Approved Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and Conservation Practices to Support the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project for Advanced Irrigation Water Management on the High Plains Aquifer in Kansas

**Approved Program for Financial Assistance**
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

**Approved Land Use**
- Irrigated Cropland

**Primary Resource Concerns**
- Insufficient Water – Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water
- Insufficient Water – Inefficient Moisture Management

**Approved Conservation Practices**
- Practice Code 449 – Irrigation Water Management
  (Only the Advanced Payment Scenario is eligible for this project. Practice must be completed for 3 years with Financial Assistance provided for 3 years.)

**Application Priority**
- High, Low
- Applications are considered HIGH priority if a pumping rate of at least 3.5 gal/min/ac will be supplied to each center pivot and a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Irrigation Water Management Plan for the application acres has been developed. All other applications will be considered LOW priority and will not be considered for funding.

**Additional Requirements for this Project**
- Eligible participants will install a telemetry enabled moisture monitoring package to include flow meter(s) dedicated to each center pivot and at least one moisture probe in quarter section sized fields, and a minimum of two moisture probes in fields larger than a quarter section. Additional moisture probes may be necessary where more than one crop is grown.

- Eligible participants will hire the services of a crop consultant to provide technical assistance for real time irrigation water scheduling. Scheduling will be based on using a water budget method with advanced methods of determining irrigation water applied, estimated crop evapotranspiration, continuous soil moisture data, and crop temperature stress monitoring. Data generated will be provided to NRCS at the end of the irrigation season to support practice certification and payment.

- A NRCS Irrigation Water Management Plan will be developed before the application is funded. Participant will implement the plan annually throughout the contract period.
- **Note:** Telemetry enabled flow meter(s) at the pivot are not required if the amount pumped can be determined and reported while the irrigation system is being operated. The NRCS Irrigation Water Management Plan will detail methods and reporting requirements in these situations.

- No end guns or similar appurtenances will be used on the center pivot system.

**National Ranking Questions**
All national priority ranking questions will be answered for each RCPP-EQIP application that is ranked. Only practices receiving financial assistance (FA) under the RCPP-EQIP application are to be considered for any question in the ranking tool.

**State Ranking Questions**
1. Answer ONE of the following three questions describing the irrigation water management plan to be implemented.
   a. The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by at least 20 points. (400 Points)
   b. The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by at least 10 to 19.9 points. (300 Points)
   c. The Farm Irrigation Rating Index (FIRI) will be increased by at least 5 to 9.9 points. (200 Points)

**Local Ranking Questions**
1. Answer ALL of the following applicable questions regarding the inventoried characteristics of the unit of concern. If the question does not apply, leave the answer “NO”:
   a. Land is located in a Local Enhancement Management Area (LEMA), Intensive Ground Water Use Control Area (IGUCA), or Water Conservation Area (WCA). (100 Points)
   b. Application includes more than one center pivot system and moisture monitoring package. (100 Points)
   c. Additional monitoring sensors are installed beyond what is required. (50 Points)