

March 11, 2020

# LITTLE BLUE NRD

## COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Erika Brinegar  
LBNRD

Contents

**COST-SHARE GUIDELINES – 2020** .....3

**NEBRASKA COST SHARE PROGRAMS** .....6

**NC-1: TERRACE SYSTEMS** .....6

**NC-2: TERRACE UNGERGROUND OUTLETS**.....6

**NC-3: WATER IMPOUNDMENT DAMS** .....7

**NC-4: GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES** .....8

**NC-6: DIVERSIONS** .....8

**NC-7: GRASSED WATERWAYS** .....9

**NC-8: WATER-AND-SEDIMENT-CONTROL BASINS** .....9

**NC-9: DUGOUTS FOR LIVESTOCK WATER (RUNOFF COLLECTION ONLY)** .....10

**NC-10: PASTURE PLANTING OR RANGE SEEDING** .....10

**NC-11: CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (GRASS)** .....11

**NC-12: WINDBREAKS**.....11

**NC-14: PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEMS** .....12

**NC-16: WINDBREAK RENOVATION**.....13

**NC-19: REPAIR OF PRACTICES** .....14

**LITTLE BLUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES (Exclusive to LBSWCP)**.....15

**LB-21A & B: PRACTICE BURIED PIPE (from well to pivot point & LB-21B NEW WELL INCENTIVE)**.....15

**WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS** .....16

**WQ-23: LOW ANGLE SPRINKLERS OR DROP NOZZLES** .....16

**WQ-25: CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER-APPLICATOR CONTROL SYSTEM** .....16

**WQ-28: NITROGEN INHIBITOR EQUIPMENT** .....17

**WQ-30: VARIABLE RATE IRRIGATION (equipment only)**.....18

**VARIABLE RATE IRRIGATION INCENTIVE DESCRIPTION** .....19

**WQ-31: COMPLETE SOIL-HEALTH TEST**.....20

**WQ-32: WELL DECOMMISSIONING** .....20

**WQ-33: CHEMIGATION EQUIPMENT PROGRAM INCENTIVE ASSISTANCE** .....21

**WATER QUANTITY PROGRAMS**.....22

**IWM-1: IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM - I**.....22

**IWM-2: IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM - II**.....23

**IWM-3: IRRIGATION FLOW METER TO REMOTE READ** .....23

**NEW OR RECONSTRUCTED DAMS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY PROGRAM** .....24

## LITTLE BLUE NRD COST-SHARE GUIDELINES – 2020

### **SIGN-UP PERIOD**

The general cost-share sign-up will be continuous year-round for work to begin after July 1<sup>st</sup> of the application year. LBNRD fiscal period runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30 of each year. Additional applications will be accepted throughout the year, but approval will be based on availability of funds.

### **ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS & APPROVAL**

All signups will be at local NRCS offices and then forwarded by email to the Little Blue NRD. All figures on contracts must be in ink or computer printed. Remember to indicate on application form what crop the field is in or if the field is open and ready for construction. Landowner must sign application before sent to the NRD office. When application is sent to get the landowners signature, send along any other paperwork that will be needed (W-9, Citizenship). After NRD approval, the form will be scanned and emailed back to the NRCS, and a letter will be sent to the landowner notifying them of approval. Because the cost-share applications are a contract for the life of the project, signatures (with ink) are required on the form upon completion of project.

### **FORMS**

Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Forms should be used for State applications; Little Blue Soil and Water Conservation Forms for Little Blue cost share contracts, LB Water Quality for WQ contracts. Also, use Form 14 for NC-17 practices, use Form 10 for NC-14 practices. All contracts must have a W-9 attached and citizenship form signed by the applicant. If the applicant is signing on behalf of a landowner, please provide a Power of Attorney form with completed contract.

### **PRIORITY**

Contracts will be awarded on a first come-first serve basis until available funds are committed. Producers that have not received funding previously may be given a higher priority. General sign-up contracts will be approved after the June board meeting.

### **COST SHARE LIMIT**

Each FSA tract can receive up to \$10,000 per 2 fiscal years. If a landowner applies for an extended contract (between \$5,000 to \$10,000) make sure he didn't receive too much funding the previous year.

### **TIME-LINE FOR COMPLETION**

Producers will be given a six-month time frame from the date of approval to complete the work or be completed by May 15th; NC-14 contracts will be given nine months for completion. Work cannot begin until written approval is received from the NRD. Applications for LB21A Buried Pipe Practice: from well to pivot point, only when converting gravity system to pivot, may have to wait for payment until new program allocation. Funds are always made available for Tree Renovation and Tree plantings. If a project is not started soon enough, they will reapply at the next fiscal period.

### **COST SHARE OVERRUNS**

If cost overruns of \$1,000 or more are anticipated, the NRCS should report the addition to the NRD to assure that funds are available to cover the overage.

### **CANCELLED CONTRACTS**

If a producer wishes to cancel an application, the form must be returned to the LBNRD office with the date and reason for cancellation stated on the form.

### **CHECKS**

Checks may be issued to multiple landowners provided that each landowner's social security number is submitted on separate W-9's. Payments from the State generally take approximately three weeks to process; payments through the LBNRD programs are approved on the second Tuesday of each month.

### **CONTRACT**

The typical land treatment practice cost-share contract runs for ten years after receipt of payment, or generally the life of the practice. If the practice which has been funded through one of the District's cost-share programs is removed, altered or modified to reduce its effectiveness within the contract term, the landowner must refund all or a prorated portion of District or State funds received for the project.

### **OPERATOR/TENANT COST-SHARE**

Operators/tenant may also sign a landowner's practice application/contract on behalf of the landowner, only if they have a POA from the landowner. The cost share contract would be in the landowner's name, the landowner would pay the bills, receive the cost-share, and receive the 1099 for tax purposes.

### **MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

- Property owned by Board of Educational Lands, are eligible for cost-share assistance.
- NRD can cost-share on church held properties.
- Cost-Share is available for rebuilding practices, if they were properly maintained and the failure or malfunction of the system is at no fault of the producer.
- Cost-share is available for CRP contracts that are expiring.
- No cost-share is provided for handplant trees.
- IWM, LB, and WQ practices can be made available to operators and landowners, if the landowners sign the Control of Land paperwork
- HEL Sod-Busted ground does not have cost-share available, unless it has been crop-farmed for at least 5 years.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. NRCS obtains the producers signature on the top line of the left side of a cost share form when they APPLY for assistance.
2. When NRCS has determined the application to be feasible, a cost estimate has been completed and the cost share form is filled out, the NRCS personnel (with appropriate Job Approval Authority for the practices listed on the cost share form) will sign line two on the left-hand side of the form.
3. At this point, the form will be mailed to the NRD office for approval. (along with the W-9/US citizenship form and any other pertinent documents)
4. The NRD will sign the cost share document to indicate the application has become a contract and return the form to the appropriate NRCS office.
5. The practices are installed, and checkout is completed.
6. The producer now signs on the right-hand side of the contract form.
7. NRCS (with JAA) signs the bottom left-hand side that indicates the practices have met NRCS specifications and the contract is ready to be paid for.
8. The contract and pertinent documents are mailed to the NRD for final approval and payment processing.
9. The NRD signs the final signature line on the left-hand side indicating the contract can be paid.
10. NSWCP forms will be signed by appropriate personnel on the lowest right-hand signature line.
  - NRD will return a completed cost share form to your office which will tell you the payment has been processed.

## NEBRASKA COST SHARE PROGRAMS

### NC-1: TERRACE SYSTEMS

**Purpose:** *To control erosion on cropland and to reduce pollution of water from non-point sources. A terrace intercepts surface runoff and conducts it to a stable outlet at a non-erosive velocity*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Slide slopes 13.5 feet and over
- Parallel, cut and fill
- Flat Channel
- Push—up
- Parallel Flat Channel
- Seed for back slopes (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Slope of 10% or greater
- Extra Long Terrace Slopes
- Narrow Base Terrace

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

Cost-share is not available for treating or protecting HEL sod-busted areas, if it has not been crop farmed for at least 5 years.

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

### NC-2: TERRACE UNDERGROUND OUTLETS

**Purpose:** *To dispose of excess water from a terrace system without causing erosion*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Materials for Underground Outlets

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

Cost-share is not available for treating or protecting HEL sod-busted areas, if it has not been crop farmed for at least 5 years.

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-3: WATER IMPOUNDMENT DAMS

**Purpose:** *To provide storage of surface water runoff. Dams are constructed across either normally dry or flowing water courses and provide stored water to replace or supplement the use of groundwater. In addition, these impoundments enhance groundwater recharge, prevent erosion and pollution and provide flood control and wildlife habitat.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Earth Moved – Excavation
- Earth Fill – Class A compaction (moisture controlled)
- Earth Fill – Class C compaction
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Fencing
- Other construction items
- Mulching

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

- In accordance with Nebraska Law, all water impoundment dams designed for storage must be constructed in a manner that allows inflow to be release on demand by senior downstream water right holders. This means that all spillway outlet works must be equipped with a draw down tube and control valve.
- Nebraska law requires that all dams, no matter what size, for which a storage right is requested must have drawings and specifications submitted to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.
- No cost-share is available for cleaning out of reuse pits or dams.

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-4: GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

**Purpose:** *To stabilize the grade in an existing water course to prevent or heal gully erosion. This is a structural practice which includes erosion control dams, drop structures and other measures designed to control the flow of water and stop erosion.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Earth Moved – Excavation
- Earth Fill – Class A compaction
- Earth Fill – Class C compaction
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Fencing
- Other construction items
- Mulching

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-6: DIVERSIONS

**Purpose:** *To divert water from areas where it is in excess to sites where it can be used or disposed of safely.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Earth Moved
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Seeding
  - Standard Drill
  - Grassland Drill
- Other construction items

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.



## NC-7: GRASSED WATERWAYS

**Purpose:** *To shape natural or constructed waterways to required dimensions and vegetate for safe disposal of runoff from a field, diversion, terraces or other structures by carrying runoff from the owner's property to a natural water course*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- 10 - 19.19 cross-section, earth moved, square feet
- 20 - 29.19 cross-section, earth moved, square feet
- 30 - 39.19 cross-section, earth moved, square feet
- 40 - 49.19 cross-section, earth moved, square feet
- 50+ cross-section, earth moved, square feet
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Seeding
  - Standard Drill
  - Grassland Drill
- Mulching
- Side Dikes

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-8: WATER-AND-SEDIMENT-CONTROL BASINS

**Purpose:** *To reduce on-site erosion, reduce sediment, reduce sediment content in water, intercept and conduct surface runoff through subsurface conduits to stable outlets, reduce peak rate or volume of flow at downslope locations, reduce flooding, prevent gully development, reform the land surface, and improve farability.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Excavation
- Earth Fill – Class A compaction (moisture controlled)
- Earth Fill – Class C compaction
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Other construction items
- Mulching

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-9: DUGOUTS FOR LIVESTOCK WATER (RUNOFF COLLECTION ONLY)

**Purpose:** *To create an impoundment for livestock water use by excavating to collect runoff in grassland*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Earth Moved – Excavation
- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Seeding
  - Standard Drill
  - Grassland Drill
- Fencing

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

- *Use the NSWCP 14 form for this practice.*

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-10: PASTURE PLANTING OR RANGE SEEDING

**Purpose:** *To establish grass on land being converted from other uses or the renovation of existing pasture or range.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Seeding
  - Standard Drill
  - Grassland Drill
  - Range Interseeder
- Chemicals for seedbed preparation when seeding in existing cover.

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

- *Use the NSWCP 14 form for this practice.*

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-11: CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (GRASS)

**Purpose:** *To stabilize the soil & reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Seed (critical area)
  - Common
  - Certified
- Seeding
  - Standard Drill
  - Grassland Drill
  - Hydro-seeder
- Mulching
- Fencing
- Shaping and Filling

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-12: WINDBREAKS

**Purpose:** *To establish a stand of trees to conserve soil and moisture and to prevent erosion, new or replacement*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- A. Trees, including planting and chemical weed control the first year.
- B. Trees, including planting
- C. Chemical Weed Control, first year
- D. Trees, including replanting
- E. Drip Irrigation System, all appurtenances beginning with in-line screen and pressure regulator
- F. Fencing, where necessary to provide protection from livestock
- G. Rodent Control
  - a. Pocket Gophers
    - i. Hand Probe, Hand Poisoning, Burrow Builder
- H. Fabric Weed Barrier
  - Not to be used in conjunction with C or E above
- Cost-share will be available for weed barrier or drip irrigation, only when 100 trees or 50 trees per renovation, where planted by the NRD.
- Producers must plant 100 (minimum) trees to receive cost-share monies.

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

Payments for the trees, must be paid up front and 75% of the weed barrier.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-14: PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEMS

**Purpose:** *To reduce erosion and improve water quality by maintaining or improving plant cover for increase forage production, enhanced wildlife habitat, grazing uniformity and water use efficiency*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Cross Fencing
  - Standard
  - Suspension
  - Electric
  - Perimeter Fencing (Restricted to: (a) lands remaining in grass for pasture within two years of completing enrollment in a Federal Conservation Program; or (b) cropland converted to grassland for pasture.)
- Water Supply
  - Well
    - Drilling and Casing Installation
    - Cost of Casing
    - Cost of Gravel Packing
  - Pipeline Installed
  - Tank Installed
  - Spring Development
  - Livestock Water Dugouts, high water table
    - Earth Moved, excavation
    - Seed (critical area)
      - Common, Certified
  - Pumping Plants
    - Electrical, Solar, Windmill
  - Rodent Control
    - Pocket Gophers
      - Hand Probe, Hand Poisoning, Burrow Builder
    - Prairie Dogs
      - Zink Phosphide/Aluminum Phosphide

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

- *Use the NSWCP 14 form for this practice.*
- Under planned grazing system, allows cost-share for perimeter fencing of land currently enrolled in CRP that has contracts expiring.
- On Planned Grazing Systems, the District will not pay for simply constructing a livestock well. The application must include a written rotational grazing and/or cross fencing plan.
  - Follow the NRCS definition for rotational grazing. Little Blue NRD will pay for the well if they follow the rotation grazing rules.
    - Follow the EQIP rules on the well
- They can put a new pump in an old well

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-16: WINDBREAK RENOVATION

**Purpose:** *To provide for the restoration of farmstead or field windbreaks that have been rendered substantially ineffective due to the death of trees or other windbreak plantings as a result of weather, disease, or other natural causes.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Procedures:** The windbreak renovation plan is to be based on a plan reviewed and approved by a forester of the Nebraska Forest Service. The forester is to certify that the windbreak has lost its effectiveness, should be renovated and that they approve the plan of renovation. Costs are to be based on average unit costs, where they exist.

**Additional Limitations:**

- *Each NRD is limited to approving no more than ten such practices in any given fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and payments for no more than ten such practices in a given NRD will be authorized from the Soil & water Conservation Fund in any fiscal year.*
- *In no instance will payment from the Soil & Water Conservation Fund be based on a cost greater than the state-wide average unit cost adopted by the USDA-FSA this practice.*
- *This practice does not include replanting the windbreak. Those costs could be eligible for cost-share under Practice NC-12. Otherwise, windbreak replanting costs be paid from other sources.*
- *No approval for a windbreak practice will be made by an NRD unless, and until, the landowner also agrees to replant the windbreak and no payment for a windbreak renovation practice will be made from the Soil & Water Conservation Fund until the windbreak has been replanted.*

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

- *Windbreak Renovation (only): if landowner is doing a Renovation, the LBNRD will cost-share on less than 100 trees, but no less than 50.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## NC-19: REPAIR OF PRACTICES

**Purpose:** *Cost-Share under the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program is authorized for the repair of the following practices or practice elements when the damage to the practice is due to natural causes rather than improper or inadequate maintenance; terraces, dams, diversions, grade stabilization structures, and livestock water supply pipelines. Any repair work must return the practice to a condition that meets technical specifications of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

**Eligible Areas:** Little Blue NRD District

**Items Covered:**

- Listed under the eligible practice being repaired  
*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 60% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 in a 2-year period.

## LITTLE BLUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES (Exclusive to LBSWCP)

### LB-21A: BURIED PIPE FROM WELL TO PIVOT POINT

*Purpose: To promote groundwater conservation, improve water application uniformity and save energy*

*Eligible Areas: Little Blue NRD District*

*Items Covered:*

- Maximum of 1400 feet of buried pipeline.
- Cost-share is not allowed for cost of electrical installation and equipment.
- Land eligible for this practice must have been irrigated four of the last five years.
- Applications for LB 21A Buried Pipe (well to pivot point) and the New Well Incentive LB 21B are prohibited on land of which 10% or more of the field to be irrigated by the center pivot is Highly Erodible Ground, was sod busted in the last 5 years or is being converted from pasture or grassland to cropland.
- When funds have been allocated for a fiscal year, no other contracts can be approved until possible slippage is available. Funding for this practice will be under the Little Blue Soil and Water Conservation Program, only.
- No less than 10 acres may be developed under this cost-share practice.
- No more than 10% of land under pivot system is to be newly irrigated land.
- This covers the labor and trenching costs which are built into the cost of the pipe.

*Required component: LBNRD approved irrigation flow meter with annual reporting to the District, with meter maintenance at cost of parts available to landowner from the LBNRD.*

*Must be planned and installed in accordance with technical specifications of the NRCS.*

*Surface water cannot be the source of water for the irrigation.*

### LB-21B: NEW WELL INCENTIVE

*As an alternative to "A", the producer may opt to apply the cost-share which would have been received under the practice, toward construction of a new well at the pivot point.*

- The new well must be within 1,400 feet of the old well
- Cost-share = (Distance from the old well to the new pivot point (most direct line)) × (district's average cost per foot for buried 8" pipeline) × (50%)

*Application Process: Applications will be accepted year-round.*

*(policy updated 3-10-2020)*

*Cost-Share: 50% of the average cost or actual cost whichever is less to the landowner, up to \$10,000 per tract, in a 2-year period.*

## WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

### WQ-23: LOW ANGLE SPRINKLERS OR DROP NOZZLES

#### Requirements:

- The landowner must review the CP Nozzle Efficiency Program with NRCS and have the landowner submit; Sprinkler Nozzle Specification Sheet to the NRCS.
- Regulators for the system must be included in the package in order to get cost-share.
- There must be improvement in irrigation efficiency.

#### Items Covered:

- New sprinklers and pressure regulators

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 50% of cost up to \$1,000

### WQ-25: CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZER-APPLICATOR CONTROL SYSTEM

#### Items Covered:

- Tractor or fertilizer rig to apply variable rate fertilizer

#### Item Costs:

- \$1,100 for Meter
- \$175 for Manifold

#### Requirements:

- Bill must be broken down between meter and manifold
- (Fertilizer reporting NOT required)

**Cost-Share:** 50% of cost up to \$2,000



## WQ-28: NITROGEN INHIBITOR EQUIPMENT

**Process:** *This program is intended to introduce landowners to, and provide a one-time cost assistance for, equipment needed for the application of nitrogen inhibitors when applying nitrogen fertilizers. The goal of the program is to reduce the potential for nitrogen leaching from pre-plant applications of nitrogen fertilizer, thereby protecting groundwater supplies from contamination.*

**Eligible Areas:** Landowners, farm units and corporations which own and farm agricultural lands within the Little Blue NRD are eligible for a one-time purchase of nitrogen inhibitor equipment through this program.

**Items Covered:**

- Nitrogen inhibitor application equipment (tractor or fertilizer rig) used when applying anhydrous ammonia, liquid and dry nitrogen fertilizers.

**Requirement:**

- The recipient of the cost assistance will be required to provide a copy of bills for the equipment purchased before payment will be made.
- A farm site or equipment inspection may be made by NRD staff to assure the equipment is in place and being used.

**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

- Application must be approved by the district prior to the purchase of the equipment.

**Cost-Share:** 50% of total cost up to \$2,000, one time

## WQ-30: VARIABLE RATE IRRIGATION (equipment only)

**Process:** *This program is intended to provide landowner assistance for installation of variable rate irrigation control equipment which improves precision application of irrigation water from the center pivot system. The equipment is calibrated according to the soils types, topography, yield data and other defined field conditions and applies water according to the specific needs of each identified cell or quadrant of the pivot system. The system provides for the most precise and efficient application of irrigation water therefore reducing irrigation water and energy inputs while reducing the potential for nitrogen leaching.*

**Eligible Areas:** All irrigated lands within the Little Blue NRD

**Items Covered:**

- The programmable equipment for the center pivot necessary to control the pivots speed and/or specific pre-set zone irrigation applications for more precise irrigation water placement.

**Requirement:**

- The variable rate irrigation system must be designed by a qualified pivot manufacturer or certified dealer for the individual operator's tract.
- The center pivot must irrigate a minimum of 65 acres.
- Applicants will be ranked according to the risk to groundwater and Municipal drinking water supplies. Application will be ranked according to the following priority areas: (1) Wellhead Protection Management Areas, (2) Water Quality Sub-Areas, (3) Rest of the District.
- Must be certified by an NRD official.

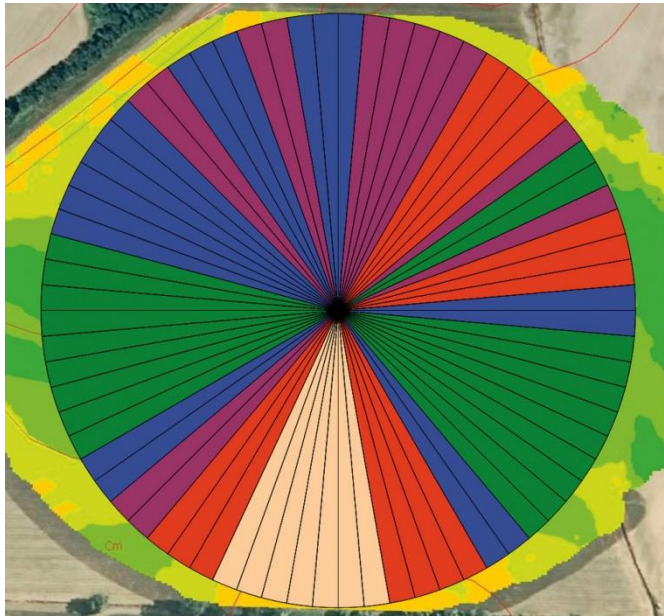
**Application Process:** Applications will be accepted year-round.

**Cost-Share:** 50% of total cost up to \$3,500 per pivot system equipped with variable rate irrigation speed/zone control systems. This is a one-time only incentive for owners, operators or farm units.

## VARIABLE RATE IRRIGATION INCENTIVE DESCRIPTION

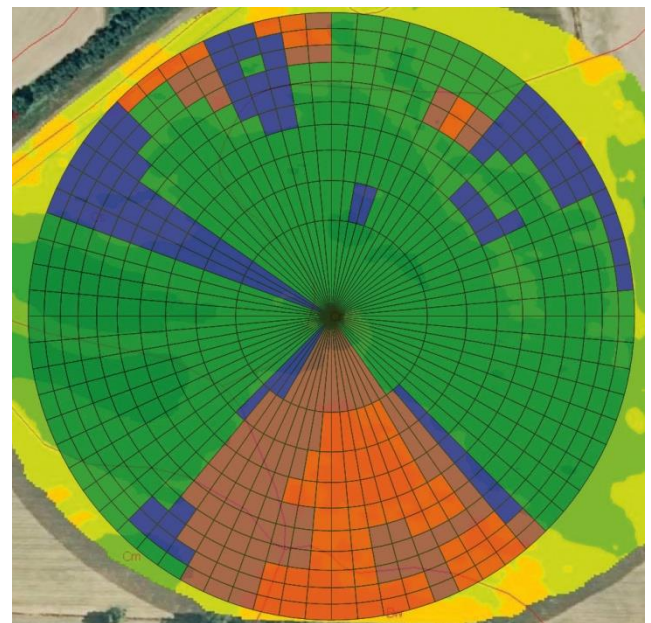
Variable rate irrigation systems offer precision irrigation applications for the varying characteristics and conditions of the field. Variable rate irrigation considers soil types, varying topography, other site conditions, as well as yield data and user-defined data to provide opportunities for precise management of the field's irrigation needs.

Variable rate irrigation cost-share incentives are provided for two different systems.



I. **Pivot Speed Control Systems** guide the pivot system controls to speed up or slow down, depending on specific field conditions, to achieve the desired application rate for each pie shaped section of the pivot's circle.

II. **Pivot Zone Control Systems** direct the pivot system using pulse control valves and on/off switches to achieve precise water applications over each individual cell within each pie shaped section of the pivot's circle. This system offers the most precise water applications available to match the field and crop needs.



## WQ-31: COMPLETE SOIL-HEALTH TEST

**Requirements:** Only one application per producer involved in farm unit/operations.

*Guidelines for sample collection, analysis and recommendations are under the guidance of LBNRD.*

**Acceptable Tests:**

- Complete Soil-Health Test
- Haney Test

**Required Documentation:** The soil samples

**Cost-Share:** Up to \$60 per composite sample, up to \$240 per producer, per fiscal year

## WQ-32: WELL DECOMMISSIONING

**Process:** *This program provides cost-share for proper decommissioning of water wells according to Title 178, Chapter 12 of the Department of Health regulations governing water well decommissioning standards. All plugging activities must be conducted by a LICENSED WELL DRILLER or PUMP INSTALLER.*

**Application:**

- Applications will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.
- Applications must be made on forms provided by the District and all necessary well information must be supplied.
- Decommissioning of the well may not begin until the cost-share application has been approved by the District.
- The District will allow *six (6) months from the time funds are approved to complete decommissioning*, unless an extension is granted by the NRD.

**Cost-share:** 75% of actual cost, up to the maximum of \$500 for all water wells other than hand dug water wells, which shall be eligible for up to a maximum of \$750.

## WQ-33: CHEMIGATION EQUIPMENT PROGRAM INCENTIVE ASSISTANCE

**Process:** *This program is intended to introduce landowners to, and provide a one-time cost assistance for, equipment needed for chemigation (split applications) of fertilizer through irrigation systems. This program is designed to spoon-feed fertilizer to the crop at the optimum time, reduce fertilizer losses and reduce the risk of nitrogen leaching to the groundwater.*

**Eligible Areas:** Landowners, farm units and corporations which own and farm agricultural lands within the Little Blue NRD are eligible for a one-time purchase of chemigation equipment through this program.

### Eligible Components:

- All chemigation equipment needed on irrigation system for applying liquid nitrogen fertilizers
  - Including:
    - the mainline check valve
    - fertilizer injection pump and/or chemical injection valve.

### Requirements:

1. Applicant has not done chemigation/fertigation in the last 5 years.
2. Applications must be made on forms provided by the District.
3. The application must be approved by the District prior to the purchase of the equipment.
4. Applicants will be required to obtain a chemigation permit from the Little Blue NRD and have the unit inspected by the NRD.
5. Applicants will be required to apply a percentage of nitrogen fertilizer through irrigation system equipped with the chemigation unit.
6. This practice is an incentive program, limited to 1 contract per producer, farm unit and or/corporation

**Cost-Share:** 50% of the total cost, not to exceed \$1,500 of the equipment costs. One time use program.

## WATER QUANTITY PROGRAMS

### IWM-1: IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM - I

*Process: This program is intended to introduce landowner to, and provide cost assistance for, the purchase of soil moisture sensing equipment to assist in irrigation scheduling and water management. This program is designed for the protection of the groundwater by reducing overwatering and decreasing the potential for nitrogen leaching.*

**Eligible Areas:** Eligible areas for the program includes the entire Little Blue NRD

**Equipment includes:**

- Watermark soil moisture sensors
- Hand-held meters
- Data-loggers and ET gages

*The equipment will be assembled and tested at the Little Blue NRD office in Davenport.*

**Requirements:** Applications will be taken on first-come basis and equipment dispensed as cost-share money allows. Priority will be given to first-year cooperators.

**Application Process:** *The Sale of the watermark sensor equipment is made available to the farmer through the NRD at ½ price.*

First-year cooperators will be eligible to have the equipment installed by NRD staff or representatives to assure proper installation and training is provided.

**Cost-Share:** Equipment will be made available at a 50% discount of total costs up to \$600 for any operator within the Little Blue NRD

## IWM-2: IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM - II

*Process: This program is intended to introduce landowners to, and provide cost assistance for, the purchase or rental of capacitance soil moisture probes and the remote connection to assist in irrigation management. This program is designed for the protection of the groundwater by reducing overwatering and decreasing the potential for nitrogen leaching.*

**Eligible Areas:** Operators in the Little Blue NRD District are eligible for a one-time purchase or rental of capacitance soil moisture probes through this program.

**Equipment includes:**

- The capacitance soil moisture probes with remote readers (telemetry included).
- *Equipment will be obtained by producers with NRD staff reviewing for approval.*
  - *There is an approved list of vendors for the capacitance soil moisture probes*
- There is no limit on how many sensors can be bought, but only one-application per operator and still capped at \$1,000

**Application Process:** Applications must be made on forms provided by the District and will be accepted year-around. (Updated 3-10-2020)

**Cost-Share:** 50% up to \$1,000 of the equipment costs. One-time use.

## IWM-3: IRRIGATION FLOW METER TO REMOTE READ

*Process: This policy is for adapting an existing flow meter installation to provide totalizer and/or flow data to a remote location.*

**Eligible Components:**

- the labor and equipment to connect pulse ready meters
- conversion of mechanical meters to pulse generation, cables, connections, communication software, and data plans.
- *The meter must be on the District's list of approved meters, all were verified to have remote reading capability when they were reviewed.*

**Application:** One application per landowner per year

**Cost-Share:** 50% of the total cost up to \$1,000

## LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT NEW OR RECONSTRUCTED DAMS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY PROGRAM (Amended: November 12, 2019)

**Objective:** *The purpose of this program is to participate in planning, design and financial assistance in the construction of dams located on private property. Dams constructed under this program may involve one or more landowners. Public benefits to be achieved include: flood control, sediment and erosion control, and water conservation. Other benefits include groundwater recharge, beneficial use of impounded water, and fish and wildlife enhancement.*

### Eligibility, Design and Engineering:

- Any landowner in the Little Blue NRD is eligible to request funding assistance through this program. The minimum drainage area for a dam under this program is 80 acres.
- A minimum of 75% of the drainage area shall have adequate land treatment or protection as certified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- All projects for which NRD cost-share is requested must be designed by the NRCS (if eligible under their non-private competition policy) or a qualified and certified private engineer.

### Eligible Components:

Construction items for which cost share can be received include, but are not limited to: engineering, permits, earth fill, drains, concrete, tube and steel, grass seed and seeding, mulching, fencing, mitigation, construction inspection, minus any state or federal funds available.

**Cost-Share Rate:** The NRD will cost-share up to 75% of eligible costs, not to exceed \$50,000 of NRD funds, on all private dams. In each case, cost share will be based on the actual final quantities installed, multiplied by the lesser of the County's Average Cost or the Actual Unit Cost submitted by the contractor.

### Cost Over-Runs:

The NRD Board's action will generally authorize cost-share based on the estimated cost of construction, plus 5% over-run amount. Any job which is expected to exceed the approved amount must be presented to the NRD, and receive approval, before payment could be considered for such expenses.

### Easements:

All easements required for construction or storage on neighboring land tracts, will be the responsibility of the landowner. If payment is required for such easements, those costs are not eligible for District cost-share. *All easements must be acquired before construction begins.*

### Permits:

The landowner will be responsible for obtaining necessary permits for construction and impoundment of water. The costs of the permits will be considered eligible project costs.



### Application Procedure:

- 1) The landowner must contact the County NRCS office in which the proposed structure lies and meet with an NRD representative and NRCS to discuss if the project meets all requirements or if there are other prudent alternatives. The NRCS will also determine if their agency is eligible to design the project.
- 2) The NRCS and NRD staff will conduct a site inspection. When performing the initial site assessment, it is recommended the Inventory and Evaluation form be used to assist in inventorying the proposed solutions and resources concerns. Resource concerns include but are not limited to erosion prevention and control, flood prevention and control, soil conservation, water supply for beneficial use, development-management-utilization and conservation of groundwater and surface water, pollution control, waste control, drainage improvement, development and management of fish and wildlife habitat, development and management of recreational and park facilities, and forestry/range management. After identifying resource concerns and determining if a Dam is an effective conservation practice to address those concerns, eligibility of the proposed project must be determined using the LBNRD's Dam Program criteria. An initial concept plan is developed as part of this step.
- 3) Determination by NRCS that any structure that will require more than 60 working days of NRCS time equivalent of a USACE 404, or DNR permits (approximately 300 acres of drainage area) the project must be contracted to a private engineering firm. (NRCS non-private competition policy.) If a private engineering firm will be used, the landowner will be responsible for contacting a licensed engineer. The NRCS engineer or private engineer will develop a preliminary design, cost estimate, and will identify all relevant or required permits.
- 4) The project cost estimate will be presented to the Projects and Planning Committee for review and recommendations. Committee recommendations will be presented to the NRD Board of Directors for project approval. Once the project has been approved, the engineering and design work may proceed. After project approval, the landowner is responsible for all project design costs and construction. NRD will reimburse up to and not to exceed 75%.
  - a. Design work will meet all NRCS technical specifications according to Conservation Practice Standard 378 (Pond).
  - b. The landowner will pay for engineering fees charged as the project progresses and submit claims to the NRD. The landowner may request the technical assistance payment at the completion of the engineering design phase.

- 5) Once the final design is completed, the landowner may request cost-share reimbursement up to 50% of the design.
  - a. At the completion of the design process the landowner will be provided complete set of plans and a list of construction items and quantities for the project from the NRCS, or engineer.
  - b. **The Landowner is responsible for soliciting bids and is encouraged to contact at least three contractors to establish the maximum cost-share.** Sealed bids will be provided to the NRD prior to the projects and planning committee meeting. The bids will be opened at the meeting. Recommendation for the lowest bid will be taken to the Board of Directors. The NRD will notify the NRCS (or engineer) that bids have been received and the project is ready for construction.
  - c. **If three bids can't be obtained, the board will accept the lowest bids of those received for the dam project.**
- 6) After the lowest bid approval, a notice to proceed will be sent to the landowner to coordinate the construction commencement. *\*Project is to be completed within 1 year of completion of engineer's final design.*
- 7) The landowner can request reimbursement for construction once the project is certified as complete by the engineer. Final payment will be authorized by the Board and issued to the landowner(s) as soon as the structure has received final inspection from the NRCS or private engineering firm and the Project Agreement is signed and returned to the NRD. This final payment will total 75% of the total project cost, including engineering, not to exceed \$50,000.

**Agreement:**

Before receiving payment, the cooperator must be willing to sign a 25-year agreement stating that the project will not be removed, altered or modified to lessen its effectiveness without the consent of the district. If removal, alteration or modifications occur which lessen the project's effectiveness or reduce the natural resources benefits for which cost-share was received during the agreement term, the landowner will be required to reimburse the District for a prorated share of the project costs calculated on the years of service provided by the structure.

**Operation and Maintenance:**

The District will provide guidance for the proper operation and maintenance of dams constructed under this program. The landowner is fully responsible for the proper care and maintenance of the project after its completion.

The district policy outlined heretofore shall be the general policy of the district, however when unusual circumstances dictate, the district may modify their financial contribution to these flood control structures.

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District originally approved this Policy Statement on October 28, 1975. Subsequent amendments are listed below:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amended: May 31, 1977      | Amended: June 27, 1995     |
| Amended: October 30, 1979  | Amended: April 29, 1997    |
| Amended: June 29, 1982     | Amended: July 10, 2001     |
| Amended: January 3, 1984   | Amended: April 12, 2005    |
| Amended: March 28, 1989    | Amended: February 10, 2015 |
| Amended: February 26, 1991 | Amended: August 11, 2015   |
| Amended: November 8, 2016  | Amended: November 12, 2019 |