**FY 2023**

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal**

**Team 6 – Tucumcari, Roy, and Clayton FO**

**Introduction:** Team 6 is comprised of the Tucumcari, Roy, and Clayton Field Offices (FO). These FO provide technical assistance to Quay, Harding, Union and a small portion of San Miquel County. Team 6 has five Soil and Water Conservation Districts that make up about 5.5 million acres. Harding County also boasts the oldest SWCD in the State; Mesa SWCD was created and recognized by the state as a functioning conservation District April 13, 1938. Team 6 is 90% rangeland that is primarily used for livestock grazing.

**Local Work Group:** The Local Work Group (LWG) met on September 20, 2022 by Zoom and was hosted by Canadian River SWCD. This was a combined LWG meeting for all 5 SWCDs within the Team. The LWG will rotate the host and location each year. Those represented and providing input were as follows:

* Canadian River SWCD – 1 District Clerk, 1 board member
* Northeastern SWCD – 1 District Clerk, 1 board member
* Mesa and Ute Creek SWCD – 1 District Clerk
* NMDA staff - 1
* FSA - 1 Lead PT Union County, 1 Lead PT Harding County, 1 CED Union/Harding County
* NMACD - 1
* Team 11 – 1 DC
* NRCS Team 6 staff and partner staff– 8

**Conservation Needs Assessment**

None have been completed by the SWCDs in attendance

**GIS Data**

No outside GIS Data provided at the time

**Program Outreach**

The group felt that current efforts were sufficient

**Practice Caps**

No Practice Caps were suggested by the group

**Priority Resource Concerns and their weighted priority**

No changes were recommended by the Local Work Group for FY 2023. See National Ranking Template Resource Concern sheet by land use.

**Team Sub Accounts and Funding Considerations:** The group agreed to add a Pasture sub account for Team 6. Funding considerations are: 65% - Rangeland, 20% - Irrigated Cropland, 5% - Dry Cropland, 5% Pasture, and 5% Forestland. With money moving from sub accounts as needed.

**Payment Percentage Rate:** The cost-share rate recommendations for the practices in the payment schedule is 75% for non-HU and 90% for HU and will follow the 2023 Regional Payment Schedule.

**Ranking Criteria:** Only a few changes to the ranking criteria for Team 6 are being submitted for all land uses as determined by the Local Work Group and NRCS staff for FY 2023. Please see attached for each fund code local ranking.

**Eligible Practices:** The LWG proposed that all practices approved by the State Resource Conservationist are eligible for financial assistance in EQIP for Team 6.

**Screening Criteria:** All Screening Criteria discussed is not allowed by policy and so there will be no screening criteria unless decided by the State.

**Tie Breaker:** For all land uses and initiatives, the tie breaker will be the efficiency score out of CART.