

## Final Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program Data for 2025

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 developed a guidance document to define target areas and criteria for this new program. The Department and NRDs determined the program will operate under three priority areas (Figure 1) and will be offered to corn, sugar beet, and potato producers.

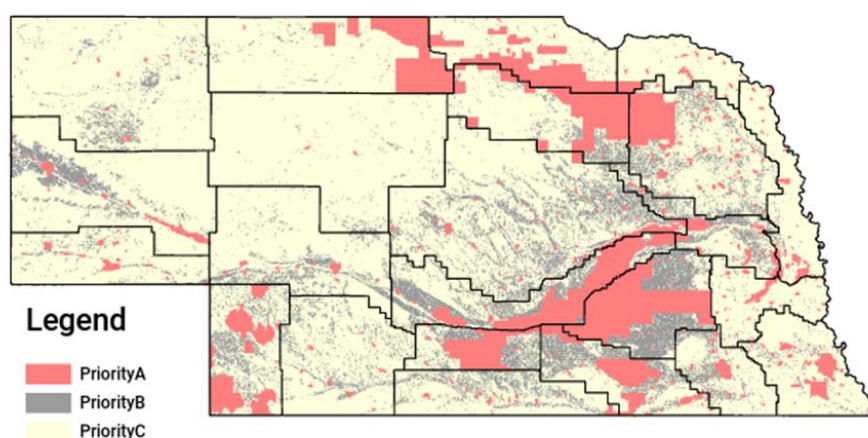


Figure 1. For general purposes only, the current distribution of Priority A, Priority B, and Priority C areas. Priority areas may be updated by each NRD through their rules and regulations.

Priority A Area consisted of wellhead protection areas and phase II, or higher phase areas established by an NRD, for purposes of water quality management and had an incentive of \$15 per acre. Priority B Areas were those areas throughout the state that have been certified to irrigate crops and had an incentive of \$12 per acre. Priority C Areas were all other areas of the state, including dryland with an incentive of \$10 per acre.

To be eligible for participation in NiRIA, producers in each priority area were required to establish a baseline level of nitrogen application, through various options outlined by the guidance document or with their local NRDs. The method, product, or practice to achieve the nitrogen fertilizer application reduction was at the discretion of the producer, but incentive payments will not be distributed until proper documentation has been submitted, and approved, to the NRD demonstrating the necessary reduction in application rate.

Applications were due to the NRDs on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for review. The data below is the combined information received by all the NRDs for the January 15<sup>th</sup>, deadline.

Number of applications: 1,343

Number of acres: 146,141.51

Total application total: \$1,879,256.34

Most acres were in priority A areas followed by Priority B areas (certified to irrigate)

Most producers said they were going to use a biological or a combination of practices/products to achieve the goal nitrogen reduction.

<b>NRD Name</b>	<b>Acres Enrolled</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>
Central Platte	29,944.00	313
Lower Big Blue	1,957.00	15
Little Blue	14,868.18	115
Lewis and Clark	2,903.33	42
Lower Elkhorn	9,967.78	83
Lower Loup	7,431.37	69
Lower Platte North	5,140.46	55
Lower Platte South	4,998.13	52
Lower Republican	3,286.00	24
Middle Niobrara	4,107.00	32
Nemaha	11,249.59	113
North Platte	2,647.00	25
Papio Missouri River	565.68	4
South Platte	1,661.25	10
Tri-Baisn	14,535.31	101
Upper Big Blue	17,691.39	157
Upper Elkhorn	889.58	6
Upper Loup	751.00	8
Upper Niobrara White	85.00	1
Upper Republican	3,808.46	37
Lower Niobrara	7,654.00	81
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>146,141.51</b>	<b>1,343</b>

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Corn	144,548.51
Potato	1,294.00
Sugar Beets	299.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>146,141.51</b>

<b>Product/Practice</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Biological	66,400.34
Combination	30,538.05
Nitrogen Reduction	20,515.12
Nitrogen Stabilizer	2,748.55
Technology	10,037.27
Undetermined	15,902.18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>146,141.51</b>

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>
A	60,498.56
B	60,172.94
B/C	1,332.53
C	24,137.48
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>146,141.51</b>