

## Kansas ACEP-ALE Ranking Pools

### Program Questions

Percentage decrease of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture

- Decrease of >15% (15 points)
- Decrease of 10.1% to 15% (9 points)
- Decrease of 5.1% to 10% (5 points)
- Decrease of 0.1% to 5.0% (1 point)

Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture, and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture, in the county in which the offer area is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture

- Decrease of >15% (10 points)
- Decrease of 10.1% to to 15% (8 points)
- Decrease of 5.1% to 10% (5 points)
- Decrease of 0.1% to 5% (3 points)

Proximity of the parcel to other protected land, such as compatible military installation; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State, or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to non-agricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values

- Offer area boundary adjoins protected land boundary (20 points)
- Offer Area is within 1 mile of protected land (10 points)
- Offer Area is greater than 1 mile but less than 3 miles of protected land (5 points)
- Offer area is greater than 3 miles of protected land (0 points)

Percent of prime, unique, and important farmland in the parcel to be protected

- 90 - 100% (20 points)
- 80 - 90% (18 points)
- 70 - 80% (15 points)
- 60 - 70% (10 points)
- 50 - 60% (5 points)
- <50% (0 points)

Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the offer area to be protected

- =>51% (20points)
- 33% - 50% (10 points)
- <33% (5 points)

Ratio of the total acres of land in the parcel to be protected to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture

- >2:1 (15 points)
- 1:1 - 2:1 (7 points)
- <1:1 (0 points)

Percent population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census

- Growth rate of more than three times the state growth rate (15 points)
- Growth rate of two to three times the state growth rate (7 points)
- Growth rate of one to two times the state growth rate (4 points)
- Growth rate less than the state growth rate (0 points)

Population density (population per square mile) as documented by the most recent United States Census

- Population density of greater than 3.1 times the state population density (15 points)
- Population density 2.1 to 3 times the state population density (7 points)
- Population density 1 to 2 times the state population density (4 points)
- Population density less than the state population density (0 points)

Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations

- Plan developed and documented by industry professional (5 points)
- Other documents for continuous operation by family (2 points)
- No plan (0 points)

Proximity of the parcel to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure

- Offer area boundary adjoins (15 points)
- Offer area boundary is within 1 mile (12 points)
- Offer area boundary is greater than 1 mile but less than 3 miles in proximity (6 points)
- Offer area boundary greater than 3 miles in proximity (0 points)

Offer area's ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use

- Offer area is being offered as a whole parcel and does not have any carve outs (20 points)
- Offer area is a portion of the larger parcel and/or has carve outs not included in the easement offer area (0 points)

The grassland in the parcel will benefit from protection under the long term easement by meeting state requirements for grasslands of special environmental significance

- Yes (10 points)
- No (0 points)

Offer area is currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in a contract that is set to expire within a year and is grassland that would benefit from protection

- Yes (10 points)
- No (0 points)

Eligible entity's cash contribution is 50% of the fair market value of the easement

- Yes (10 points)
- No (0 points)

### **Resource Questions**

Offer area is in a geographic region where enrollment achieves landscape or other conservation goals and objectives within a Tier 1 watershed under the Kansas Unified Watershed Assessment

- Intersects a KWO Tier 1 watershed (10 points)

Offer area enrollment maximizes environmental benefits per dollars expended

- Easement value <200 Dollars/acre (20 points)
- Easement value 201 to 400 Dollars/acre (10 points)
- Easement value >400 Dollars/acre (5 points)

Offer area is located in an area zoned for agricultural use

- Yes (5 points)
- No (0 points)

Eligible entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 80% or more of its easements each year and closing within time frames set in original Cooperative Agreements

- Yes (30 points)
- No (0 points)

Offer area contains state-specific factors for grasslands of special environmental significance

- Yes (30 points)
- No (0 points)

Offer area contains habitat for species of interest

- Federally listed threatened and endangered species with critical habitat identified (30 points)
- State species in need of conservation critical habitat identified (15 points)
- No species of interest identified (0 points)

Enrollment of offer area will provide diversity of natural resource protections

- Offer area has a conservation plan approved by NRCS at the time of the application that addresses 3 or more primary resource concerns (30 points)

- Offer area has a conservation plan approved by NRCS at the time of application that addresses 1 to 2 primary resource concerns (15 points)
- No plan exists with NRCS (0 points)

Landowners are a historically underserved group, small scale farmer, limited resource landowner, new or beginning farmer or rancher, or veteran landowner

- Yes (10 points)
- No (0 points)

Offer area contains historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by easement area

- Yes (10points)
- No (0 points)

Offer area is within Kansas designated Grassland Region of Concern and is greater than 75% native grass sod, never broken?

- Yes (25 points)
- No (0 points)