

**Ranking Category—Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5
(BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER, LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER,
SOCIALY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER)**

Primary Resource Concerns—

- **Insufficient Water—Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water**
- **Insufficient Water—Inefficient Moisture Management**

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Pasture**

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- **Must be located in designated project area (see map—Attachment 1).**
- **Participant will permanently remove end gun from existing sprinkler.**
- **Producer will provide COPY of affidavit with additional requirements from GMD No. 5 to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prior to obligation. This affidavit will be obtained by the participant from GMD No. 5 and all affidavit questions will be referred to GMD No. 5.**
- **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.**
- **State policy will be followed in determining land eligibility for irrigated land. See Kansas Supplement, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 515, Section KS515.52. National policy, CPM, Part 515, Section 515.80(C)(7), states that a participant may receive assistance to implement an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) schedule of operations for water conservation if the assistance will facilitate a reduction in ground and surface water use on the agricultural operation.**

State Issues—

Answer the following question 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 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
(400 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following three questions related to application water usage: (Water Usage = Average Acres Irrigated [divided by] Authorized Acres.) Only years that have been irrigated in the last five years will be averaged.

- (2a) Application Water Usage, by water right, is at least 90 percent. (400 points)
- (2b) Application Water Usage, by water right, is between 80 and 89.9 percent. (300 points)
- (2c) Application Water Usage, by water right, is between 70 and 79.9 percent. (200 points)

Local Issues–

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (1) Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the location of the point of diversion:

- (2a) All points of diversion (well/water source) to be treated are located within the designated Groundwater Management District (GMD) No. 5 Priority No. 1 area. (200 points)
- (2b) At least one point of diversion (well/water source) to be treated is located within the designated GMD No. 5 Priority Area No. 1 area. (140 points)

Answer the following question related to the application:

- (3) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)