

**2006 CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)  
NEBRASKA STATE COMPONENT  
RECIPIENTS AND SUMMARY**

**RECIPIENT:** Nebraska Indian Community College  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Innovative Conservation through Value-added  
Riparian Buffer Development

**PURPOSE**

The project will establish demonstration sites for value-added riparian buffers on the Omaha Nation and Santee Nation Reservations and educate tribal community members about the conservation and economic benefits of the buffers through annual workshops and tours. Species counts will be conducted and plants identified according to its intended purpose such as medicinal, spiritual, or economic. Examples of value-added products targeted from the riparian buffers include: woody floral cuttings for Native floral arrangements, native fruits and nuts to be dried or preserved, native wildflowers for fresh-cut flowers or plantings and seed, and native grasses for cultural crafts, medicinals, and ceremonial use.

**AWARD AMOUNT \$40,000**  
**TOTAL PROJECT COST \$80,000**

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**RECIPIENT:** University of Nebraska- Biological Systems  
Engineering  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Nebraska Agricultural Water Management  
Demonstration Network

**PURPOSE**

Demonstrate new irrigation water management technology through 10 water management demonstration sites on private landowner's land. Compare the evapotranspiration data collected from several individual ET gages with data collected from local weather stations. Create a website to disseminate water use information and post the Nebraska Agricultural Water Management Demonstration Network information, including local ET gage data.

**AWARD AMOUNT \$65,400**  
**TOTAL PROJECT COST \$130,800**

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**RECIPIENT:** Middle Republican Natural Resources District  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Automated Meter Reading Pilot Project for Irrigation Flow Meters

**PURPOSE**

The project will demonstrate the use of remote communication technology to measure, monitor, and document daily irrigation water usage on electric wells in the Middle Republican NRD. Through the project at least 24 irrigation flow meters will be converted to Automated Meter Reading Technology and monitored for accuracy against traditional irrigation flow meters. A secure web-based application will be developed along with educational workshops to assist the participating irrigators in the use and benefits of remote irrigation water management.

**AWARD AMOUNT \$19,100**  
**TOTAL PROJECT COST \$38,200**

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**RECIPIENT:** University of Nebraska – Panhandle Research & Extension  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Zone Tillage and Direct Harvest for Dry Edible Bean Production in Western Nebraska

**PURPOSE**

Demonstrate the benefits of zone tillage in conjunction with direct harvest production systems for dry edible beans on eight independent fields. Data will be collected regarding the number of field operations conducted, soil water content after planting, and surface residue post-planting and post-harvest. Tours and educational demonstration days will be held for the public to view the sites and learn about the systems being utilized.

**AWARD AMOUNT \$36,269**  
**TOTAL PROJECT COST \$72,538**

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**RECIPIENT:** Agren Inc.  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Implementation and Evaluation of the Grazing Manager Software in the Nebraska Sandhills

**PURPOSE**

The project goal is to improve rangeland health and sustain profitable cattle ranching by implementing and evaluating the use of The Grazing Manager (TGM) software. Training curriculum will be developed and presented to 20 ranchers. These ranchers will be provided technical support throughout the project by way of field visits and an on-line TGM help desk. Effectiveness of the software will be evaluated and compared to traditional grazing management techniques currently being utilized by the participants.

**AWARD AMOUNT \$66,730**

**TOTAL COST \$133,460**

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