



### Sub-Area Rules for Byron-Deshler-Ruskin Water Quality Sub-Area

1. All operators must attend nitrogen and or irrigation management training workshops every 4 years.
2. Increase information and education efforts for the target area.
3. Provide one-on-one assistance to operators (as available).
4. Provide or secure through outside sources, funding for short term incentive programs to encourage producers to adopt BMP's.

The operators/owners are responsible for providing assistance in our groundwater protection activities in the following ways:

1. Provide an initial operator report of current farm and practice information as a means of establishing a benchmark for management practice implementation, educational needs, and future program progress.
2. Identify a field to use as a Demonstration Field.
3. On the Demonstration Field please do the following.
  - a. Keep track of amount of fertilizer applied.
  - b. Keep track of pesticides/herbicides used.
  - c. Keep track of amount of water applied.
  - d. Keep track of Actual Yield.
  - e. Water sample irrigation well for nitrates.
  - f. Collect Soil Samples if applying nitrogen fertilizer.
    1. **Soil sampling rules:**
      - a. **One shallow composite sampling on the field according to number 2 below to a minimum depth of 8 inches will be required annually per 40 acres and,**
      - b. **One deep soil composite sampling is required on the field according to number 2 below with a minimum depth of 36 inches per 40 acres.**
    2. **Each sampled area shall be no larger than 40 acres, preferably no larger than 20 acres. A soil sample shall consist of a composite surface sample from 15 – 20 cores collected to a depth of 8 inches, mixed to create a single sample and analyzed for general fertility and nitrate – N; and a subsurface sample from 6 – 8 cores to a depth of 36 inches shall be mixed and analyzed for nitrate – N.**
    3. **Deep soil sampling exemptions will be given for corn-soybeans rotations in accordance with NRD or UNL Extension guidelines.**
4. Prohibit fall application of nitrogen fertilizer before November 1 on cropland for the ensuing crop year.
5. Provide year end annual reports tailored to identify crop and farming practices. **Reports are due April 1st of each year.**