

# Cost-Share Programs for Conservation Tree Planting in Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

September 2017

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### **Overview**

The cost-share programs briefly described below are available to help private landowners plant trees and shrubs for wind protection, wood products, soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- Administered statewide by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- Several enhancement practices;
- CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land.

### **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)**

- Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA);
- Continuous CRP can be used to plant trees and shrubs on cropland and marginal pastureland acres (field windbreaks, riparian buffers, marginal pasture buffers);
- 50% cost-share with a 40% Practice Incentive Payment for most planting practices (after establishment results in 90% cost-share);
- Annual rental payments for up to 15 years;
- Not all CRP practices allow tree planting; some may only allow or require shrub planting;
- Additional incentives are available for certain other buffer practices.

### **Corners for Wildlife**

- Administered by Pheasants Forever;
- Annual rental payments on a five-year contract for establishing wildlife habitat on center pivot irrigation field corners;
- Provides 75% cost-share for specific species of trees, shrubs and grass seed.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- Administered by NRCS;
- Cost-share assistance available;
- Multiple practices from which to select;
- Competitively ranked and funded applications based on local natural resource concern benefits.

### **Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)**

- All NRDs administer planting programs to provide trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and other conservation purposes;
- Each NRD varies, but available services most often include: Seedling sales; site preparation; machine and/or hand planting; weed barrier installation or other weed control; and drip irrigation.

### **Nebraska Buffer Strip Program**

- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and NRDs, with NRCS technical assistance;
- Annual rental payments for five to ten years. Rates range from 20% of the CRP soil rental rate to \$250/acre, depending on whether acres are irrigated or non-irrigated, and whether or not other programs are used;
- Limited haying and grazing is allowed;
- Can be used in conjunction with CCRP.

### **Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Chapters**

- Administered by local chapters of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever;
- Each chapter's individual programs can vary slightly, but the typical program provides a 50% cost share for trees, shrubs, planting and weed control, up to a maximum amount per producer.

### ***Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP)***

- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and NRDs with technical assistance provided by NRCS;
- Each NRD receives a NSWCP allocation annually which is used for various conservation practices within the NRD, including conservation tree and shrub planting. NRDs may supplement NSWCP funds with local funds;
- Can be used in conjunction with other cost-share programs.

### ***Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)***

- Administered by the NRCS;
- Provides easement payments and cost-share for wetland and agricultural land conservation;
- Cost-share assistance is available for restoration practices, including native tree and shrub planting;
- Tree and shrub planting is limited to appropriate wetlands and associated uplands where trees or shrubs are appropriate.

### ***WILD Nebraska***

- Administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission;
- Incentives are limited to tree and shrub planting activities on ecologically appropriate sites (e.g. native forests, riparian areas, native shrubs, and shrub lands).
- Can be used in conjunction with other cost-share programs.

### **Contact Information**

For more information regarding cost-share programs for conservation tree and shrub planting, contact the following:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** – <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> or contact your [local NRCS office](#) (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>).

- **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)** - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/> or contact your [local FSA office](#).
- **Nebraska Natural Resource Districts (NRDs)** – contact your [local NRD office](#). For detailed tree and shrub species information visit <https://www.nrdnet.org/tree-program>
- **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission** – <http://outdoornebraska.gov/> or contact Alicia Hardin at (402) 471-5448 or [Alicia.Hardin@nebraska.gov](mailto:Alicia.Hardin@nebraska.gov).
- **Pheasants Forever's Corners for Wildlife** – <http://nebraskapf.com/habitat/habitat-programs-2/#cfw> or contact Mary Noble at (308) 428-3062 or [mnoble@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:mnoble@pheasantsforever.org).
- **Nebraska Buffer Strip Program** – <http://bit.ly/NDAbuffer> or contact Craig Romary at (402) 471-6883 or [craig.romary@nebraska.gov](mailto:craig.romary@nebraska.gov).

**For additional information please visit the following web sites:**

- Conservation Trees for Nebraska <https://www.nrdnet.org/programs/trees-wildlife>
- Natural Resources Districts <http://www.nrdnet.org>
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture <http://www.agr.ne.gov>
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources <http://dnr.ne.gov/>
- Nebraska Forest Service <http://www.nfs.unl.edu>
- Re-Tree Nebraska <https://retree Nebraska.unl.edu/>
- USDA Forest Service <https://www.fs.fed.us/>
- USDA Farm Service Agency <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>