

Upper Elkhorn NRD Criteria Rating for Adding New Irrigated Acres

Please Print All Information.

Applicant: _____
 (Must be landowner or Power of Attorney)
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Form No. _____	I.D. #. _____ (for office use)
Date Received: _____	(for office use)

Expansion of Acres (Flowmeter Required) for an:
 Existing Well Registration #: _____
 New Well
 Location: 2007 Aerial Photo Required and acres marked
 _____ 1/4 _____ 1/4 _____ Sec _____ Tshp _____ Rge

**Applicant must provide an original FSA-form CPA026 or
 NRCS Signed Unofficial Determination of HEL for this legal.**

Criteria and Point Rating (All points are associated with legal on application)

	Potential Scoring	For Office Use Only
1. Section Stream Depletion Factor a. < 40% stream depletion b. 40% to <50% stream depletion c. 50% - <60% stream depletion d. 60% - <70% stream depletion e. 70 % - <80% stream depletion f. >80% stream depletion	+5.5 +3.5 -2.5 -5.5 -7.5 -10.5	
2. Ground Water Nitrate Area Contamination (see township map): a. Nitrates in the township 0 - <7.5 ppm b. Nitrates in the township >7.5 – <9.5 ppm c. Nitrates in the township > 9.5 ppm	+7 +5 0	
3. Static Water Level (SWL)/Depth to Ground Water: a. Area wells have declining water level b. Proposed site has SWL <10 feet at any time of year based on NRD Quantity Data c. Proposed site has SWL 10-19 feet at any time of year based on NRD Quantity Data	-15 -8 -3	
4. NRCS Highly Erodible Land Grade(HEL)/Runoff Potential Rating: Land is determined to be potentially HEL or HEL for wind/water erosion by NRCS guidelines.	-30	
5. Irrigation Plan: New Acres to be Irrigated _____ (best estimate) a. Drip Irrigation b. Pivot/Sprinklers d. Flood, Gated or Other	+5 0 -5	
6. Proximity to other High Capacity Wells: a. Well construction site within 1,000 feet of another owners high capacity well b. Well construction site outside of 1,000 feet of any registered well	-8 0	
7. Do you make the fertilizer decision, purchase fertilizer or apply more than 50 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer per acre within the Upper Elkhorn NRD a. Certified in Nitrogen Management by NRD – in compliance b. Not Certified in Nitrogen Management by NRD – out of compliance c. Not required to be certified in Nitrogen Management	Y / N +5 -3 0	
8. Conservation Practices a. Terracing and/or watershed preservation being used or planned for use b. Existing CCRP, SAFE, Corners for Wildlife, NSWCP or similar program being used on site (Documentation must be provided by applicant on federal programs) c. > 3 acres of existing shelter belt trees removed on site d. Removal of conservation management programs e. NRD treebelt being signed up for during new acre approval process	+6 +2.5/ Corner -7 -10 +10	
Total Points:		

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Non-Refundable Application Fee must be submitted with application:

Greater than 25 Acres (Acres _____ X \$3 per acre = \$ _____) Less then 25 acres = \$75

Signature of NRD Employee Compiling Rating: _____ Date _____

The addition of irrigated acres will be rated by the following criteria, which is an overall assessment of the conditions on the proposed site for development. Following a review by NRD staff and the Board of Directors, points will be assigned and the highest ranked applications will be approved for the expansion of irrigated acres as long as it meets all District and State rules and regulations. Application time period runs the month of October, 2009; the months of January, 2010, 2011 and 2012. An application fee of \$3/acre with a minimum application of \$75 is required in order to be considered for the expansion of irrigated acres. Applicants will be notified of their application status within 60 days of the application deadline. Upon approval of this application the expansion of all irrigated acres will have until October 1 of the application year to be completed. Applications approved in 2009 will have until October 1, 2010.

Criteria Rating:

1. Stream depletion factor is based off of the Elkhorn-Loup Modeling study which gives numerical impacts of each section within the UENRD to the Elkhorn River based on proximity and hydroconnectivity. The farther a section is from the stream and less connected it is, the less the impact.
2. Ground Water Nitrate Area Contamination will be assessed based on area contaminates of Nitrates determined by the NRD sampling conducted annually during the irrigation season. Those areas which have high contaminates will be penalized if the average nitrates in that area are over 10 ppm (see township map).
3. Static Water Level (SWL)/Depth to Ground Water review will be conducted by NRD personnel to determine the overall characteristics of the ground water levels in the area. Area static water levels will be assessed to determine if there is a decline, for any given period of time, of static water levels. Shallow depths to ground water are more susceptible to flooding and contamination and will be determined by comparing area wells.
4. NRCS Highly Erodible Land Grade(HEL)/Runoff Potential Rating is based on a land evaluation by the area Natural Resource Conservation Service office to determine the surface rating and susceptibility to erosion for the acres impacted by the expansion of irrigated acres. A copy of the assessment may be required with the application upon request of NRD personnel.
5. Irrigation Plan will list the best estimate of the new acres to be irrigated. Once the expansion is completed the landowner will have one year to certify the actual acres irrigated not to exceed estimated acres. Installation of a flowmeter will be required on all new expansion of irrigated acres.
6. Proximity to other high capacity wells will be determined based off of the well registration database. Those wells that are the only registered wells in the section will receive a higher rating then those wells within a quarter section of low capacity wells which will be rated higher than those near other high capacity wells. This is done to reduce impact on neighboring wells and relieve stress during the high pumping seasons.
7. Landowners will also be rated as to whether or not they are certified by the NRD in Nitrogen Management.
8. Conservation practices on the property being applied for a new application permit will receive award points. Conservation practices may include, but are not limited to; Continuous CRP, NSWCP, SAFE program, EQIP, and Corners for Wildlife. Watershed protection and terracing will also receive bonus points due to the conservation of topsoil and reduction of runoff.
9. 2500 acres are allotted per year and highest ranking criteria applications will be approved up to those limited acres per year.
10. Ranking Criteria is for only 10/50 area of Lower Platte River Basin which includes the Elkhorn River Basin. Area labeled fully-appropriated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources 2008 designation of the Niobrara River Basin is currently ineligible for applying for these acres unless the designation is reversed.
11. Applications and Approval are non-transferable.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all information submitted on this form is accurate and truthful.

Signature of Landowner or Power of Attorney: _____ Date: _____