


Updates on the Resilient Soils Act and the Nitrogen Reduction Act presented by Alexa Davis, an environmental specialist with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). Hear how NeDNR has helped producers connect and embrace innovative technology using the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act and the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act.


More information:

[Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act 2024 Annual Report](#), including links to the Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition's platform for engaging producers, and the Nebraska Grazing Exchange, an online interface that connects producers with forage to those searching for it in an attempt to promote livestock grazing of cover crops as a profitable connection between cattlemen and crop producers.

[Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act](#) - a state program to provide incentives to producers for reducing the use of commercial fertilizers. The requirements of NiRIA are that producers verify a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer application rates as the lesser of 40 pounds per acre or 15% of their baseline application rate.



Updates on The Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act & The Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act



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LB925
2022

LEGISLATIVE BILL 925

Approved by the Governor April 18, 2022

Introduced by Gragert, 48; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Do Brooks, 28; Cavanaugh, M., 6.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Natural Resources, the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act; and to state appropriations.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known as the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that:

(1) With over ninety percent of Nebraska's land base in rangeland agricultural production, its agricultural sector is the state's economy. Nebraska agricultural producers face shrinking profit margins, depletion of natural resources, and events, to increased public interest concerning the agricultural practices on the environment;

(2) Since the prairie was plowed for farming, Nebraska's soil and organic matter to both water and wind erosion. Soil productivity and deteriorates water quality. Organic matter, fertility, structure, and water retention ability and is its original level;

(3) This state's soil and abundant water are Nebraska's natural resources. The quality of both is vital for agricultural production, rural and urban economic viability, security, natural resource resiliency, and the associated health and quality of life. The relative quality and quantity of Nebraska's ground water and surface waters are directly impacted by the land, particularly its agricultural soil;


(4) It is not uncommon to find nitrate levels in drinking water standards in wells across the state. Elevated nitrate levels in Nebraska's ground water are alarming as approximately 60 percent of Nebraska residents rely on drinking water pumped from the ground. Nitrate levels in Nebraska's ground water are gradually improving, but remain at troublesome levels elsewhere, particularly in the northeastern parts of Nebraska;

(5) The Healthy Soils Task Force created under section 1-202 of the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act that healthier soils produced through best soil management practices, yield stability, produce greater financial returns over time for chemical inputs, increase water infiltration rates, and capacity making soil more resilient to drought, flooding, and improve water quality. The task force also concluded that two of the most important benefits to the production of healthy soil management practices are to:

18025

The Purposes of the Resilient Soils & Water Quality Act are to:

- ➔ Initiate first steps to accelerate the use and scope of best practices for healthy soil management
- ➔ Protect and improve soil and water quality throughout the state
- ➔ Protect the public's health and enhance agricultural production and profitability
- ➔ Address soil health economics, resource stewardship, and managerial and environmental issues
- ➔ Increase awareness, education, and promotion of healthy soil best practices through producer-to-producer, peer-to-peer, and mentoring relationships, networking, and sharing of technical information
- ➔ Provide observational proof of healthy soil benefits through access to demonstration and research farms and data



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A Statewide Initiative

Breaking Down The Information Access Barrier for Nebraska Producers

Web-based Cost-share Clearinghouse – A “One Stop Shop”

Connection Point: Voluntary Program Information, Ag Advisors, On-farm Research Opportunities, Peer-Peer Networks

Stakeholder Advisory Team

Pool Outreach & Partnership Capacity
Balanced System of Oversight & Development

Producer to Producer Connections

Connecting producers to others to help bolster local support



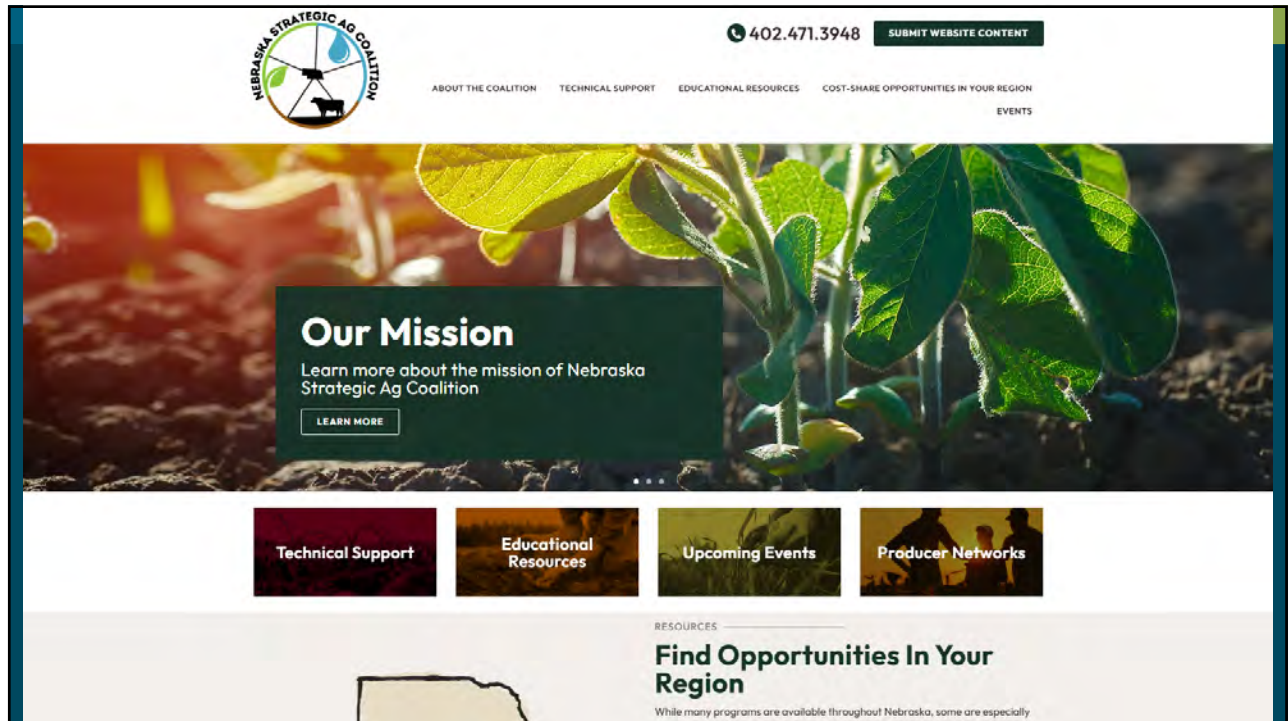
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The screenshot shows the Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition website. A search filter overlay is active, listing various agricultural categories with their respective counts: Grazing (4), Habitat (0), Habitat Management (26), Irrigation (0), Livestock (0), Nutrient Management (0), Organic/ Organic Transition (0), Other (0), Pollinators (3), Park (0), Poultry (0), Precision Agriculture (0), Regenerative Agriculture (0), Soil Health (10), Soybean (0), and Strip Tillage/ No Till (0). Below the list are dropdown menus for 'Educational (70)', 'All Regions', 'All Type', 'All Counties', 'All I'm interested in', and 'Sort Results By'. A 'CLEAR ALL' button is also present. The main content area features six resource cards with titles like 'Land Trade - One Approach to Rounding Out Public', 'Good Soil Health Practices Benefit Playas', 'No-till and Cover Crops Help Rainwater Basins', 'Nebraska Farmer Learns New Tricks With Cover Cropping', 'Improving Water Filtration through No-till and Cover Crops', and 'The Science of Soil Health: What Happens When You Till?'. Each card has a 'VIEW RESOURCE' button.

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The screenshot displays the 'Program Search' section of the website. It features a search form with two main sections: '1. Describe your current operation.' and '2. Practices you're interested in using.' The first section asks users to select applicable operation types for their farm, with options for Livestock, Row Crop, and Specialty Crops. The second section asks users to select practices they are planning to use, with options for Agroforestry/Forestry, Grazing and Pasture, and In-Field Management. To the right, there is a 'Nebraska Program Summary Series' section, which includes a video player showing a woman speaking and a list of video thumbnails with titles like 'NEBRA...', 'NATUR...', and 'NEBRA...'. The website header includes the logo, phone number (402.471.3948), and navigation links for 'ABOUT THE COALITION', 'TECHNICAL SUPPORT', 'EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES', 'COST-SHARE OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR REGION', and 'EVENTS'.

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CRAIG ROMARY

Nebraska Department of Agriculture Buffer Strip Program

Nebraska Program Summary Videos

Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition - 1 / 7

- 1 **Nebraska Pathway For Wildlife**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 1:50
- 2 **Natural Resources District Buffer Strip Program**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 1:16
- 3 **Nebraska Department of Agriculture Buffer Strip Program**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 1:47
- 4 **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Wild Nebraska**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 1:59
- 5 **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Open Fields And Waters**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 3:07
- 6 **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Natural Legacy Project**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 2:47
- 7 **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Berggren Plan For Pheasants**
Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition | 2:16

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1. Describe your current operation.

Select the applicable type(s) of operation for your farm.

- Livestock (dairy, beef, pork, poultry, eggs)
- Row Crop (corn, soy, wheat, small grains)
- Specialty Crops (fruit, vegetables, forestry / agroforestry, perennial crops)

2. Practices you're interested in using.

Select which type(s) of practices you're planning to use.

- See All Available Programs
- Agroforestry / Forestry
 - Forestry Planting and Management
 - Wildlife Habitat Planting
 - Windbreaks
- Edge-of-Field Management
 - Buffer Strips
 - Denitrifying Bioreactor
 - Drainage Water Management
 - Grassed Waterway

- Grazing and Pasture**
 - Pasture And Hay Planting
 - Prescribed Grazing
- In-Field Management
 - Conservation Cover
 - Cover Crops
 - Crop Rotation
 - Reduced- or No-Till
- Irrigation
- Manure Management
- Nutrient Management
- Wetlands

PROGRAM NAME	OVERVIEW	PRACTICE(S)
	This project will expand markets for commodities produced using Climate-Smart regenerative practices, with a focus on increasing accessibility to regenerative farming practices and markets for small and/or underserved producers.	Access Control, Agroforestry / Forestry, Alley Cropping, Buffer Strips, Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Buffer Strips, Cover Crops, Critical Area Planting, Crop Rotation, Edge-of-Field Management, Field Borders, Filter Strips, Forest Stand Improvement, Forestry Planting and Management, Grassed Waterway, Grazing and Pasture, Hedgerow Planting, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, In-Field Management, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management, Pasture And Hay Planting, Pollinator Habitat, Prescribed Grazing, Range Planning, Reduced- or No-Till, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian/Herbaceous Cover, Silvopasture, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Vegetative Barriers, Wetland Restoration, Wetlands, Wildlife
	Agoro Carbon is a company helping to make the carbon market more accessible to farmers and ranchers by providing resources and assistance to interested parties.	Cover Crops, Grazing and Pasture, In-Field Management, Increased Biodiversity, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Reduced- or No-Till, Wildlife Habitat Planting

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Soil Program Details
Soil P

Iowa Soyb

The Program will develop and expand markets for climate-smart corn with the production of commodities used in key food and fuel supply c smart practices; 3) the market for verified climate-smart corn, soy, su produced with climate-smart practices

[Visit Website](#)

Iowa Soybean Association

The Program will develop and expand markets for climate-smart commodities and their resulting environmental benefits: 1) the market for CO2e insets associated with the production of commodities used in key food and fuel supply chains; 2) the market for water quality improvements generated by the introduction of climate smart practices; 3) the market for verified climate-smart corn, soy, sugar beet and wheat commodities; 4) the market for biofuel inputs using commodities produced with climate-smart practices

[Visit Website](#)

Farm Eligibility

Money Matters

Contracting Info

Technical Info

Farm Eligibility

Money Matters

Payment Schedule

Price

Stackability (With government programs and other markets)

Carbon Related Incentive

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Help Populate the Website

Submit Content

Have an event you want to be listed in the calendar or information you think should go on this website?

Fill out the form below!

Contact info

Subscriber Name *

Subscriber Email

Email *

Phone

Phone

Content

Sponsor or Host *

Sponsor or Host

Title of content *

Title of content

Description of information

Description

Additional info:

Is it a PDF or Web Link

PDF (Document)

Website

Both

SEND MESSAGE

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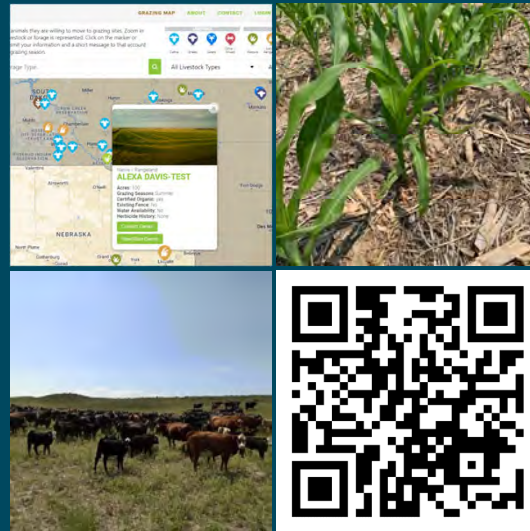
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Nebraska Grazing Exchange

Connecting livestock producers and those with available cropland or forage to graze by utilizing a FREE interactive map!

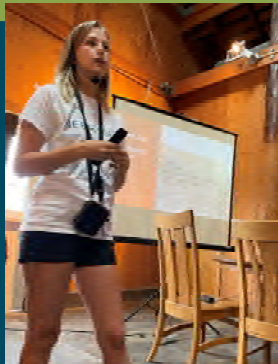
Integrating livestock onto cropland and proper grassland management are key steps in increasing overall soil health and productivity.



Nebraskagrazingexchange.com

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Field Events and Connections



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Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

LB1368
2024

LB1368
2024

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1368

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2024

Introduced by Ibach, 44; Bostar, 29; Conrad, 46; Dorn, 36; Halloran, 33; Jacobson, 42; Kauth, 31; Meyer, 41; Murman, 38; Sanders, 45; Holdcroft, 36; Hardin, 48.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to natural resources; to amend section 46-296, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 61-218, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2023; to adopt the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act; to repeal certain administrative fees relating to the Department of Natural Resources; to provide for a transfer from the Water Resources Cash Fund; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to outright repeal section 33-105, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act.

Sec. 2. The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry;

(2) Water is Nebraska's most precious natural resource;

(3) Nebraska farmers are leading the charge on sustainable agriculture initiatives that will make Nebraska a world-renowned leader and ensure protection of the land and water of Nebraska for generations to come; and

(4) The Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act encourages farmers to adopt efficient and sustainable practices to help Nebraska protect these natural resources and positions Nebraska farmers to compete.

Sec. 3. For purposes of the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act, commercial fertilizer has the same meaning as in section 81-2.162.02.

Sec. 4. (1) The nitrogen reduction incentive program is created and shall be administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The department may collaborate with natural resources districts to administer the program.

(2) The purposes of the program are to:

(a) Provide incentive payments to farmers; and

(b) Encourage farmers to (i) reduce the use of commercial fertilizer and (ii) incorporate innovative technology into farming practices, including the proper use of biological nitrogen products.

(3) The program shall provide an annual per-acre incentive for any farmer who verifies through documentation that commercial fertilizer rates were reduced by the lesser of forty pounds per acre for nitrogen or fifteen percent by incorporating a qualifying product in the farmer's nutrient plans.

(4) A commercial fertilizer rate reduction from historic baseline use shall be completed to qualify for the program.

(5) The department shall review the required commercial fertilizer rate of reduction for the program on a biennial basis to determine if higher reduction targets are necessary.

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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
10/08/2024

Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

Background

LB 1368 (2024) established the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA), Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 2-411 to 2-417, a state program to provide incentives to producers for reducing the use of commercial fertilizers. The requirements of NiRIA are that producers verify a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer application rates as the lesser of 40 pounds per acre or 15% of their baseline application rate.

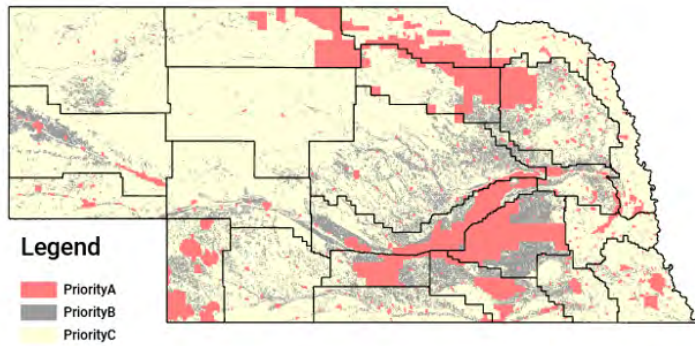
The Department of Natural Resources (Department) in partnership with local Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) and input from producers and commercial entities have developed this guidance document to define target areas and criteria for this new program. This guidance document will be reviewed annually to determine if program modifications are necessary.

NiRIA will be operative beginning with the 2025 growing season and is scheduled to terminate on December 31, 2029. Total funding currently available for the program is capped at \$1 million.

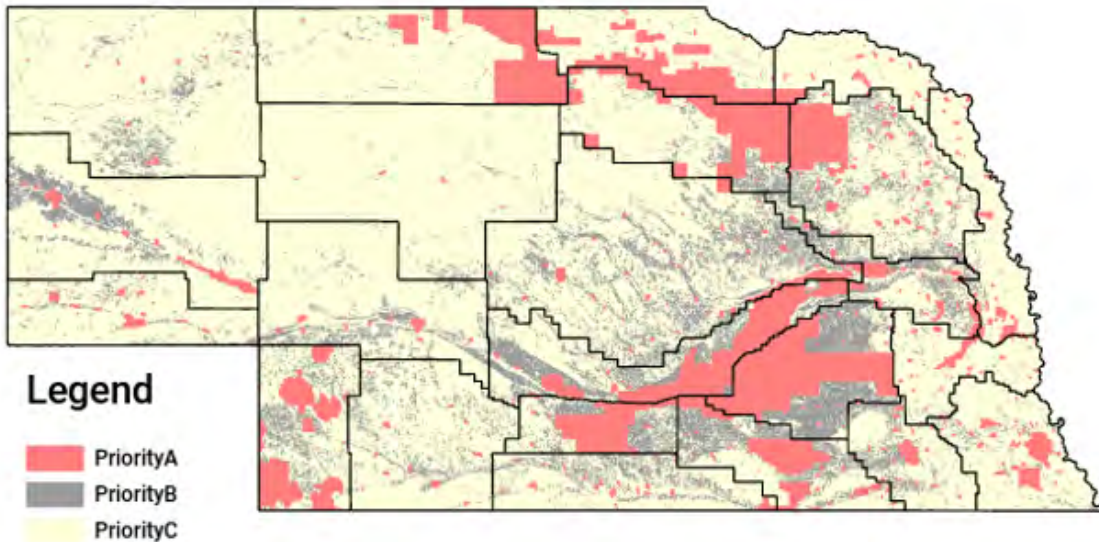
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Priority Areas and Incentive Payments

The Department and NRDs have determined the program will operate under three priority areas (Figure 1) and **will be offered to corn, sugar beet, and potato producers.** **Priority A Area** will be wellhead protection areas and phase II, or higher phase areas established by an NRD, for purposes of water quality management. **Priority B Area** will be areas throughout the state that have been certified to irrigate crops. **Priority C Areas** will be all other areas of the state, including dryland. **Contact your local NRD to know which Priority Area you are in.** *Figure 1 data is supplied by NeDNR permitted irrigated lands, wellhead protection areas, and NRD phase areas as of June 28, 2024.*



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Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) Program Application 2024

Name of Producer: _____
 Primary Contact: _____
 Primary Contact Phone Number: _____
 Primary Contact Email (if available): _____
 Name of Natural Resources District (NRD): _____

Are you already enrolled in a federal nutrient management plan? No Yes
 If yes, list what program(s): _____

Type of Crop: Corn Sugar Beet Potato
 Legal Description (Submit one application per field): _____
 Total Acres to Be Enrolled in this field (Limit of 280 acres): _____ Average Yield: _____
 Crop Year: _____

Will you apply manure or lagoon water to this field? Yes No
 If yes, attach documentation with the known amount of nitrogen in manure or lagoon water.

Do you apply nitrogen in the fall? Yes No

Identify the practice(s)/ product(s) you plan to implement to achieve the 40lbs or 15% reduction of commercial fertilizer by checking a box below. *Note that the below options do not represent a ranked list and practices/products are subject to individual NRD approval.


Reduction in Nitrogen Application
 Implementation of Biological Nutrition (Example: Proven40)
 Implementation of a Nitrogen Use Efficiency Technology (Example: N-Time)
 Implementation of a Nitrogen Stabilizer (Example: Agrotain)
 Other Please Describe: _____


Select type of documentation that will be used to determine baseline and to evaluate nitrogen reduction:

NRD or producer crop reports (Priority A Areas)
 Submit all data required on local NRD phase reports for the prior 3 growing seasons (Priority B or C Areas)
 Complete soil sampling, as established by the NRD, prior to the cropping season (Priority B or C Areas)

*Please note that individual NRDs may require additional information.

Applicant Signature (Receiving 1099): _____ Date: _____
 NRD Signature: _____ Date: _____

<https://dnr.nebraska.gov/lb-1368-nitrogen-reduction-incentive-program> 1 

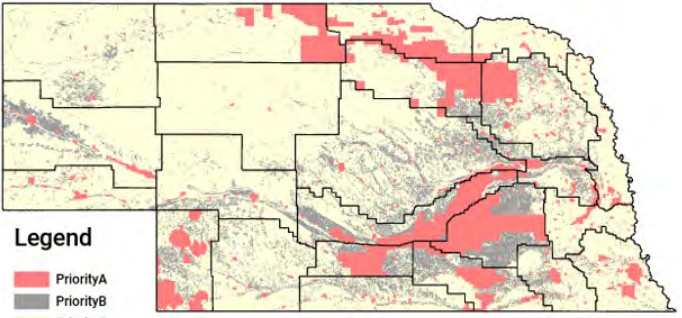


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Initial Interest

- Over 1,200 applications totaling close to \$2 million



Legend

- Priority A
- Priority B
- Priority C



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Thank you!



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402-471-3948

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