

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applications Open for Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

Producers within the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (NRD) may submit applications to receive an incentive for reducing the use of commercial fertilizers. The Department of Natural Resources recently announced the establishment of the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA), a state program where producers verify a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer application rates as the lesser of 40 pounds per acre or 15% of their baseline application rate. Other acceptable practices could include technology or biologicals that have proven a decrease in nitrogen application rates.

NiRIA will be operational beginning with the 2025 growing season and is scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2029. The total funding currently available for the program is capped at \$1 million which is spread out over all 23 Natural Resources Districts.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts have determined the program will operate under three priority areas (Figure 1) for producers of corn, sugar beet, and potatoes. Priorities will be given to specific areas in the district designated by the Lower Platte North NRD.

Priority A Areas will include wellhead protection areas and phase II water quality areas or higher phase areas. Priority B Areas represent areas not in the Priority A Areas and have acres that are certified to irrigate. A baseline level of nitrogen application will be required as established by the NRD with additional criteria such as soil sampling. Priority C Areas include all other areas not captured by Priority A or B Areas. **Other nitrogen sources (manure, wastewater, etc.) cannot replace the reduced commercial fertilizer under any circumstances.** Producers must be in

good standing with the NRD's rules and regulations. Please complete one application per field by **December 31** to allow for review and approval.

Applications and additional information can be downloaded at lpnnrd.org/downloads or by calling the NRD at 402-443-4675. Contact Daryl Andersen, Lower Platte North NRD Water Resources Manager with any questions.

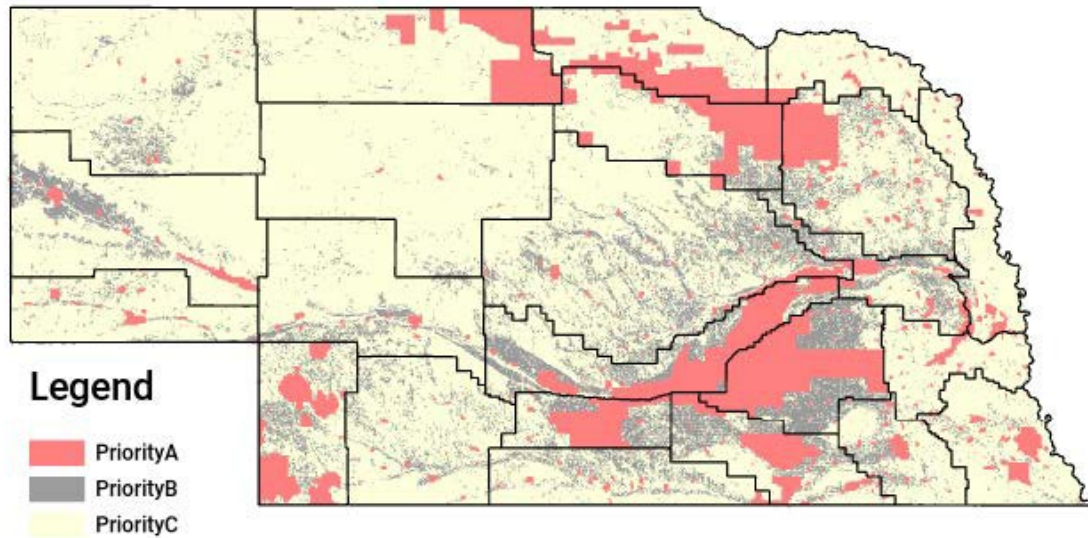


Figure 1. Priority Areas of Nitrogen Reduction Act provided by Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.