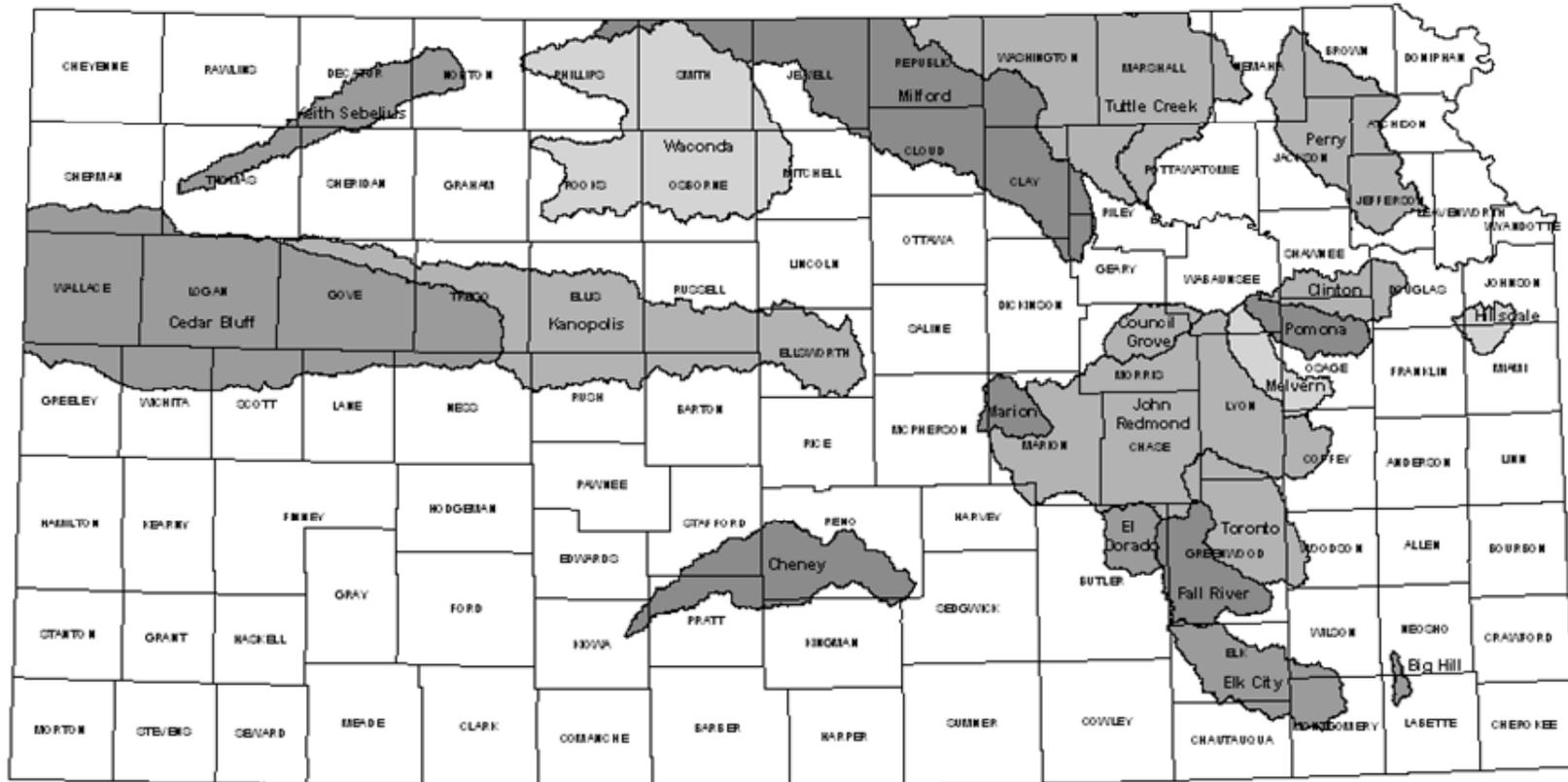
- Additional Requirements
 - Fifty percent of application acres must be located within a federal reservoir priority watershed serving water supply needs as designated by the Kansas Water Office (KWO)
 - No state issue points are awarded to any applicant who has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract
- Ranked at STATE level

Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- Reservoir priority set by State of Kansas
- Location –
 - ~~KGS Sensitive Groundwater Area~~
 - Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 or 11 than drains directly into a federal reservoir
 - ~~Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas – delete???~~
 - At-risk species area
- Application is a joint agreement
- Leveraging of funds

Kansas Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Kansas Water Office Priority Federal Reservoirs



Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs

- Local Ranking Criteria
 - Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
 - Practices will be completed within four years
 - Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
 - Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Cropland Health

- ***NRCS recommends combining this ranking category with Water Quality***
- **Resource Concerns**
 - **Primary**
 - Soil Condition – Organic Matter Depletion
 - Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Non-Irrigated Land
 - **Secondary**
 - Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Species designated – Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Northern Bobwhite Quail

Cropland Health

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout
- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop
- Ranked at COUNTY level

Cropland Health

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- Cropping management systems
- Available soil moisture based on dominant soil type
- Erodibility
- Treatment of at-risk species habitat
- Other considerations
 - Use of native plant species in waterways or field borders
 - Four crop types in rotation
 - Three continuous years of perennial grasses or legumes in rotation
 - Use of cover crops
 - Greater than 33.3 percent of application acres planted to native grass

Cropland Health

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period
- Over 33.3 percent of the unit of concern will be planted to native grass and forbs
- Native plant species will be used in a financially assisted vegetative practice

Water Quality

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

- 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

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

Water Quality

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout
- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture
- Ranked at COUNTY level

Water Quality

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- Nitrate leaching potential
- Potential soil loss
- Location
 - TMDL Area
 - Distance to receiving water body or soil flooding frequency
 - KGS Sensitive Groundwater Areas
 - Within HUC 8 or 11 watershed that drains directly into a federal reservoir
 - *Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas – delete???*
 - WRAPs Implementation Areas

Water Quality

- State Ranking Criteria (Cont.)
 - Joint agreement
 - At-risk species habitat area
 - Leveraging of funds
 - Other considerations
 - NMP includes application of livestock waste by injection/subsurface application
 - NMP uses split nitrogen applications
 - NMP includes band application
 - Waste water applied using approved irrigation scheduling system
 - *Account for gully erosion – occurrence throughout the field*

Water Quality

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices scheduled to be completed in four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self-Assessment Worksheet *OR* participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date
- Application was deferred from previous funding period
- Livestock wintered in grasslands where perennial or intermittent streams are located, and plan of operations will remove livestock access to the stream
- Greater than 33.3 percent is planted to native grass and forbs
- Native plant species are used in a financially assisted vegetative practice

Water Quantity

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

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

■ Secondary

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Species designated – Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Neosho Madtom, Neosho Mucket Mussel, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Topeka Shiner

Water Quantity

➤ Eligible Practices

- See Handout
- *Change 449, Irrigation Water Management, to have a payment for using IWM and one with IWM using current technology (i.e., sensor blocks, scheduling, etc.)*

➤ Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Hay, Pasture

➤ Ranked at AREA level

Water Quantity

➤ Additional Requirements

- Functioning state-approved water measuring device to state installation specifications
- ~~Use evapotranspiration (ET) based scheduling system~~
 - ~~Will not exceed 10 percent of calculated ET the first year of the contract, and will not exceed 5 percent of the calculated ET the second year of the contract~~
- *Well capacity must meet Net Irrigation Requirement, with 50 percent change rainfall, for the crop grown*
- Stay within the certified rate, amount, and location of the existing water right at the time the contract is obligated
- No end gun or similar appurtenances will be used on the pivot system for the lifespan of the system
- *Producer reports to the Division of Water Resources or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of net water savings. Producer will furnish reports from the previous five years, and each year during the contract.*
- No state issue points for an applicant that has cancelled or terminated a previous EQIP contract

➤ *Producer reports to the Division of Water Resources or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of net water savings. Producer will furnish reports from the previous five years, and each year during the contract.*

➤ **2002 Farm Bill required “net water savings in the ag operation”**

➤ **2008 Farm Bill requires “reduction in ground and surface water use in the ag operation”**

Water Quantity

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- Reduce current water use by using crop rotation
- Conversion to non-irrigated on 100 percent of the water right acres (water right can not be used elsewhere)
 - *Enrollment in Groundwater Conservation Agreement with a Kansas Groundwater Management District (GMD)*
- Producer will irrigate at 75 percent of ET
- Increase in irrigation rating

Water Quantity

➤ State Ranking Criteria (cont)

■ Location

- Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area
- TMDL Area
- At-risk species area
- KGS Sensitive Groundwater Area
- *Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas – delete???*
- Intensive Groundwater Use Conservation Area (IGUCA)
or proposed Pawnee-Buckner IGUCA *and Lower Republican*

Water Quantity

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Water Quantity - QRAs

➤ Resource Concerns

■ Primary

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

■ Secondary

- Fish and Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern
 - Species designated – Arkansas Darter, Arkansas River Shiner, Bald Eagle, Eastern Spotted Skunk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Northern Bobwhite Quail, Topeka Shiner

Water Quantity - QRAs

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout
- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop, Hay, Pasture
- Ranked at QRA level

Water Quantity - QRAs

➤ Additional Requirements

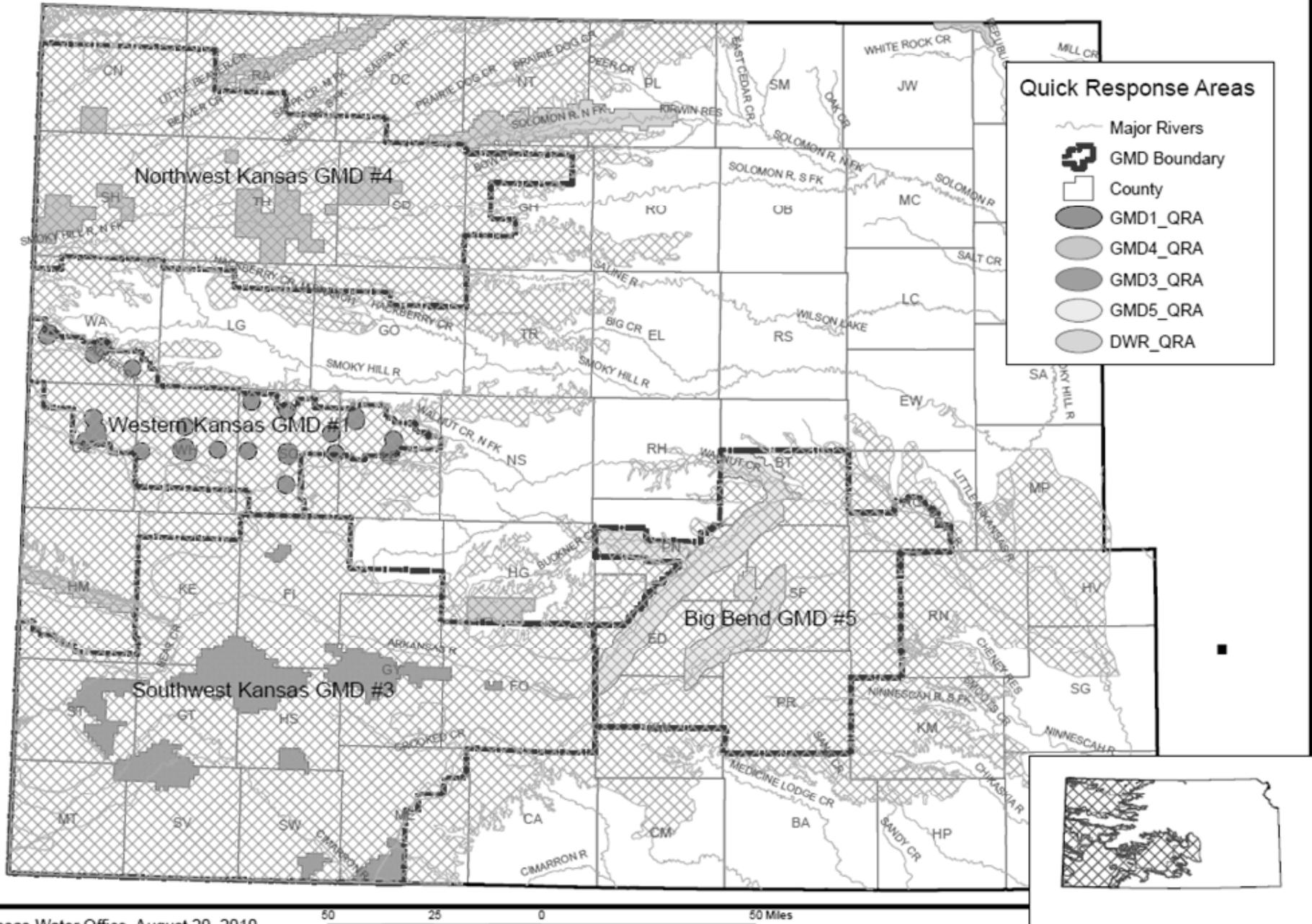
- Must be in state designated QRA and converting to dryland on ALL acres under the water right
- *Producer reports to the Division of Water Resources or water districts will be used to determine the benchmark condition of net water savings. Producer will furnish reports from the previous five years, and each year during the contract.*
- 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 for 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.
- No state issue points are awarded to any applicant who has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract

Water Quantity - QRAs

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- *Enrollment in Groundwater Conservation Agreement with Kansas GMD*
- Location
 - Kansas Water Plan Priority Groundwater Decline Area
 - KGS Sensitive Groundwater Area
 - TMDL Area
 - *Kansas Source Water Assessment Area – delete???*
 - At-risk species habitat area
 - IGUCA or proposed Pawnee-Buckner IGUCA
- Application Water Usage

Kansas Quick Response Areas - FFY2011



Water Quantity - QRAs

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Tribal

- Resource Concerns
 - Primary
 - All concerns

- Ranked at STATE level

Tribal

➤ Eligible Practices

- See Handout

➤ Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Grazed Range, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture

➤ Additional Requirements

- See Grazing Lands Health and Water Quality

Tribal

➤ State Ranking Criteria

- If Plant Condition concern
 - Rest in planned grazing system
 - Invasive species control – percent infestation – rank lowest infestations first
 - At-risk species habitat area – greater than five percent infestation of eastern red cedar and/or osage orange and plan will benefit lesser or greater prairie-chicken
 - Brush treatment – rank lowest infestations first

Tribal

➤ State Ranking Criteria (cont)

- If a Water Quality concern:
 - Location
 - TMDL Area
 - Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas
 - KGS Sensitive Groundwater Areas
 - Within 180 feet of a receiving water body
 - Within 300 feet of a receiving water body
 - Nitrate leaching potential
 - Potential soil loss
 - At-risk species habitat area

Tribal

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date*
- Application was deferred from a previous funding period

Wildlife Habitat

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

- Ranked at STATE level

Wildlife Habitat

- Additional Requirements
 - At least 50 percent of the application acres must be located in the designated lesser or greater prairie-chicken current range
 - No state issue points awarded to any applicant that has cancelled or terminated an EQIP contract

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout

- Eligible Land Uses
 - Grazed Range

Wildlife Habitat

➤ State Ranking Criteria

■ Location

- Acres in current range
- Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV) core habitat area
- PLJV core buffer habitat area

Wildlife Habitat

➤ Local Ranking Criteria

- Application includes a practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater
- Practices will be completed within four years
- Completion by the participant of a Self Assessment Worksheet *OR* participant has a conservation plan approved at least thirty days prior to the application cutoff date
- Leveraging of funds
- Planned treatment will benefit natural wetlands exceeding one acre in size.
- Amount of trees present

Organic

- Resource Concerns
 - Primary
 - All concerns

- Ranked at STATE level

- Capped at:
 - \$20,000/year/participant
 - \$80,000/participant/six year period

Organic

- Eligible Practices
 - See Handout

- Eligible Land Uses
 - Crop, Grazed Range, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture

- Additional Requirements
 - Develop and implement an organic crop production plan and/or organic livestock plan according to national standards for organic production

Organic

- Use nationally developed ranking criteria

Historically Underserved

➤ Definitions

- www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer/

➤ Required to set at least ten percent aside for Beginning Farmer/Ranchers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Ranchers

➤ Will have “Historically Underserved” ranking categories for Cropland Health, Grazing Lands Health, and Water Quality (i.e., Cropland Health – Beginning Farmer/Rancher, Cropland Health – Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher, etc.)

For Discussion Today

➤ National Ranking Tool “weightings”

Category	2010	Recommended 2011
Efficiency	25	10
National Issues	25	25
State Issues	25	40
Local Issues	25	25

➤ Payment Percentages

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 allocation is \$???
- Conservation Innovation Grants - \$200,000
- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative – determined nationally (\$1.4 million in FY 2010)
- Organic – determined nationally (\$1.4 million in FY 2010)
- Cost overruns for FY 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2011
- Equitable Relief

- Contract management practice limit
 - \$50,000/contract/participant/ranking category

- Payment percentages

FY 2010 EQIP Allocation Distribution

<u>Ranking Category</u>	<u>FY 2010 Distribution</u>
CNMP Conservation Activity Plans	0.5%
Cropland Health	10%
Forestland Health	1%
Grazing Lands Health	18%
Livestock Waste	19.5%
Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs	5%
Water Quality	18%
Water Quantity	8%
Water Quantity – QRAs	5%
Beginning Farmer/Rancher **	5%*
Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher **	1.5%
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher **	5%*
Wildlife Habitat	3%
Tribal	0.5%

FY 2011 EQIP Allocation Distribution

<u>Ranking Category</u>	<u>FY 2011 Recommendation</u>
CNMP Conservation Activity Plans (0.5)	
Cropland Health (10)	
Forestland Health (1)	
Grazing Lands Health (18)	
Livestock Waste (19.5)	
Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs (5)	
Water Quality (18)	
Water Quantity (8)	
Water Quantity – QRAs (5)	
Beginning Farmer/Rancher ** (5)	
Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher ** (1.5)	
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer/Rancher ** (5)	
Wildlife Habitat (3)	
Tribal (0.5)	

County Allocation Distribution

- Cropland Health
 - Percentage of cropland acres in a county
- Grazing Lands Health
 - Percentage of pasture and rangeland acres in a county
 - Factor for expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres
- Water Quality
 - Percentage of cropland acres in a county
 - Factor for water erosion potential of cropland soils
 - Factor for TMDL acres

Area Allocation Distribution

- Forestland Health
 - Percentage of forestland acres in a county
 - Percentage of acres with High Forest Stewardship Potential

- Livestock Waste
 - Percentage of permit applications/area
 - Percentage of permitted animal units/area
 - Percentage of permitted facilities/area

- Water Quantity
 - Percentage of irrigated acres/area
 - Base allocation of \$100,000

➤ Program Dates

- ***Cutoff for application evaluation – November 15, 2010***
- ***Initiatives (Ogallala, LEPC, CCPI) will have a separate cutoff date, to be determined after national guidance is received***
- **Contracts obligated – set by national**

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