Ranking Category—Lesser Prairie–Chicken Initiative

Primary Resource Concern—
- Fish and Wildlife—Declining Species, Species of Concern (Lesser Prairie–Chicken [LEPC])

Eligible Land Uses—
- Grazed Range, Pasture, Crop

Additional Requirements for this Category—
- Enrolled pasture consisting of a single species or tame grass will be required to be restored to a plant community with species diversity to benefit LEPC.
- Enrolled crop must be established to permanent perennial herbaceous vegetation.
- No state issue points will be awarded to any applicant who has had a cancelled or terminated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract in the past.
- A grazing management plan to benefit the LEPC will be required.
- Must be in designated eligible area (see map).
- The application is ineligible if the offered area scores zero on more than one of the first three questions of the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Prairie–Chicken Assessment (Kansas Biology Technical Note 36)

State Issues—
1. Answer ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application.

   1(a) Any part of the unit of concern is within a Kansas LEPC Core Habitat and Core Buffer Habitat area. (220 points)

   1(b) Any part of the unit of concern is within a LEPC Core Buffer Habitat area. (110 points)

2. Answer the following question related to the application acres.

   2(a) Does the application include expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage? (500 points)

3. Answer the following question related to the Kansas Biology Technical Note 36 Prairie–Chicken Assessment:

   3(a) Assessment benchmark score is > to 75. (100 points)
   3(b) Assessment benchmark score is > to 50 but < 75. (75 points)
   3(c) Assessment benchmark score is > to 25 but < 50. (50 points)
Local Issues—
Answer the following questions related to the application.

1. Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). (5 points)

2. Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (5 points)

3. Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors which may include, but is not limited to, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks’ (KDWP) State Wildlife Grant, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost–share programs. (5 points)

4. Planned treatment will benefit natural wetlands exceeding one acre in size. A certified wetland determination is not required. (5 points)