

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
Ogallala High Plains**

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	15 Point(s)
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5 Point(s)
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15 Point(s)
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5 Point(s)
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15 Point(s)
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	15 Point(s)
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5 Point(s)
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15 Point(s)
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5 Point(s)
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15 Point(s)
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10 Point(s)
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	
7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10 Point(s)
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5 Point(s)
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10 Point(s)
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5 Point(s)
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15 Point(s)
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	10 Point(s)
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	10 Point(s)
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	5 Point(s)
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5 Point(s)

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in water conservation treatment (water quality / water quantity)?	40 Point(s)
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in nutrient management that exceeds the minimum requirements of NRCS Practice Standard 590 including the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	50 Point(s)
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in wetlands being created, restored or enhanced to allow aquifer recharge?	30 Point(s)
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in conversion from irrigated land to non-irrigated non-irrigated land on 100% of the total contract acres?	100 Point(s)

5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in conversion from irrigated land to non-irrigated land on at least 50% of the total contract acres?	50 Point(s)
6. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEEP funding result in conversion from irrigated land to non-irrigated land on at least 5% of the total contract acres?	10 Point(s)
7. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in conversion from a surface irrigation to a micro-irrigation system? Surface irrigation is defined as irrigation by means of a gravity distribution system (e.g. furrow, flood, graded border, level basin).	60 Point(s)
8. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in conversion from a surface irrigation to a low-pressure/improved sprinkler irrigation system? Surface irrigation is defined as irrigation by means of a gravity distribution system (e.g. furrow, flood, graded border, level basin).	40 Point(s)
9. Will the treatment you intend to implement using AWEP funding result in minimum 20% irrigation system efficiency improvement due to a conversion from a lower efficient irrigation system to a higher efficient irrigation system?	20 Point(s)

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will currently non-irrigated land be brought under a new irrigation system? Select if more than 15 acres are being brought into irrigation.	-50 Point(s)
2. WELL DECOMMISSIONING - Will all irrigation wells of an irrigation system be permanently decommissioned with the conversion to a dryland crop rotation? Does not include well conversion to a livestock well.	45 Point(s)
3. WELL DECOMMISSIONING - Will irrigation well(s) be decommissioned that will protect water quality and remove a potential hazard? Answer no if question #2 is yes.	30 Point(s)
4. IWM PLAN - Will flow measurement and monitoring with a permanently installed meter be practiced and maintained on all irrigated land scored in this application?	10 Point(s)
5. IWM PLAN - Will irrigation water management be implemented on the irrigated land scored in this application?	15 Point(s)
6. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT - Does the planned treatment include the adoption of nutrient management on all cultivated land under contract?	5 Point(s)
7. Will the irrigation system be equipped with a remote monitoring and notification system?	5 Point(s)
8. Will an irrigation pumping plant evaluation (engine, gearhead, pipe, pump) be completed? Answer yes if evaluation was completed within the last 10 years.	25 Point(s)
9. Will the irrigation pump be replaced with a higher efficiency pump meeting the pumping plant standard? Answer yes if pump replacement was completed within the last 5 years.	10 Point(s)
CONVERSION OF SURFACE SYSTEM (select only one)	
10. Will a surface irrigation system be converted to SDI (Sub-surface Drip Irrigation)?	40 Point(s)
11. Will a surface irrigation system be converted to center pivot or linear sprinkler system?	30 Point(s)
CONVERSION OF SPRINKLER SYSTEM (select one of the following three)	
12. Will a sprinkler irrigation system be converted to SDI (Sub-surface Drip Irrigation)?	30 Point(s)
13. Will a sprinkler irrigation system be updated with the highest efficient center pivot or linear sprinkler system for the soil type and topography?	20 Point(s)
14. Will a sprinkler irrigation system be updated with a higher efficiency center pivot or linear sprinkler system?	15 Point(s)
15. Is the sprinkler irrigation system to be updated 30 years or older?	10 Point(s)
CONVERSION FROM IRRIGATED TO DRYLAND CROP ROTATION (select only one) Land was irrigated two out of the previous 5 years.	
16. Will all of the irrigated acres, operated and interconnected as an irrigation system, be converted to a dryland crop rotation? An irrigation system includes all interconnected wells and irrigation water distribution components.	75 Point(s)
17. Will a portion of the irrigated land, operated and interconnected as an irrigation system, be converted to a dryland crop rotation? An irrigation system includes all interconnected wells and irrigation water distribution components. A partial center pivot conversion will include at a minimum all of the land covered by one center pivot. A partial surface conversion will include at a minimum 50% of the field acreage.	50 Point(s)
CROPLAND CONVERTED TO NATIVE GRASS (select only one)	
18. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of more than 80 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial native grasses?	50 Point(s)
19. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of 40 to 80 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial native grasses?	40 Point(s)
20. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of less than 40 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial native grasses?	25 Point(s)
CROPLAND CONVERTED TO INTRODUCED GRASS (select only one)	
21. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of more than 80 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial introduced grasses?	40 Point(s)
22. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of 40 to 80 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial introduced grasses?	25 Point(s)
50. Does the planned treatment include the conversion of less than 40 acres of irrigated cropland to non-irrigated perennial introduced grasses?	10 Point(s)
CONSERVATION TILLAGE (select only one)	
51. Will no-till/strip-till (in addition to irrigation system conversions or dryland crop rotation) be practiced on all land under contract? Irrigated pastureland and/or hayland will be scored as no-till.	15 Point(s)
52. Will mulch till or a rotation of no-till/mulch till (in addition to irrigation system conversions or dryland crop rotation) be practiced on all cultivated land under contract? Irrigated pastureland and/or hayland in a rotation using tillage will be scored as mulch-till.	10 Point(s)