

NEBRASKA STAC MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2024
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Virtually

[YOUTUBE RECORDING LINK](#)

ATTENDEES - Camilla Kerner, Rob Lawson, Tami Nordman, Jami Thoene, Fred Stevens, Lisa Berkeypile, Carlos Villarreal, Missy Baier, Jana Ingwerson-Laws, Elbert Traylor, Elizabeth Gray, Tim Kalkowski;

VIA TEAMS: Adam Rupe, Charles Bailey, Heidi Borg, Julie Breuer, Bruce McIntosh, Burdette Piening, Chandler Schmidt, Curt Becker, Dan Ruterbories, David Potter, David Schroeter, Devin Brundage, Dustin Wilcox, Steve Fairbairn, Bill Gresham, Timothy Griffin, Jennifer Swanson, John Erixson, Kalee Olson, Katie Hickle, Mark Brohman, Mark Frickel, Matt Smith, Dannele Peck, Jennifer Prenosil, Mary Reece, Rich Walters, Daniel Ross, Joan Scheel, William Shoup, Samantha Smith, Jara Steven, James Wright, Tyrel Iron Eyes, Sunshine, Brad Lubben, James Huntwork, Kole Pederson, Mike Crosely, Rachael Whitehair.

FUTURE Meetings: 1121 Lincoln Mall – Rm 352

- ❖ JUNE 13, 2024
- ❖ SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
- ❖ DECEMBER 5, 2024

WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS: Robert Lawson - NRCS State Conservationist

- Agenda Review
- UPDATES ON NRCS STAFF:
 - John Mayberger is now Assistant State Conservationist (ASTC)-Programs
 - Formerly CSP Program Manager
 - Missy Baier – NEW Position as ASTC-Water Resources & Easements
 - Formerly Watershed Planning Coordinator
 - Neil Dominy has taken a new position as the Director of the National Soils Survey Center
 - Conor Ward is now Acting as ASTC-Partnerships
- Local Work Group Meetings are taking place now.
 - [Link to website](#)
- Wildfire Assistance announcement will be coming out soon.
- Conservation Collaboration Agreements - Opened March 6, 2024
 - Closes May 5, 2024



OVERVIEW OF THE USDA NORTHERN PLAINS CLIMATE HUB: *William Shupe – NRCS, State Soil Scientist & Dannele Pack – ARS, Director of Northern Plains Climate Hub*

- See slides for contact information on how to contact these two presenters.
- The Climate Hubs are a network of 11 regional Hubs across the country, including a new International Climate Hub. The Northern Plains Climate Hub, outlined here, serves a six-state region, including Nebraska. The Hub's main office is in Fort Collins, Colorado, within the USDA Agricultural Research Service, but they are tasked with serving working lands throughout the six-state region, in close partnership not only with ARS, but also NRCS, the Forest Service, and other agencies, taking a "One USDA" approach.
- Northern Plains Climate Hub team seen on slide 3. Described the teams' jobs.
- The Climate Hubs' vision is robust and healthy agricultural production and natural resources under increasing climate variability and change.
- They carry this vision out through science-based region-specific information and technologies that enable climate-informed decision-making.
- What does the vision and approach look like in practice?
 - Because the Northern Plains Climate Hub is small relative to the region we cover, we rely heavily on NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS to help serve as many needs as possible, in large part by building bridges between worlds.
 - We build bridges between the world of climate/weather and working lands.
 - And we build bridges between science and practice. We connect and convene people across these different spaces, so they can begin to build relationships that will hopefully last long after we step away to help connect other sets of potential partners.
 - Our hope is that, when you're out in the field and encounter a weather or climate-related challenge or need that you're unsure how to address, you'll reach out to us. We have a diverse network of partners who are experts on weather and climate science! And we speak just enough of both languages—climate and working lands—that we can relay the question/need to them in a way they understand, receive the resulting scientific information, and help translate their answer in a format that is helpful to you and your clients.
- Our bridging work tends to fall into three categories:
 - 1) Science and data syntheses
 - 2) Tool and technology co-development
 - 3) Outreach, convening, and training
- The Climate Hub was involved in coauthoring one of the chapters in the recently released Fifth National Climate Assessment, namely, chapter 11 on Agriculture, Food Systems & Rural Communities. You might also be interested in chapter 25 on the Northern Great Plains.

- In the realm of tools and technology co-development, the Northern Plains Hub has helped coordinate the development of Grass-Cast, the Grassland Productivity Forecast, an example of which is shown here in this rangeland forecast map. We worked with rangeland scientists, modelers, and outreach experts at ARS and NRCS, as well as climate scientists at the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, and many university research and Extension partners, including at University of Nebraska-Lincoln to convert precipitation forecasts into rangeland forecasts.
- <https://grasscast.unl.edu>
- Starting in April of each year, and then every two weeks until the end of August, the Grass-Cast team produces these maps. The colors on the map indicate that, based on observed weather up to the date the map is made, plus future weather scenarios for the rest of the growing season, we expect grasslands in your area to produce X% higher or lower pounds per acre than the long-term average for your area.
- NRCS played a critical role in helping us develop Grass-Cast! We held a series of interactive sessions with NRCS and Extension in each of our 6 states, including in Nebraska, at the USDA Service Center in North Platte. The set of notes shown here came from a discussion with you all, alongside UNL Extension, of the question: “What info do you need to make GrassCast useful to you?” The final look of the Grass-Cast maps, as well as several outreach products, were a direct result of these workshops!
- Another example of how the Hubs is building bridges between practice and science, are these two-Story Maps, co-developed with Extension colleagues in Nebraska and others. These Story Maps bring the voices of producers to those who don’t have the time or ability to attend producer events to learn from others.
- In the Story Map on the left, you can hear from producers, in their own voices, what practices they’re experimenting with, why, and what challenges and lessons they’ve learned. In the Story Map on the right, you can learn about the social, ecological, and economic challenges that ranchers in the region are feeling. These online story maps are a great way for NRCS employees who are new to the area to get familiar with the region-specific language of agriculture and producers’ viewpoints on challenges and promising solutions—informed as always by the science that ARS and other partners are researching to help inform practices (and vice versa).
- Another great resource for staff who are early-career or new to Nebraska’s row-crop sector is this neat, interactive farmscape from UNL Extension (with funding from the Hub), as part of their Weather-Ready Farms program. This clickable website allows users to choose the season they are interested in, and then the type of weather conditions that concern them (e.g., a hot/dry summer), which changes the virtual farmscape. By clicking on the round icons, you can learn about the impacts of the extreme weather conditions on different aspects of the farm (e.g., soil moisture, pests and diseases, and crop yields).

- For each icon, basic suggestions for mitigating the negative effects are provided at the bottom of the website, along with outreach resources where you can learn more.
- There's a similar weather-ready scenario tool for livestock production, although it's not interactive.
- To say the least, Nebraska has an abundance of amazing partners in the climate and agriculture space!
- I love this Extension bulletin about how climate change affects Nebraska and agriculture across its eight climate divisions.
- And the Nebraska Climate Office at UNL has several excellent climate assessments, including the Nebraska Climate Report, which is currently being updated...so stay tuned!
- In the final category of Outreach, the Hubs do a lot of invited talks and convention booths, where we share resources from our many partners, including NRCS's programs and practices for being climate-smart and weather-ready.
- Coming up on March 18-19, 2024, in Liberal, KS, the Hubs will be helping facilitate the Ogallala Aquifer Summit, for anyone interested in cross-state relationship-building around groundwater management between scientists, practitioners, and policymakers.
- Lastly, but most importantly, NRCS and the Hubs have worked together in recent years to host virtual "Climate Conversations" for NRCS employees, including one here in Nebraska in December of 2021. Moving forward, we've been asked to work with each NRCS state office in our region to discuss any capacity-building or science-synthesis needs around climate mitigation practices. So, again, if there are any climate-smart practices in particular that you've been wanting to know more about the underlying science, please let us know!
- This is what we have typically covered in past Climate Conversations. Over the next year or two, we would like to circle back to each state to discuss your on-the-ground experiences and needs related to climate mitigation practices. Let's figure out together how our Hub can be most helpful to your efforts!
- One concrete outcome from the previous round of Climate Conversations, which Sara Thompson and Shaun Vickers led here in Nebraska, is this 1-page "Climate Quick Reference Guides" which you can find at this QR Code for your state or county. We're excited to see what ideas emerge from our next round of climate conversations!
- We look forward to exploring w/all of you what we might be able to achieve together as partners!

- Please know you can contact the Northern Plains Climate Hub Director, Dannele Peck, or me, any time you have an “ag weather or climate” need or idea. If you’re not already connected with the many amazing weather and climate partners you have in Nebraska, like the National Drought Mitigation Center, High Plains Regional Climate Center, Nebraska Climate Office, and agroclimate Extension experts, or the fantastic agricultural researchers at UNL and USDA ARS in Lincoln and Clay Center, we’re always happy to help you figure out which expert is most relevant for to meet your needs!

Climate-Smart-Navigator - Trust In Food - Here is the link to the Climate Smart Commodities navigator tool: www.trustinfood.com/climate-smart-navigator/

- The Climate Smart Navigator app intuitively steps you through finding the projects that are applicable to your needs and location.
- Quick reference Guides:
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/southwest/topic/climate-quick-reference-guides-your-county>

Q: Are there any Programs that give incentives for farmers to collect data & promote climate smart practices?

A: CSP has more of the entire operation that can pick enhancements to do that they have never done before. Incentive for doing the work that you have already done but to take it to the next level. Climate Smart Commodities Program. RCPP is another program that we have incentives for.



FSA REVIEW: Jana Ingwerson-Laws – Programs Specialist – FSA

- **SEE SLIDES & HANDOUT attached. HIGHLIGHTED Points below.**
- Nebraska CRP
 - 2,224,214 total contract acreage – ranked #3 in nation for highest contract acreage.
 - 20,457 total Contracts
 - Top 3 Practices:
 - CP88 – Grassland Permanent Grasses and Legumes
 - CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
 - CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat
 - Grassland CRP Distribution vs. CRP Lands
- **CRP and Farm Bill Extension**
 - November 17, 2023, a 1-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill was signed that reauthorized CRP through 9/30/2024.
 - FSA could not accept new offers and approve new contracts in FY2024 until a Continuous CRP Signup 61 was announced on January 12, 2024.
- **Continuous CRP SU61 Key Points**
 - Batching periods will be utilized to prevent acres exceeding statutory cap of 27 million acres.
 - Non-competitive, first-come, first-served basis
 - Offer must be submitted by March 15 for first batching period.

- Considerations:
 - Contract Start Dates – earliest possible start date May 1, 2024
 - If not under current contract, can defer start date up to 6 months from approval of contract.
- **General CRP Signup 62**
 - Announced March 2
 - Signup Dates: March 2, 2024-March 29, 2024
 - Contract Start Date: October 1, 2024
 - Max rental rate \$240/acre
- **CRP Soil Rental Rates for FY2024**
 - FY24 SRR effective 3/4/2024
 - **NASS DATA IS VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR SURVEYS**
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**
 - Betty's Way Fire
 - Lincoln, Custer, Logan
 - 71,000 acres
 - No ECP signup yet, counties in process of assessing and will have to request to implement ECP prior to starting signup.
 - Common ECP practices for wildfires:
 - EC1 – debris removal of damaged fence
 - EC3 – replacing or restoring permanent fences.
 - EC5 – emergency wind erosion control measures, such as cover crops, chiseling, contour or cross slope chiseling, deep plowing.
 - Important participant documents damage (photos, maps etc.)
 - Cost Share:
 - Up to 75% of allowable cost to implement approved restoration practices.
 - Up to 90% of allowable cost to implement approved restoration practices for limited resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers/ranchers.
 - 25% advance payment available on all practices upon application approval
 - Written approval must be granted by FSA prior to restoration work starting.
- **DAFP Emergency Haying and Grazing Authorized Use due to Wildfires**
 - **Authorized Emergency Hay and Graze Use of CRP Acres due to NE, TX, OK Wildfires**
 - DAFP Memo issued 3/6 authorized use of emergency haying and grazing for all counties in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming.
 - Due to Smokehouse Creek Wildfire in Texas and other wildfires in Oklahoma and Nebraska.
 - Grazing rights and haying authority may be donated to livestock producers affected by wildfires only.

- Available now until beginning of Primary Nesting Season – May 1st.

Q: Interesting map – could you produce a similar map of total current enrollment in general, continuous, and grassland CRP?

A: We can work on that too.

Q: Would be interesting to see RED dots to show how much Grassland has gone to Cropland on the GRASSLAND CRP distribution vs CRP lands.

A: We will try to do that.

Q: Practice that was paid on was snow removal & Knox County says they are not familiar with that being a payable practice.

A: Have patience as there is a practice for ECP snow removal, but we are working on it with National & it will be retroactive. 10.1.2022 is how far back. Watch for a press release.

Q: What triggers ECP & the scale of it?

A: It has to be a Natural disaster & submitted by the committee. Fires are tricky as they have to be created by lighting. These are all up to the County committees & thresholds they have to meet to even be eligible for it.

 **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UPDATE:** *Camilla Kerner - NRCS Acting ASTC-Programs,*
Fred Stevens - NRCS Programs Specialist, Missy Baier – NRCS,

- **SEE SLIDES & HANDOUT attached. HIGHLIGHTED Points below.**
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - EQIP & CSP
 - November 17, 2023 - Application Cut-off
 - ACT NOW Application Cut-Off Announcement - MARCH 1, 2024
 - **EQIP IRA Obligations**
 - 93% of funds are Preapproved in SAT
 - 40% of funds have been obligated.
 - Goal is to have EQIP-IRA apps obligated by March 31, 2024
 - IRA Implementation
 - Key Points
 - FY24 Climate Smart Core Practices & Funding (see slides)
 - FY24 EQIP IRA Allocations (See slides)
 - CSP IRA Signup
 - 232 applications received.
 - Nebraska CSP contract average is \$100,000.00
 - Projected approval of 147 contracts
 - Possibly more depending on actual application cost.
 - First come first served
 - Must meet minimum threshold score
 - Applications received and processed until IRA funds depleted.
- FY24 General EQIP
 - EQIP General Ranking Deadline April 5, 2024
 - State Wildfire Initiative
 - **Special initiative to provide funding in areas affected by Wildfires.**

- They include funding for:
 - **340 Cover Crop**
 - **528 Prescribed Grazing – Livestock Deferment on Grazing Lands**
 - **484 Mulching**
- **FY24 CSP Renewals**
 - Renewal obligation of \$4,799,737.00
 - 70 contracts obligated
 - NE Allocation breakdown
 - Allocation letters are being send out by the field offices now.
- **FY24 CSP Classic Signup (See Slides)**
 - CSP General Ranking Deadline May 3, 2024
- **LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS BEING HELD NOW:**
 - Dates, times and locations are available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/nebraska/technical-committee
 - **Nebraska 2024 Local Work Group Meetings Scheduled**
 - Items on the agenda may include:
 - **Resource Concern Priorities**
 - **Input on Prioritization tools and Ranking Pool questions**
 - **Review Practice Payment Schedule**
 - **Preferred Application and ranking cut-off dates**
- **FY24 ACEP**
 - Fiscal Year Allocation of Funds
 - ACEP-WRE - \$2,014,067
 - ACEP-WRE-WREP - \$826,290
 - ACEP-ALE - \$2,821,563 with January Funds Assessment
 - ACEP-WRE/WRP Stewardship Funds - \$554,631
 - These funds are for maintenance and repair of existing easements.
 - **FY24 NE**
 - Applications received
 - WRE Eligible Applications = 11 on 2,908 Acres
 - Moving forward on:
 - Preparing funds request and offer for top ranked WRE application – 1,146ac
 - Finalizing legal boundary surveys on 3 WRE from 2023
 - Finalizing pre-payment review on 1 WRE from 2022
 - **IRA WRE = 5 on 348 Acres**
 - **WREP Eligible Application = None**

- ALE Applications = None
- **Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)**
- **Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS) (ALE-GSS)**
- Applications = 5 on 10,343 Acres
 - Preparing parcel agreements
- Finalizing 3 ALE/GSS deed reviews from 2022-2023
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)**
 - 5 Closed Easements on 235 Acres, 2 Easements pending
- **RCPP PROGRAM UPDATE**
 - **NEW Projects approved for funding for FY24**
 - AFA Projects
 - Classic Projects
 - Review of RCPP projects
 - 3256 – Kansas/Nebraska Wetland Initiative
 - 3290 – Agropur Dairy Producers Best Management Practices Project
 - 3405 – Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets in RCPP
 - 3374 – Improving Grassland Health and Connecting Resilient Lands
 - 3294 – Twin Platte NRD Real-time Advance IWM

Q: Just confirming in other words, it sounds like NE will have no problem spending down the IRA funds?

A: No we will have it spent.

Mary Reece – We included 484 in our Panhandle Wildfires in 2021 and in 2024 wind erosion if needed. Note it was not used in 2021 but we had it available.

 **PARTNER UPDATES: -**

- Tim Kalkowski – Nebraska Grazing Coalition
 - Grazing School
 - Ranch Tour in June in Broken Bow which was affected by the fires.
 - Grassland Coordinator’s job is to bring all groups together.
- Katie Hickel – new 319 Coordinator for NDEE
 - EPA granted assistance for Emergency Management Plan

 **WRAP UP**

- Next meeting plan is to have meeting at our new facility.
 - Need to have the names of attendees coming into the building to Tami Nordman.



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FSA Updates March 2024 State Tech Meeting

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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Price Support and Conservation Division

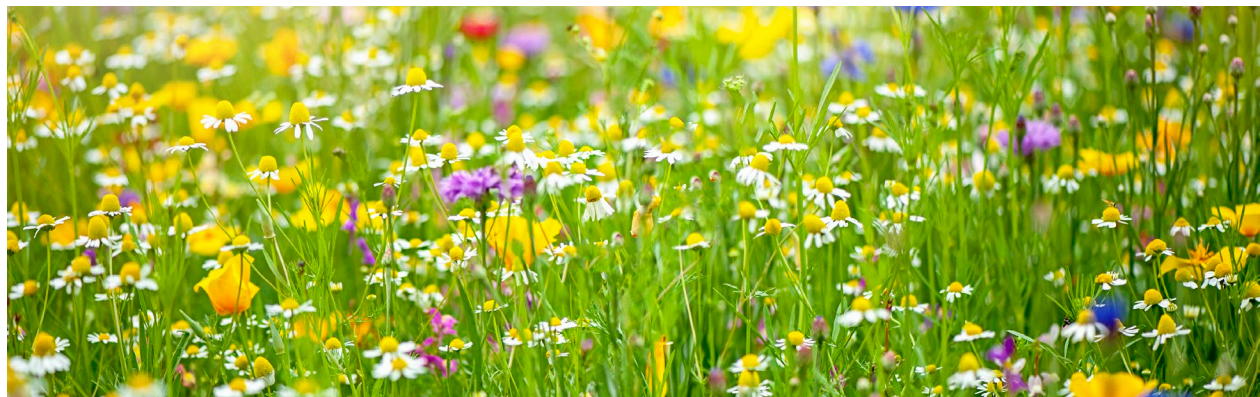
- Jana Ingwerson-Laws – FSA Conservation Program Specialist
 - 402-437-5883
 - jana.ingwersonlaws@usda.gov

- Patrick Lechner– FSA Program Chief
 - 402-437-5586
 - jana.ingwersonlaws@usda.gov



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CRP in Nebraska

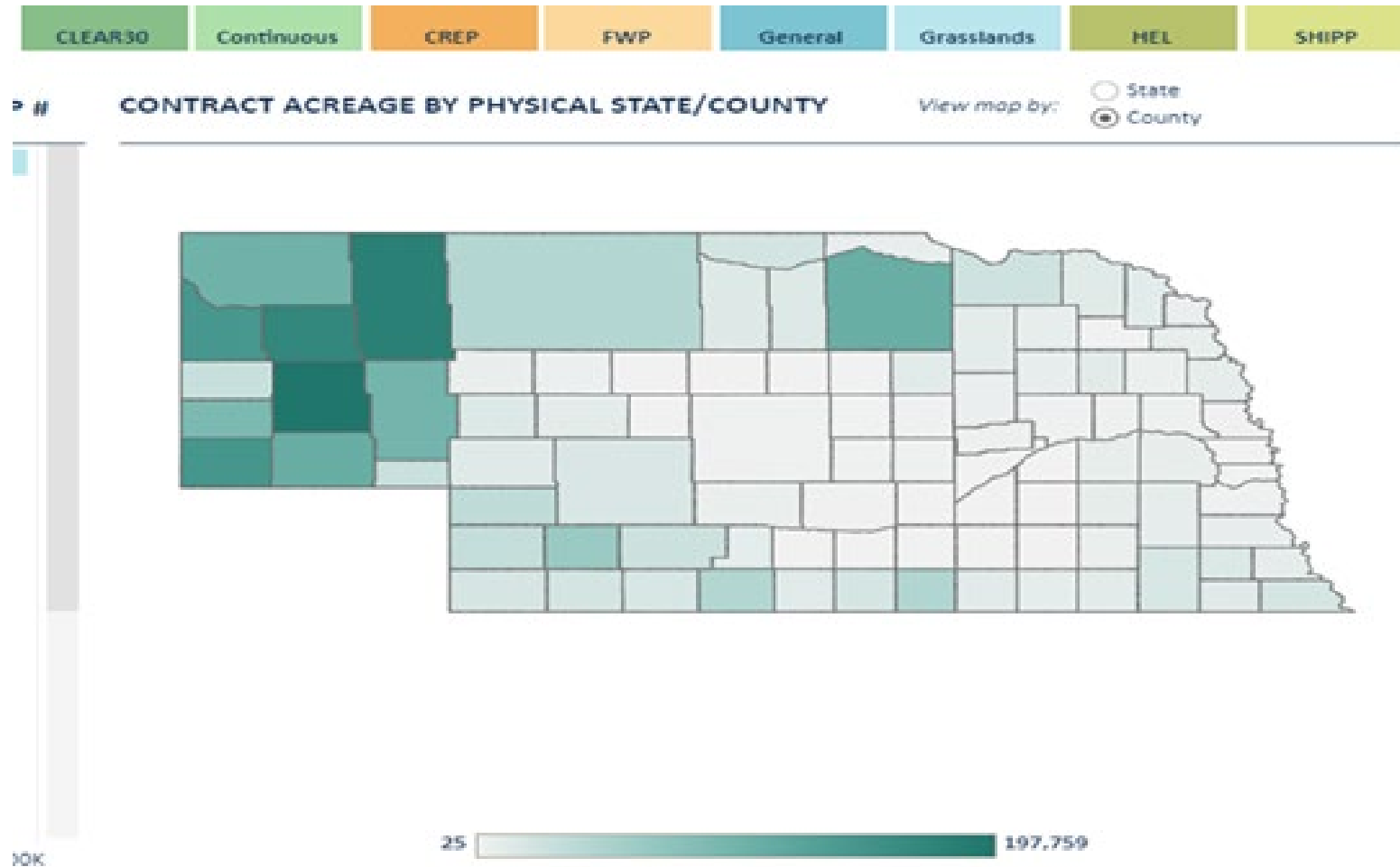


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Nebraska CRP

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Nebraska CRP

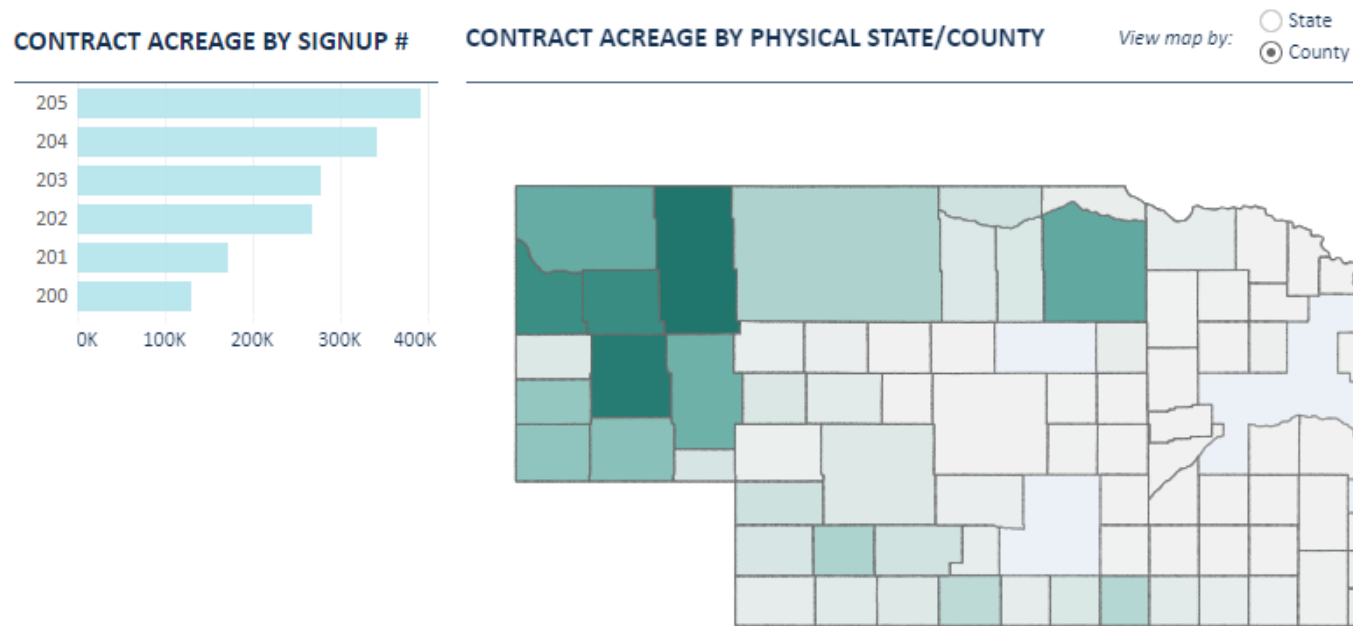


Nebraska CRP

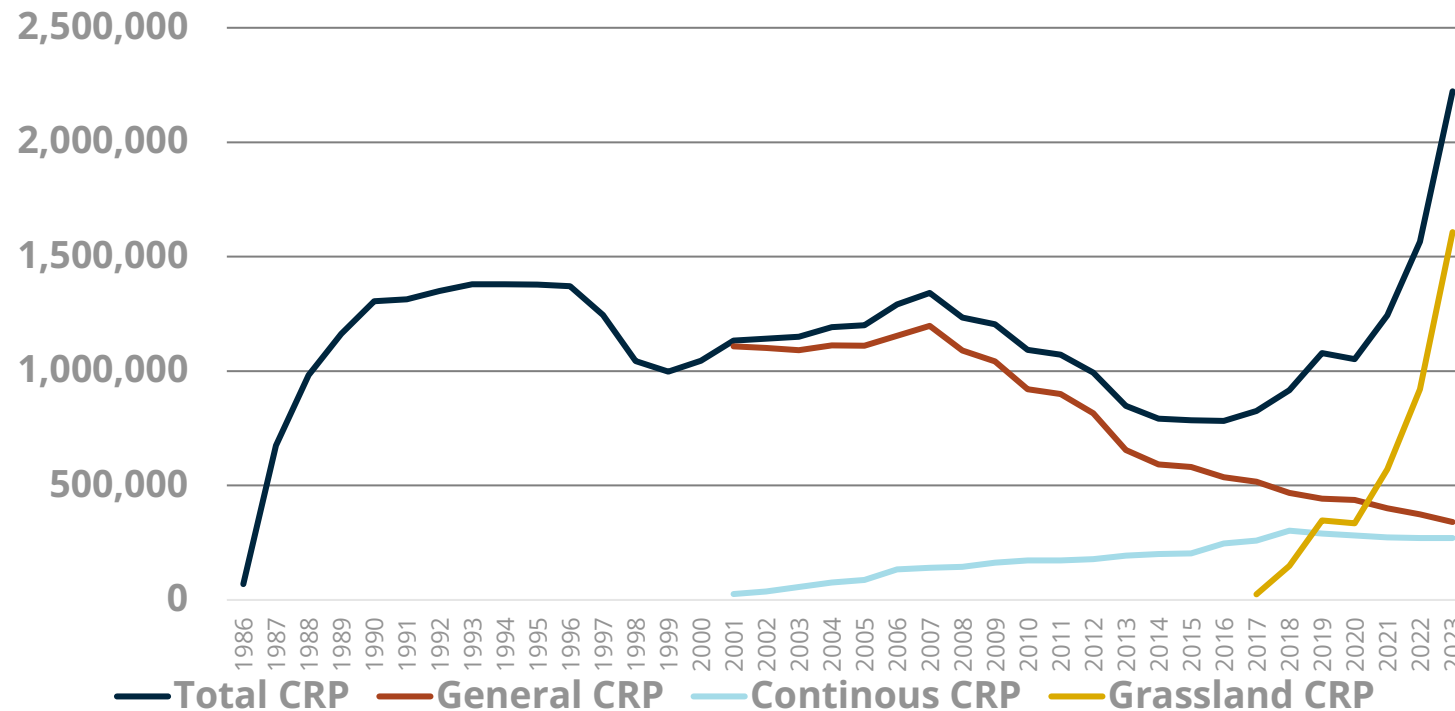
Signup Type	Total Acreage	Total Contracts
Continuous	198,709	9,840
CLEAR30	61	11
HELI	29,629	796
FWP	2,800	261
CREP	41,127	567
General	339,310	4,788
Grasslands	1,612,577	4,194

Nebraska Trends in CRP

- Increasing interest in Grasslands CRP

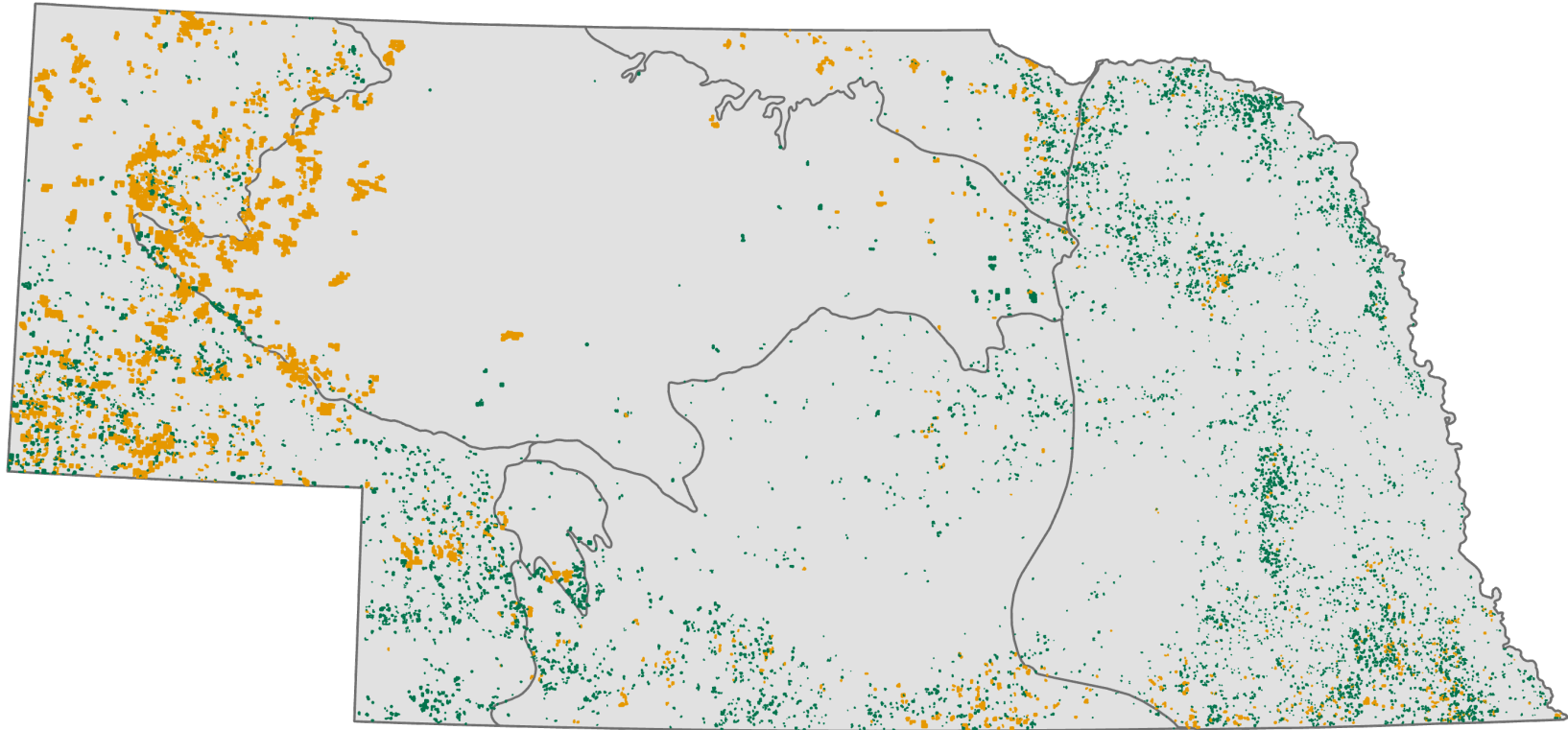


Nebraska CRP Trends



GRASSLAND CRP – WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Grassland CRP Distribution vs. CRP Lands



CRP Type	2008	2018	2022
Crop to Grass	447,044	191,226	377,984
Grassland		28,920	828,914
Total	447,044	220,146	1,206,898

Nebraska CRP

CRP 2022

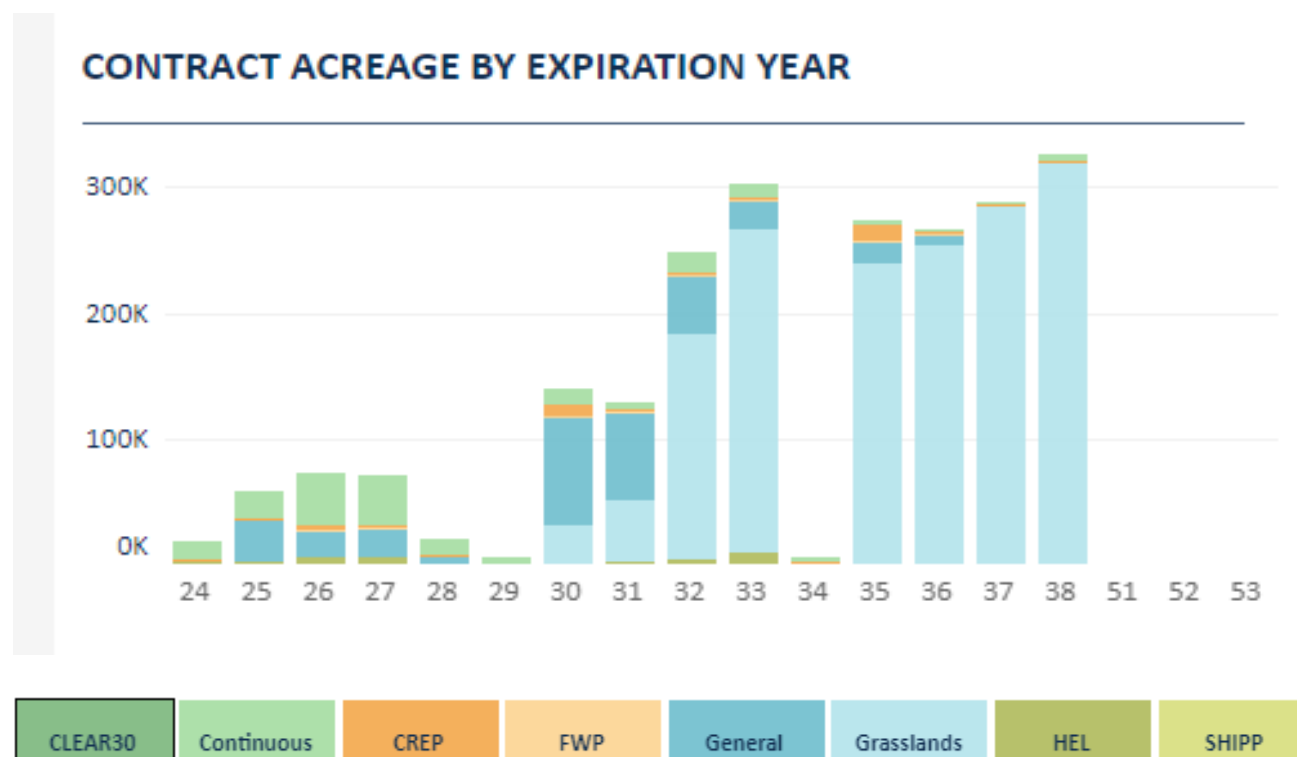
Crop to Grass

Grassland

Legacy Ecoregions

Nebraska Trends in CRP

- Future years = higher acreage expiring due to Grassland enrollment





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CRP and Farm Bill Extension



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General CRP Signup 62



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- Contract Start Date: October 1, 2024
- Max rental rate \$240/acre



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CRP Soil Rental Rates for 2024



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FY24 CRP Soil Rental Rates

- Annual payment rates are intended to compensate participant for foregone returns to production
- Maximum annual payment rates
 - Weighted average of SRRs for 3 predominant soils
 - $SRR = \text{County-avg SRR} \times \text{Soil Productivity Factor (SPF)}$
- Cash Rents and Leases Survey (NASS) generates county-average dryland cash rent estimates. Foundation for establishing county SRR for CRP.
- If sufficient data is not available to NASS, a state average rental rate is reflected for that county.
- FY24 SRR effective 3/4/2024



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Emergency Conservation Program



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Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

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DAFP Emergency Haying and Grazing Authorized Use due to Wildfires



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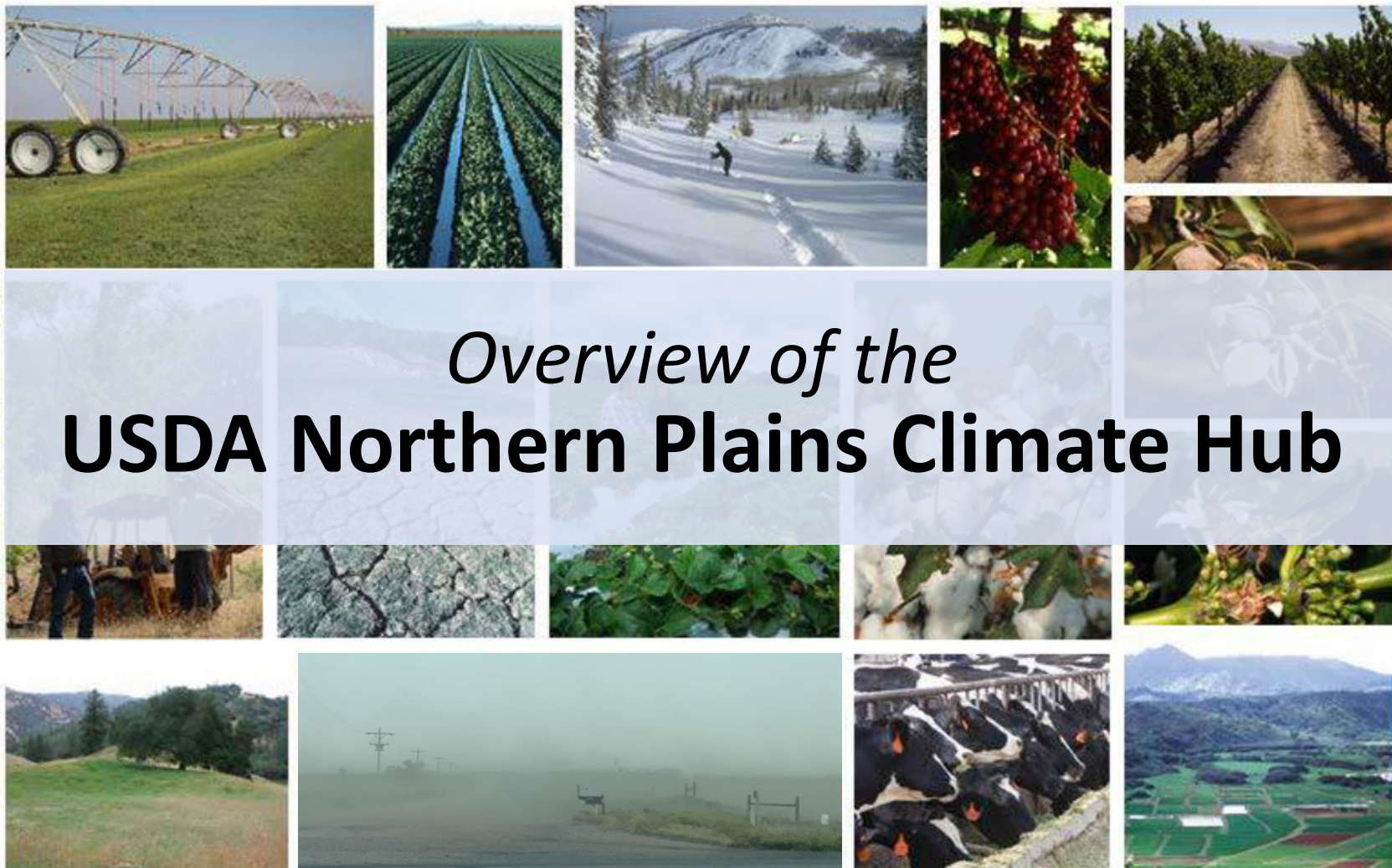
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Climate Hubs

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Overview of the **USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub**

Dr. BJ Shoup, NPCH Co-lead
State Soil Scientist, NRCS Colorado
william.shoup@usda.gov

Dr. Dannele Peck, Director
Northern Plains Climate Hub | USDA ARS
dannele.peck@usda.gov | 970-744-9043



Climate Hubs

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OneUSDA



<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northern-plains>

Northern Plains Climate Hub team



Hub **Director**
Dannele Peck



Hub **Coordinator**
Windy Kelley



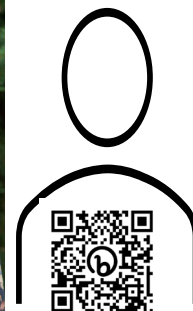
Ag Risk **Associate**
Lee Schmelzer



ORISE **Sci Comm**
Averi Reynolds



Forest **Postdoc**
Katie Nigro



Crops **Postdoc**
Open



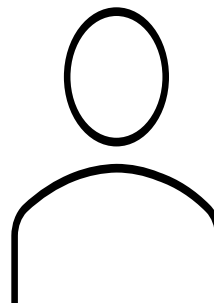
ARS **Res. Leader**
Justin Derner



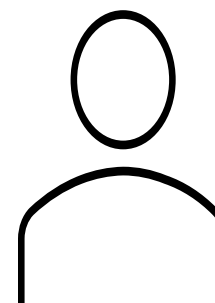
NRCS **Co-Lead**
BJ Shoup



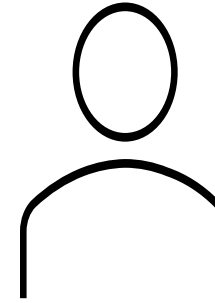
USFS **Co-Lead**
Matt Reeves



Hub **Sci Coord**
Coming soon!



Mitigation **Coord**
Coming soon!



Mitig't'n **Spec.**
Coming soon!

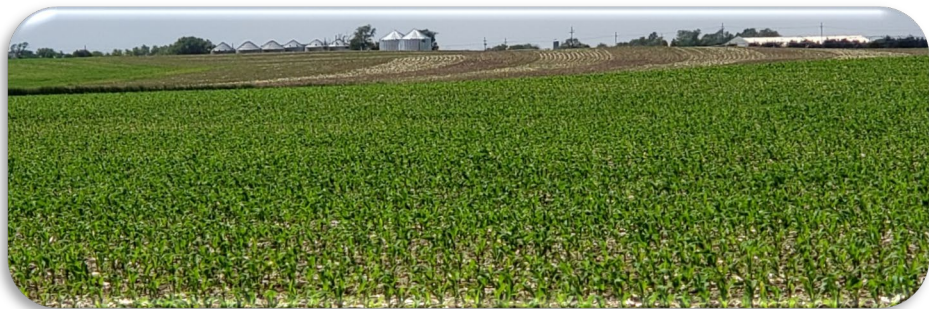


Climate Hubs

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**Robust and healthy
agricultural production
and natural resources**
under increasing
climate variability
and change.

Through
**science-based,
region-specific information
and technologies**
that enable
climate-informed
decision-making...





*How do Climate Hubs **work**?*

Climate/Weather

Working Lands



\$1 : \$20

Studies show that every dollar invested in agricultural research returns over \$20 to our economy.

www.usda.gov/results

Science

Practice

We are **Bridge-Builders**
between worlds



So, **Networks & Partnerships**
are Key!

What do Climate Hubs actually do?



Science and data syntheses

Translating and delivering relevant information

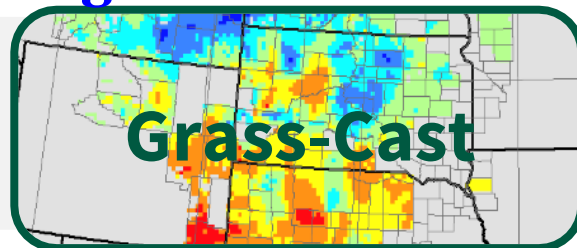


grasscast.unl.edu



Tool/tech co-development

Supporting climate-informed decision-making



Outreach, convening, and training

Facilitating engagement and exchange



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Examples...



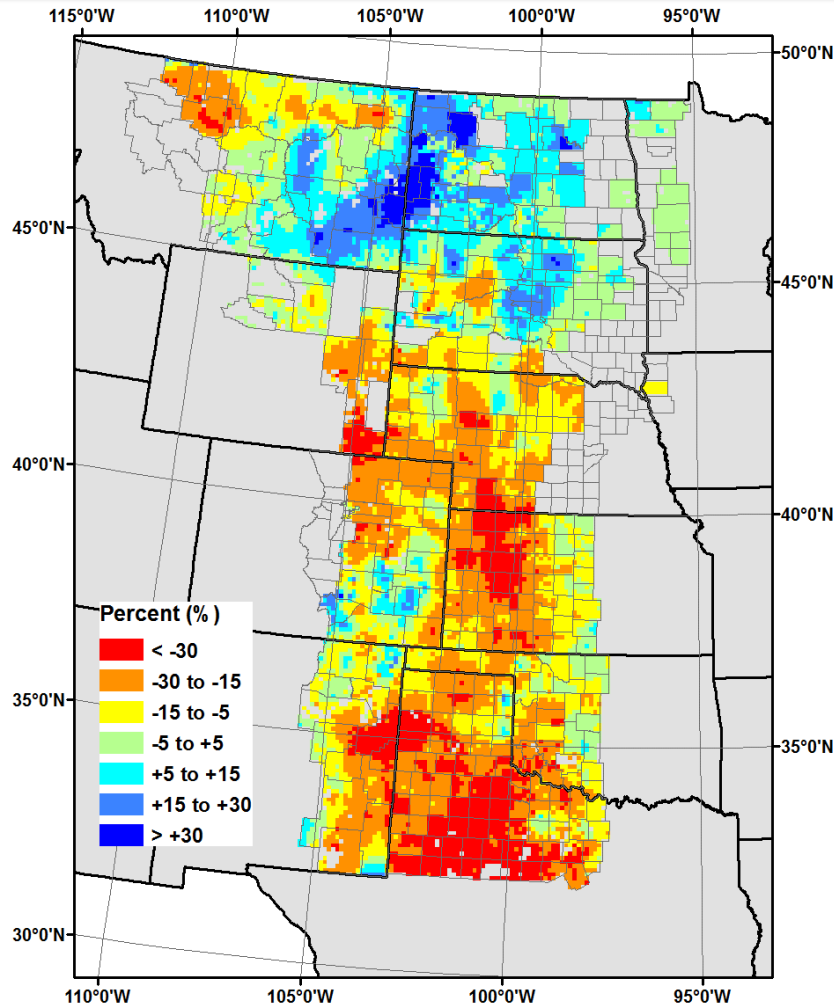
Science & Data Syntheses



- **Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5)**
 - <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>
 - **CH11: Ag, Food Systems & Rural Communities**
 - **CH25: Northern Great Plains**

Grassland Productivity Forecast

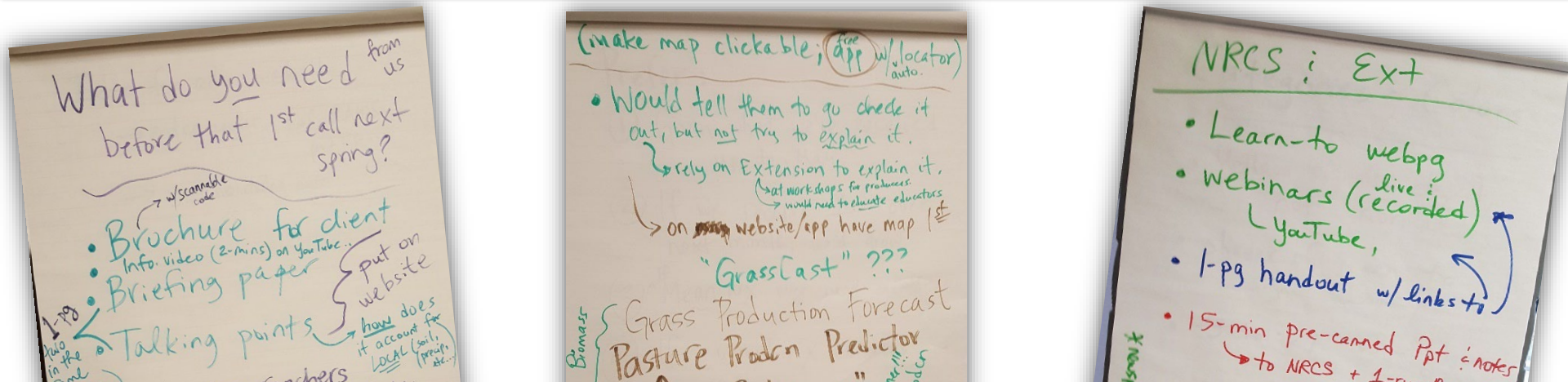
“Grass-Cast”



“Using **observed** + **future weather**...
we expect **grassland production** in
your area...
to be **X% higher** or
lower than your area’s
long-term average.”

<https://grasscast.unl.edu>

Partnerships & Stakeholders: Where Good Ideas → Useful & Usable!



Met with Extension & NRCS in 6 states to:

- Practice interpreting a prototype of Grass-Cast
- Roll-play how they would try explaining it to clientele
- Discuss challenges and concerns they encounter
- Report-out suggestions for improving usability

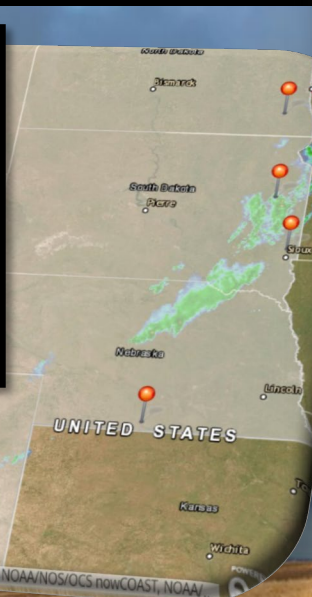


Making *Producer Perspectives* *More Accessible* to Others

A story map

Learning From Your Neighbor Resiliency in Agriculture

Early Experiments in Cover Crops:
Marlin Murdoch in Orleans, Nebraska



Collection

What does resilience mean to western ranchers?

We set out to identify the pressures ranchers are facing in the 21st Century. This story map presents the themes that resulted from qualitative analysis of interviews and focus groups with livestock producers across the Western U.S.



bit.ly/38k6QxD

Introduction



Changes in
ecological conditions



Changes in the
economy

Weather-Ready Farms



MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

1

Soil moisture decrease

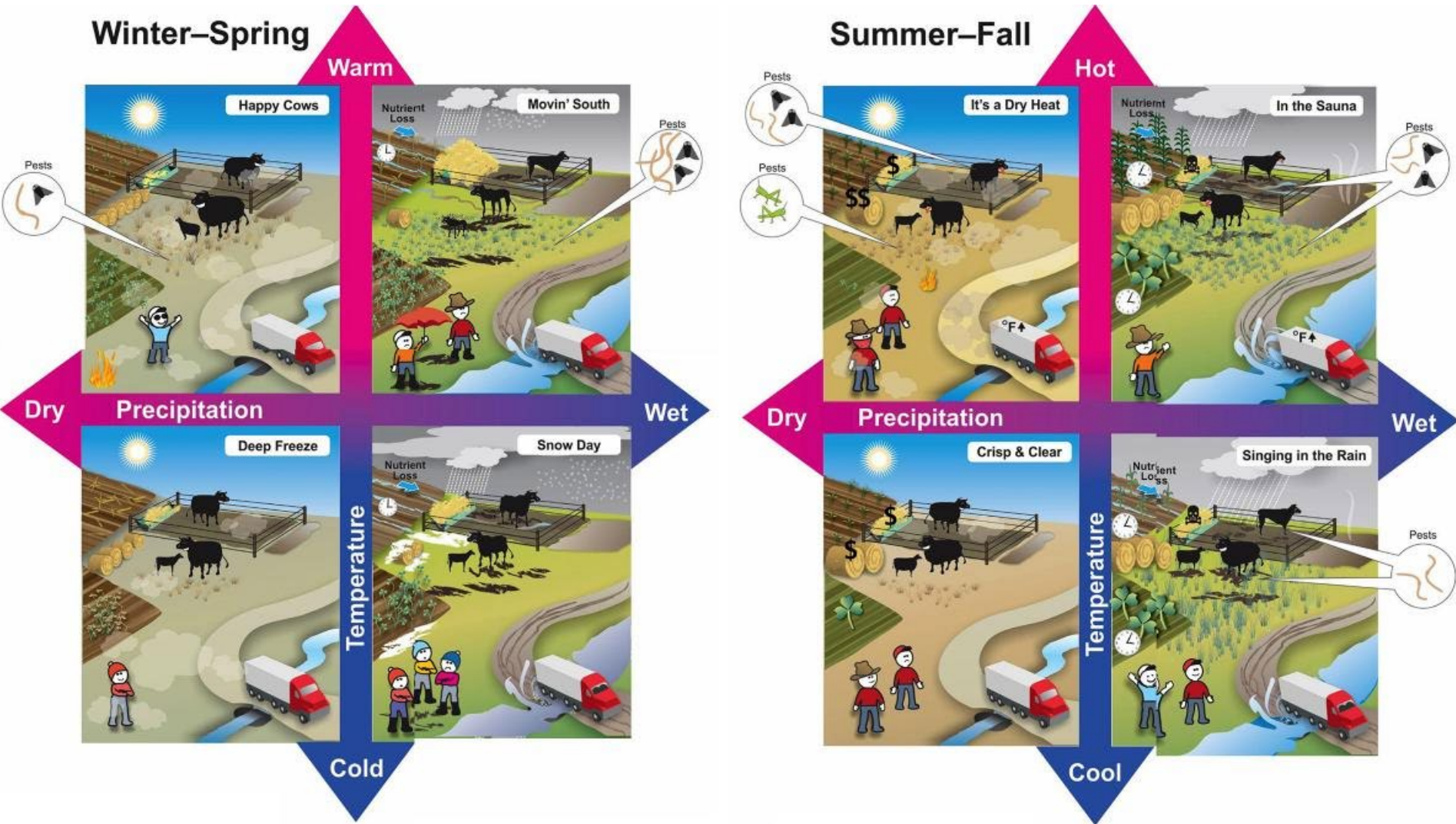
Quick Tips: Reduce seeding rate, irrigate, surface residue, drought-tolerant crop

Resources: *Soil Management for Water* (UNL)

N
EXTENSION

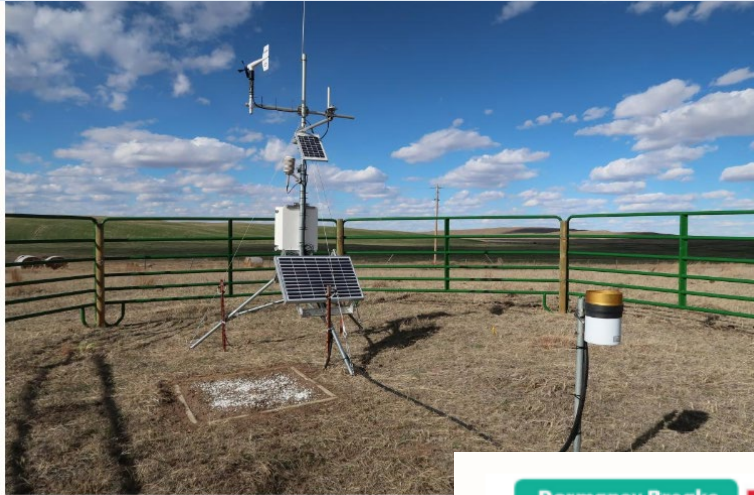
[https://agritools.unl.edu/
management-strategies/](https://agritools.unl.edu/management-strategies/)

Weather-Ready Farms



<https://weather-ready.unl.edu/>

Weather-Ready Farms



Climate and Weather Literacy

Education on the resources available in Nebraska and the science of

Climate Change and Ag

Nebraska Climate Summary

<https://weather-ready.unl.edu>

HAIL KNOW

Hail Know

While you can't prevent hail, you can prepare for and respond quickly when dealing with hail damage to crops. We're here to help you make informed, timely decisions.

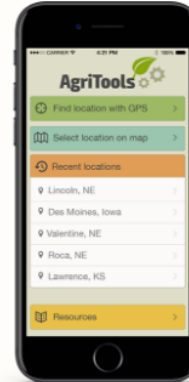
Hail Know

AgriTools Mobile App

This app is designed to provide location-specific ag climate and weather data, forecasts, and maps. The quick connection to UNL apps and resources allows users to easily find related information.

iTunes

Google Play



Dormancy Breaks

Information on weather-ready landscapes

N EXTENSION

WHAT IS IT?

When there are warm winter temperatures, plants often break dormancy earlier than they should. They will "break dormancy" and begin to grow during the winter temperatures only to have the temperatures drop to normal levels some time later. This can cause frost damage to the newly emerged plant tissue.

Abnormal Temperatures

3 days in row above 45°F in Feb.
March 7 days 2009
March 10 days 2008



Weather Ready Landscapes

Infographics designed to help home and business owners manage their landscapes for adverse weather and climate events.

Weather Ready Landscapes

Drought Ready Nebraska

Drought is a common risk in Nebraska, and there are many drought-ready tips on our drought webpage.

Drought Ready Nebraska

Partners





Understanding How Climate Change Affects Nebraska and Agriculture

[376]

Tyler Williams

Extension Educator, Lancaster County

Climate change is a challenging subject to understand, discuss openly and interpret how it will influence our daily lives.

more accurate way to describe how changes in climate may impact your area. The scientific community continues to learn more about these feedback mechanisms and how the earth will respond.

Why the Confusion on Climate Change?

66% in Lancaster and Douglas Counties and a state low of 44% in Lincoln County. This split on what is causing the changes — or even believing it to be true — often creates some anxiety or dismissiveness when discussing the issue.

Getting accurate and non-biased climate change information can be a

Annual Average Temperature (°F)

Nebraska Climate Trends

These maps show the climate trends over the long term and short term for the state's eight climate divisions on industry-standard date from the National Centers for Environmental Information on the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. Long term trends use data collected between 1895 to 2016; short-term trends use data from 1987 to 2016.

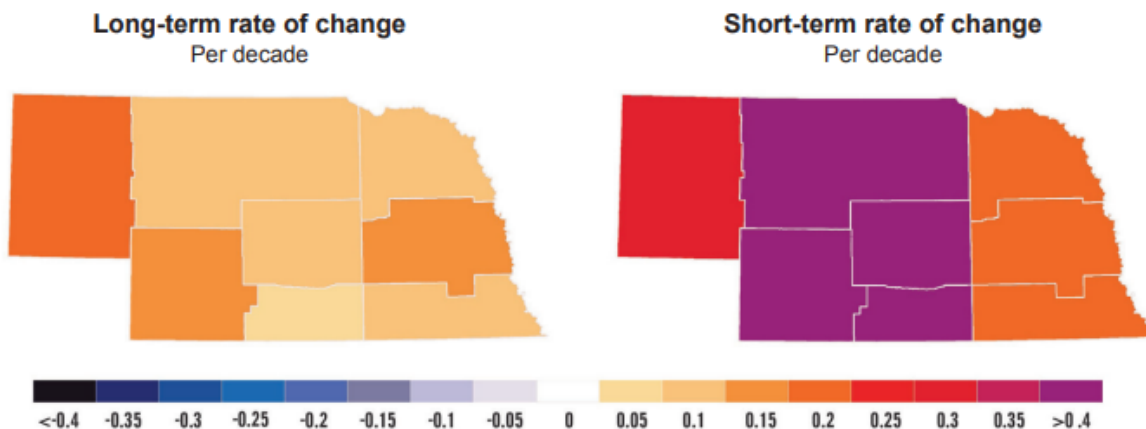
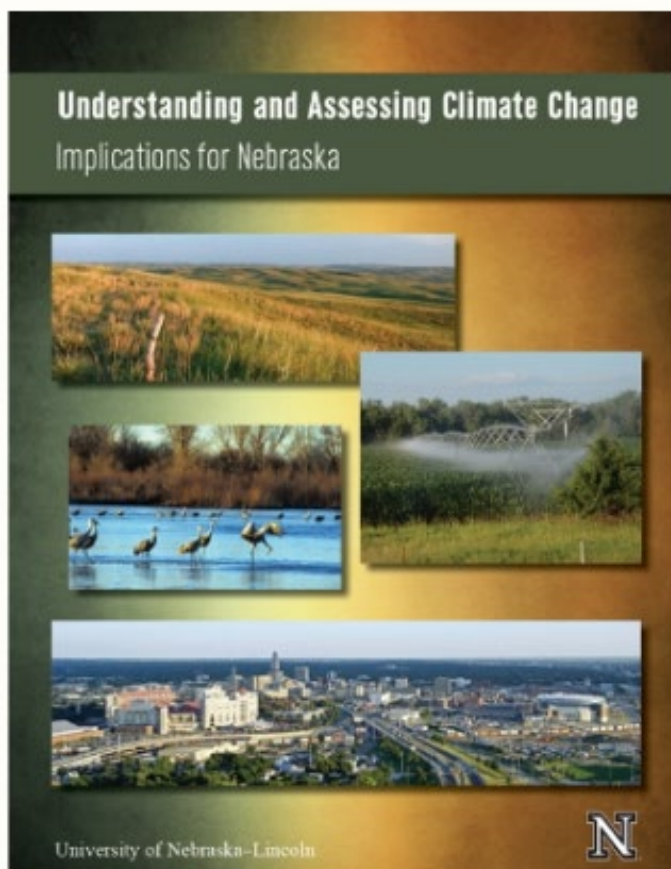
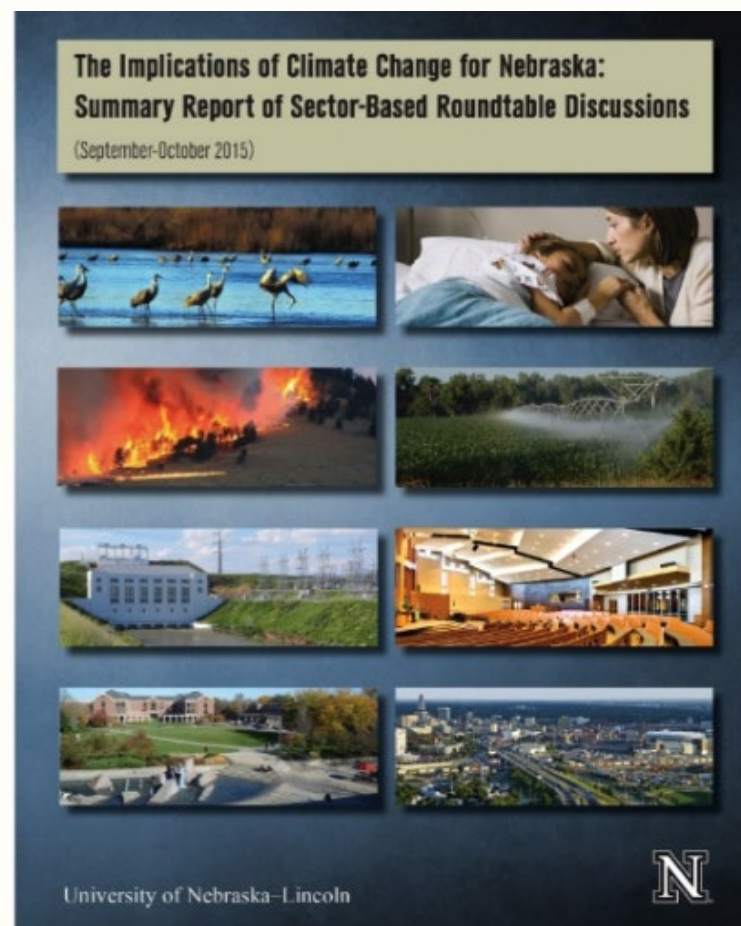


Figure 1. Trends in average annual temperature from 1895-2016 (left) and 1987-2016 (right) for the eight climate divisions in Nebraska. From the Nebraska State Climate Office, 2019.



Climate Change Implications for Nebraska

Update of the
Nebraska Climate Report
 is in progress!
 (c/o Deb Bathke,
 Interim State Climatologist)

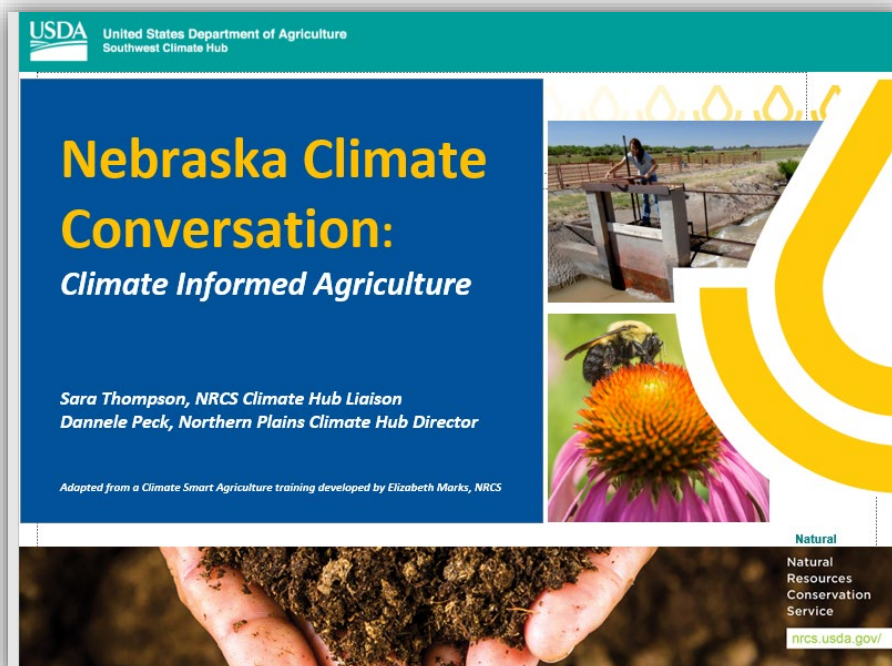

[Download Report](#)

[Download Report](#)



Examples of Outreach



- Invited talks & convention booths
- Ogallala Aquifer Summit (3/18 in KS)
- NRCS Climate Conversations
 - Adaptation (Dec 2021)
 - Mitigation (TBD 2024-2027)



Climate Conversation

Climate

- Terminology
- Local Climate Trends
- U.S. Climate Trends
- Why changes are occurring
- How working lands are affected

Climate Smart Agriculture

- Adaptation practices
- Available resources
- How to start the conversation

Discussion/Feedback

- Survey



Climate Quick Reference Guides



Scan me

<https://bit.ly/3JfGj3w>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Southwest Climate Hub

Nebraska
Lancaster County
2022

Climate Quick Reference Guide:

Historic Changes 1900 - 2020

- The number of very cold nights has been below average since 1990, indicative of overall winter warming.
- The frequency of extreme precipitation (2 inches or more in one day) events has increased in recent years.
- Nebraska's driest year on record was 2012, when statewide precipitation averaged only 3.7 inches during the summer months, well below the historical average of 9.4 inches.

Projected Changes 2041 - 2070

- Under a higher emissions pathway, historically unprecedented warming is projected during this century.
- Winter and spring precipitation are projected to increase across the state.
- The intensity of droughts is projected to increase - although projections of overall precipitation are uncertain, higher temperatures will increase evaporation rates and decrease soil moisture during the growing season.

Climate and Weather Information Resources

Maps and graphs that show climate changes and projections for your location:

<https://climatetoolbox.org> or <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/caq/>

Climate Change Adaptation and Information:

<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/>

Current and predicted drought conditions and resources:

<https://www.drought.gov>

NOAA State summaries of past and projected climate by State:

<https://statesummaries.ncics.org>
<https://www.usda.gov/oce/energy-and-environment/climate>

Data for: Lancaster County

	Max Temperature (Fahrenheit)			Max Precipitation (Inches)		
	Current	Future	Change	Current	Future	Change
Spring	62.8	68.1	5.2	9.7	11.1	1.3
Summer	86.3	93.4	7.1	11.2	10.5	-0.7
Fall	64.6	71.1	6.5	6.9	7.5	0.6
Winter	36.5	42.4	5.9	2.3	2.7	0.4
Annual	62.5	68.7	6.2	30.1	31.7	1.6

<https://swclimatehub.info/data/interactive-maps>

Seasonal and annual data was calculated using mean maximum temperature and precipitation to provide broad seasonal changes at the county scale to aid planning and management amid uncertainty. Current data comes from PRISM Climate Group 30 year normal data for the 1971-2000 time period. Future is derived from the CMIP5 data using the mid-century time period and higher emissions scenario (RCP 8.5)

Top causes of crop loss for this county:

Cause of Loss	Indemnity	Acres
Drought	\$45,600,501	464,062
Decline in Price	\$7,590,743	162,532
Excess Moisture/Precip/Rain	\$5,498,728	71,952
Hail	\$2,718,106	41,929
Heat	\$2,141,152	28,998
Wind/Excess Wind	\$377,249	5,794
Area Plant Crops Only	\$350,646	8,297
Cold Wet Weather	\$250,198	3,986
Plant Disease	\$190,216	1,726
Hot Wind	\$159,253	1,908

Source: AgRisk Viewer. RMA summary crop loss data by county (1989-2020): <https://swclimatehub.info/rma/rma-data-viewer.html>

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Observed Number of Very Cold Nights

Number of Days with Minimum Temperature of 0°F or Lower

5-year Period

Observed and Projected Temperature Change

Temperature Change (°F)

1900 1925 1950 1975 2000 2025 2050 2075 2100

Observations
Modeled Historical
Lower Emissions
Higher Emissions

Higher Emissions
Lower Emissions

Source for Graph: <https://statesummaries.ncics.org>

nrcs.usda.gov



<https://climatehubs.usda.gov>

Twitter: @USDAClimateHubs

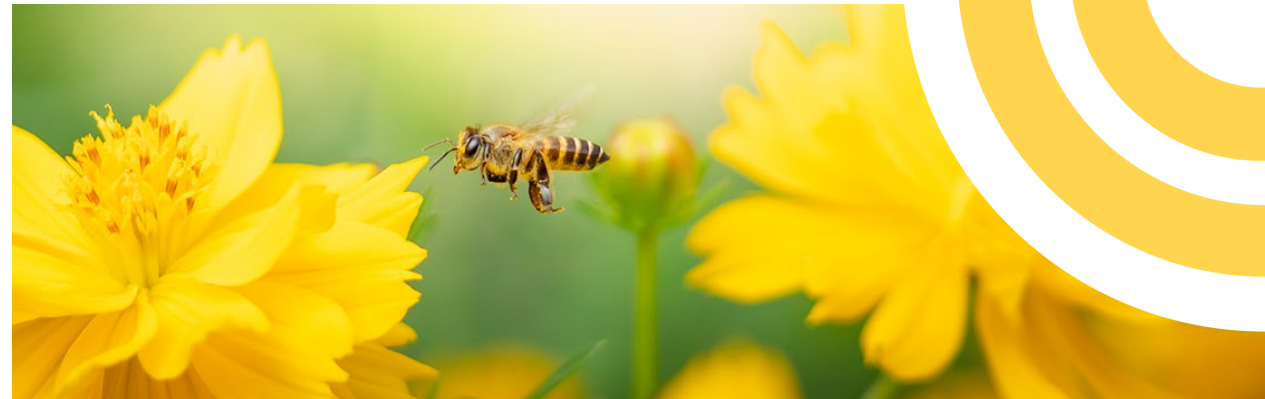
**What can we achieve
*together as partners?***

Dannele Peck
NPCH Director
dannele.peck@usda.gov

BJ Shoup
NRCS Co-lead
william.shoup@usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FY2024 Programs Update

Nebraska State Technical Committee – March 7, 2024

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

An aerial photograph showing a wide river on the left, a dense forest in the center, and large green agricultural fields on the right. A small pond is visible within the forested area.

Inflation Reduction Act



FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

Application and Ranking Deadlines

- EQIP and CSP General Application Cut-off for current funding consideration was November 17, 2023
- EQIP and CSP IRA ACT NOW Application Cut-off was March 1, 2024

EQIP IRA Obligations

- 93% of funds are Preapproved in SAT
- 40% of funds have been obligated.
- Goal is to have EQIP-IRA apps obligated by March 31, 2024

FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

- Key Points
 - One or more core practices or activities on the 2024 CSAF list must be planned in a contract.
 - Facilitating practices and activities can receive payment but must directly support a core practice addressing climate change in the contract.
 - IRA and non-IRA funds cannot be combined in a contract.
 - Practices and activities must be implemented, and payments completed prior to September 30, 2031. Look at shorter contract lengths.
 - Payments will count toward program-specific payment limitations (440-CPM-530, Subpart M).



FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

FY2024 Climate Smart Core Practices and Facilitating Practices Eligible for Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Practice Code	Conservation Practice Name	Approved Facilitating Practices
311	Alley Cropping	490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
313	Waste Storage Facility – used to implement bedded-pack.	None
314	Brush Management – used to remove woody invasive material and the removed material will be left onsite.	595 Pest Management – scenario 194 to address woody seedlings
315	Herbaceous Weed Control – used to release desired deep rooted perennial species	None
317	Composting Facility	None
327	Conservation Cover	382 Fence, 472 Access Control 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	449 Irrigation Water Management, 595 Pest Management
329	Residue Mgt – <u>Notill</u>	None
332	Contour Buffer Strips	330 Contour Farming
336	Soil Carbon Amendment	None
338	Prescribed Burning	394 Firebreak, 528 Prescribed Grazing scenarios 8 or 39 – livestock deferment to build fine fuel; 810 Annual Forages

FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

340	Cover Crops	None
342	Critical Area Planting	382 Fence, 472 Access Control
345	Residue Mgt – Reduced Till	None
366	Anaerobic Digester	634 Waste Transfer, 313 Waste Storage Facility
367	Roofs and Covers – used to cover a waste mgt facility to capture biogas.	None
372	Combustion System Improvement – used for stationary or mobile engine replacement or repower to electric motor	533 Pumping Plant
374	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	None
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control
383	Fuel Break	None
384	Woody Residue Treatment	None
386	Field Border	330 Contour Farming
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	382 Fence, 472 Access Control

FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

391	Riparian Forest Buffer	490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control
393	Filter Strips	382 Fence, 472 Access Control
412	Grassed Waterway	410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 606 Subsurface Drain
420	Wildlife Planting	382 Fence, 472 Access Control 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
422	Hedgerow Planting	490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control
430	Irrigation Pipeline – used to reduce energy use.	None
441	Irrigation System – Microirrigation – used to reduce energy use	430 Irrigation Pipeline, 436 Irrigation Reservoir 449 Irrigation Water Mgt, 533 Pumping Plant, 587 Structure for Water Control – flow meter
442	Sprinkler System – used to reduce energy use	430 Irrigation Pipeline, 436 Irrigation Reservoir 449 Irrigation Water Mgt, 533 Pumping Plant, 587 Structure for Water Control – flow meter
484	Mulching	None
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	382 Fence, 472 Access Control
528	Prescribed Grazing	382 Fence, 516 Livestock Pipeline, 533 Pumping Plant, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 576 Livestock Shelter Structure, 578 Stream Crossing, 595 Pest Management – scenario 194 to address woody seedlings, 614 Watering Facility, 642 Water Well

FY24 EQIP and CSP IRA Implementation

533	Pumping Plant – used to reduce energy use.	None
550	Range Planting	382 Fence, 472 Access Control
585	Stripcropping	None
590	Nutrient Mgt	449 Irrigation Water Mgt - if applicant uses fertigation
592	Feed Management – used to reduce enteric methane emissions	None
601	Vegetative Barriers	None
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	None
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control, 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
632	Waste Separation Facility	634 Waste Transfer, 313 Waste Storage Facility
643	Restoration of Rare and Declining Communities – used to restore floodplain hydrology	None
657	Wetland Restoration	356 Dike, 382 Fence, 460 Land Clearing, 472 Access Control, 587 Structure for Water Control, 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
666	Forest Stand Improvement	None
670	Energy Efficient Lighting System	None
672	Energy Efficient Building Envelope	None

FY24 EQIP IRA Allocation

FA Initial Allocation Estimate	29,027,000
Urban & Small-Scale Ag	\$ 300,000.00
Wildlife Initiative (10%)	\$ 651,000.00
Great Plains Grassland Initiative	\$ 1,451,000.00
Northern Bobwhite	\$ 300,000.00
Historically Underserved (10%)	\$ 2,474,398.00
AFOs	\$ 2,000,000.00
Organic	\$ 200,000.00
Tribal	\$ 200,000.00
Sandhills WLFW	\$ 200,000.00
Source Water Protection (10%)	\$ 2,902,700.00
EQIP CIC (5%)	\$ 1,451,350.00
Inefficient Energy	\$ 100,000.00
Total above fund pools	\$ 12,230,448
Balance after above funds pools	\$ 16,796,552

FY24 EQIP General Allocation

FA Initial Allocation Estimate	20,460,969
Urban & Small-Scale Ag (High Tunnels) \$	500,000.00
Wildlife Initiative (10%) \$	423,048.00
Great Plains Grassland Initiative \$	1,023,048.00
Reserve \$	600,000.00
Conservation Activities (CPA's, DIA's, CEMA's) \$	200,000.00
Historically Underserved (10%) \$	2,474,398.00
AFOs \$	1,000,000.00
Organic \$	100,000.00
Tribal \$	100,000.00
Sandhills WLFW \$	100,000.00
Disaster \$	1,500,000.00
Source Water Protection (10%) \$	2,046,097.00
EQIP CIC (5%) \$	1,023,048.00
Inefficient Energy \$	25,000.00
NWQI \$	1,678,222.00
Northern Bobwhite \$	219,771.00
WaterSMART (URNRD) \$	219,771.00
Total above fund pools	\$ 13,232,403
Balance after above funds pools	\$ 7,228,566
Additional Funds to Distribute	Estimate
Northern Bobwhite \$	219,771.00
Joint Chiefs \$	-
NWQI \$	1,678,222.00
Water Smart \$	219,771.00
Total to Distribute	\$ 9,346,330.00



2024 General EQIP

- EQIP General Ranking Deadline April 5, 2024



State Wildfire Initiative

Special initiative to provide funding in areas affected by Wildfires.

They include funding for:

340 Cover Crop

528 Prescribed Grazing – Livestock Deferment on Grazing Lands

484 Mulching



FY24 CSP Renewals

- Renewal obligation of \$4,799,737
- 70 contracts obligated

Nebraska CSP Allocation

- General - \$22,445,000
 - IRA - \$14,787,000
 - **Total - \$37,232,000**
-
- Funds are distributed between CSP Renewal and Classic signups.
 - IRA funds are 95% preapproved

FY24 CSP IRA Signup

- Application deadline was March 1, 2023
 - 232 applications received.
 - Nebraska CSP contract average is \$100,000
 - Projected approval of 147 contracts
 - Possibly more depending on actual application cost.
 - First come first served
 - Must meet minimum threshold score
 - Applications received and processed until IRA funds depleted.



FY25 CSP Renewals

- Allocation letters are being send out by the field offices now

FY24 CSP Classic Signup

- Application deadline was November 17, 2023
 - 436 applications received.
 - Nebraska CSP contract average is \$100,000
 - Projected approval of 200 contracts
 - Possibly more depending on actual application cost.
- To encourage dispersal of workload each DC area will have a minimum number of application approvals.
- CSP General Ranking Deadline May 3, 2024



Local Work Group Meetings

**Local Work Group meetings are being
held across the state this spring**

**Dates, times and locations are available at
www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-state/nebraska/technical-committee**

Nebraska 2024 Local Work Group Meetings Scheduled



Local Work Group Meetings

- Open to all partners and the public
- Items on the agenda may include:
 - Resource Concern Priorities
 - Input on Prioritization tools and Ranking Pool questions
 - Review Practice Payment Schedule
 - Preferred Application and ranking cut-off dates

FY2024 ACEP - Nebraska

- Applications taken year-round.
- FY24 application cut-off November 13, 2023.
- This was for WRE, WRE-WREP, ALE and ALE-GSS.
- Will use appraisals again in FY2024 to determine acquisition costs for WRE.
 - 90% GARC, NTE rate of \$12,970/ac irrigated cropland, NTE \$9,320/ac all other land

FY2024 ACEP - Nebraska

Fiscal Year Allocation of Funds

- ACEP-WRE - \$2,014,067
- ACEP-WRE-WREP - \$826,290
- ACEP-ALE - \$2,821,563 with January Funds Assessment
- ACEP-WRE/WRP Stewardship Funds - \$554,631
 - These funds are for maintenance and repair of existing easements.

FY2024 ACEP - Nebraska

- Applications received
 - WRE Eligible Applications = 11 on 2,908 Acres
 - IRA WRE = 5 on 348 Acres
 - WREP Eligible Application = None
 - ALE Applications = None
 - ALE GSS Applications = 5 on 10,343 Acres



FY2024 ACEP-WRE - Nebraska

Moving forward on:

- Preparing funds request and offer for top ranked WRE application – 1,146ac
- Finalizing legal boundary surveys on 3 WRE from 2023
- Finalizing pre-payment review on 1 WRE from 2022



FY2024 ACEP-ALE/GSS - Nebraska

Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)

Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

- Preparing parcel agreements for 5 GSS applications – 10,343ac
- Finalizing 3 ALE/GSS deed reviews from 2022-2023

FY2024 EWPP-FPE - Nebraska

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)

- Applications = 21, Acres = 5,590
- Estimated Requested funding: \$20,313,085
- 14 have cancelled or found ineligible
- Offers accepted = 7, Acres = 800
- 5 Closed Easements on 235 Acres, 2 easements pending



RCPP Program Update.



New Projects approved for Funding for FY 2023

AFA Projects

- Kansas Nebraska Wetland Initiative
- Agropur Dairy Producers Best Mgt Practices Project.
- Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets

Classic Projects

- Twin Platte NRD Real-time Advance Irrigation Water Mgt.
- Improving Grassland Health and Connecting Resilient Lands.



RCPP 3256 - Kansas Nebraska Wetland Initiative.

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State - Kansas

Lead Partner- Ducks Unlimited

Total Financial Assistance- \$7,500,000.00

Practices-

Project Goal- Ducks Unlimiteds goal is to create a new, flexible, and cost-effective wetland and riparian restoration, management, and protection program filling a huge niche for producers willing to invest in their land in Nebraska and Kansas.



RCPP 3290-

Agropur Dairy Producers Best Management Practices Project.

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – South Dakota

Lead Partner- Agropur

Total Financial Assistance- \$7,447,211.00

Practices- Nitrogen Reduction, Cover Crops, Reduced Tillage, Energy use from Irrigation & Manure Mgt.

Project Goal- Agropur and Nestlé have set ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions across our supply chains. Agropur, lead applicant of this proposal, announced a commitment earlier this year to reduce emissions by 24%/kg of milk across our value chain by 2031. Together, our companies will combine resources to invest in GHG reductions and environmental improvements at US dairy farms that produce milk used in our products.



RCPP 3405- Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets RCPP

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – South Dakota

Lead Partner- American Coalition for Ethanol

Total Financial Assistance- \$18,750,000.00

Practices- Cover Crops, no/reduced-till & Nutrient Mgt.

Project Goal- This project will expand the scope of the “Expanding Soil Health by Accessing Carbon Markets”. It will significantly advance Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and USDA directives to expand farmer climate-smart practice adoption and the collection of related GHG data needed to secure farmers a fair return in climate markets and via tax credits

Nebraska Counties:

*Adams, Antelope, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Cedar, Clay, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Fillmore, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Holt, Kearney, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nuckolls, Pierce, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, York,



RCPP 3374- Improving Grassland Health and Connecting Resilient Lands

Project type- Classic

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – Nebraska

Lead Partner- The Nature Conservancy

Total Financial Assistance- \$3,240,960.00

Practices- Grazing practices.

Project Goal- TNC will engage with private landowners to encourage protection and enhancement of native grasslands through adoption of private land incentive-based management practices designed to improve the ecological, economic, and social health of the land and its caretakers. The priority areas our project is the NE Sandhills, the Grand River Grasslands and Osage Plains within MO and parts of IA.



RCPP 3294- Twin Platte NRD Real-time Advance IWM

Project type- Classic

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – Nebraska

Lead Partner- Twin Platte NRD

Total Financial Assistance- \$4,716,990.00

Practices- IWM only.

Project Goal-. The goal of the proposed RCPP project in Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) is to implement advanced irrigation water management to ensure sustainability of the District's water resources in the near and long term while also providing ecosystem benefits, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and enabling financial savings for farmers



QUESTIONS?



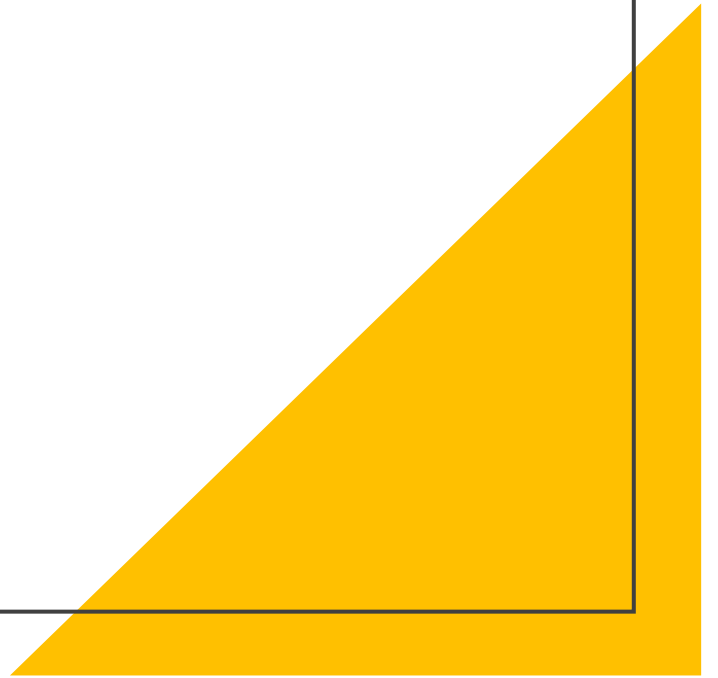
Non-discrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at **How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint** and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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RCPP Program Update.



New Projects approved for Funding for FY 2023

AFA Projects

- Kansas Nebraska Wetland Initiative
- Agropur Dairy Producers Best Mgt Practices Project.
- Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets

Classic Projects

- Twin Platte NRD Real-time Advance Irrigation Water Mgt.
- Improving Grassland Health and Connecting Resilient Lands.

RCPP 3256 -Kansas Nebraska Wetland Initiative.

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

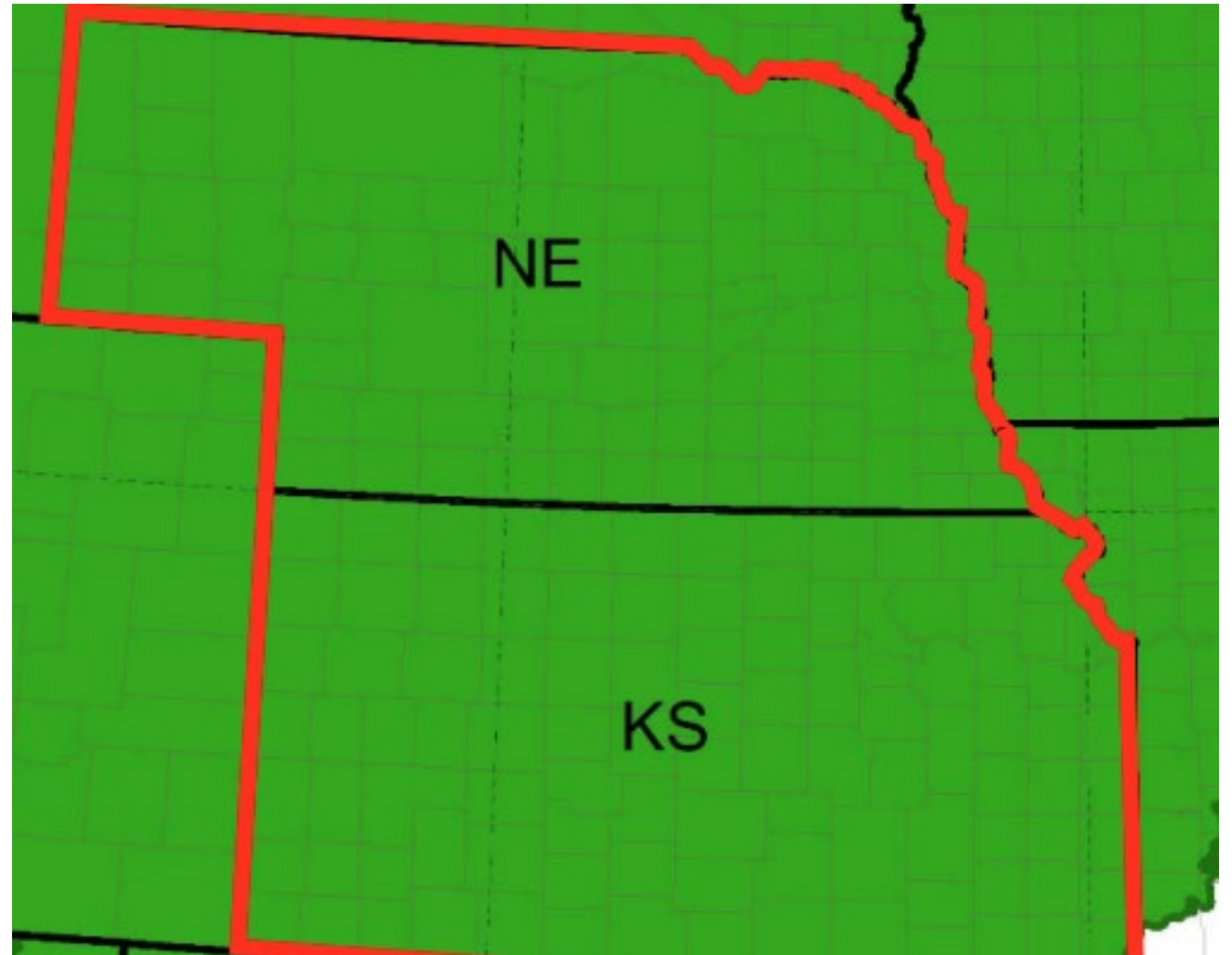
Lead State - Kansas

Lead Partner- Ducks Unlimited

Total Financial Assistance- \$7,500,000.00

Practices-

Project Goal- Ducks Unlimiteds goal is to create a new, flexible, and cost-effective wetland and riparian restoration, management, and protection program filling a huge niche for producers willing to invest in their land in Nebraska and Kansas.



RCPP 3290-

Agropur Dairy Producers Best Management Practices Project.

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

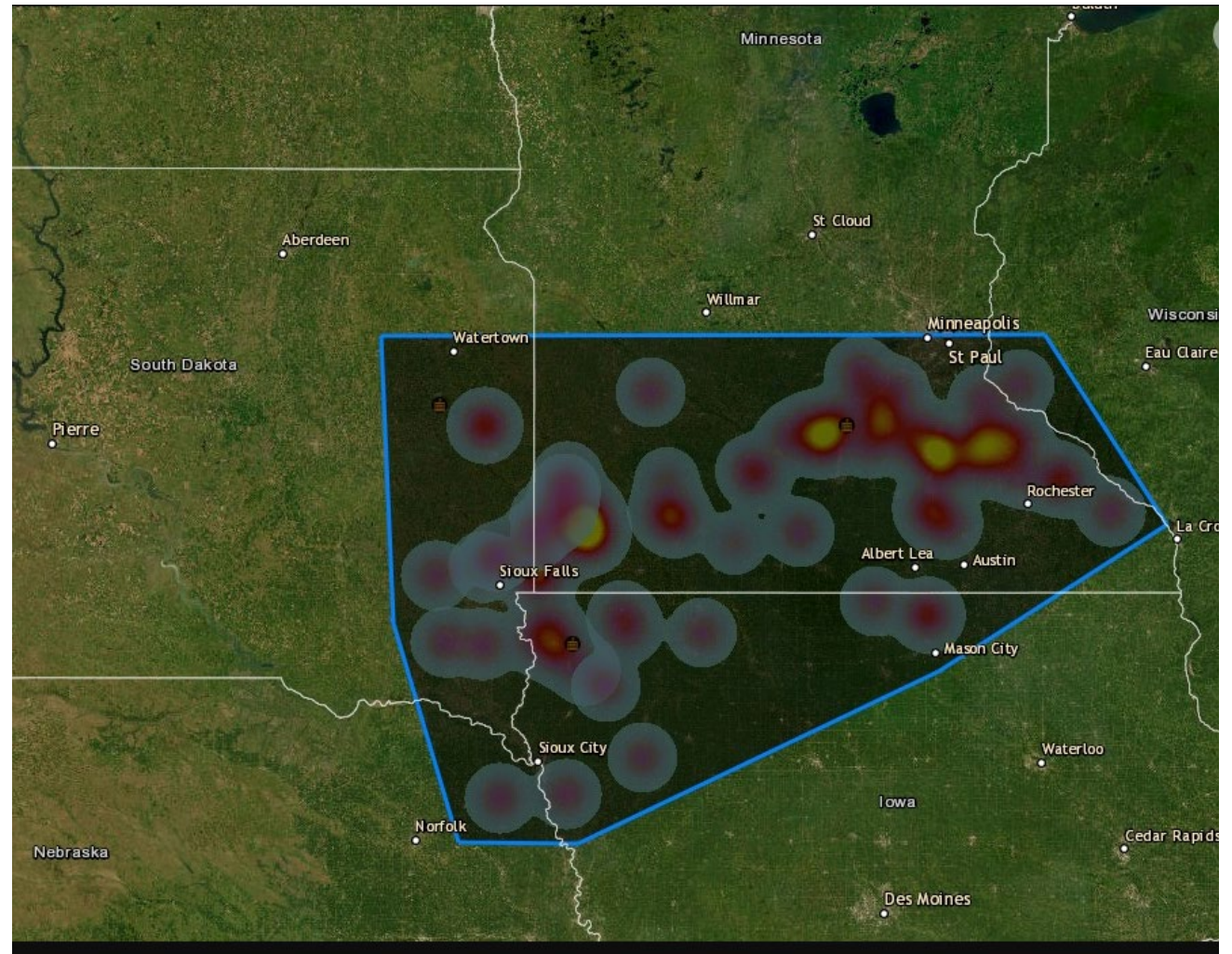
Lead State – South Dakota

Lead Partner- Agropur

Total Financial Assistance- \$7,447,211.00

Practices- Nitrogen Reduction, Cover Crops, Reduced Tillage, Energy use from Irrigation & Manure Mgt.

Project Goal- Agropur and Nestlé have set ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions across our supply chains. Agropur, lead applicant of this proposal, announced a commitment earlier this year to reduce emissions by 24%/kg of milk across our value chain by 2031. Together, our companies will combine resources to invest in GHG reductions and environmental improvements at US dairy farms that produce milk used in our products.



RCPP 3405- Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets RCPP

Project type- AFA

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – South Dakota

Lead Partner- American Coalition for Ethanol

Total Financial Assistance- \$18,750,000.00

Practices- Cover Crops, no/reduced-till & Nutrient Mgt.

Project Goal- This project will expand the scope of the “Expanding Soil Health by Accessing Carbon Markets”. It will significantly advance Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and USDA directives to expand farmer climate-smart practice adoption and the collection of related GHG data needed to secure farmers a fair return in climate markets and via tax credits

Nebraska Counties:

*Adams, Antelope, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Cedar, Clay, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Fillmore, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Holt, Kearney, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nuckolls, Pierce, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, York,

RCPP 3374- Improving Grassland Health and Connecting Resilient Lands

Project type- Classic

Status of project- Pending PPA.

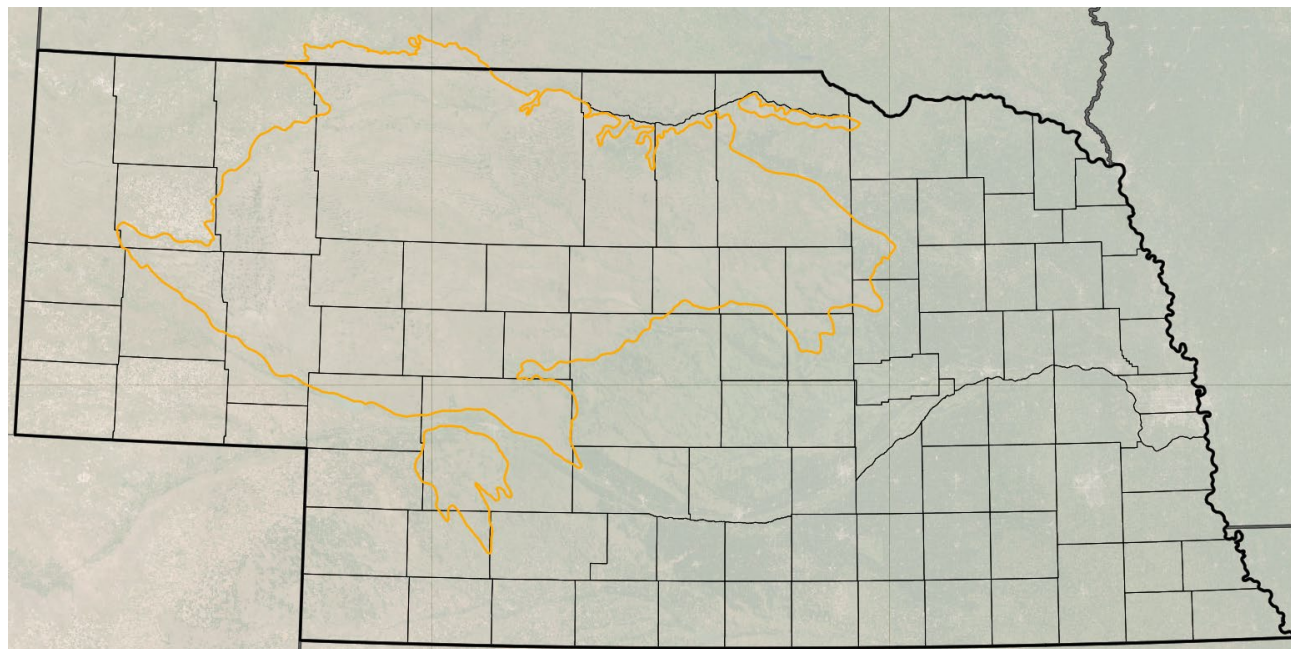
Lead State – Nebraska

Lead Partner- The Nature Conservancy

Total Financial Assistance- \$3,240,960.00

Practices- Grazing practices.

Project Goal- TNC will engage with private landowners to encourage protection and enhancement of native grasslands through adoption of private land incentive-based management practices designed to improve the ecological, economic, and social health of the land and its caretakers. The priority areas our project is the NE Sandhills, the Grand River Grasslands and Osage Plains within MO and parts of IA.



RCPP 3294- Twin Platte NRD Real-time Advance IWM

Project type- Classic

Status of project- Pending PPA.

Lead State – Nebraska

Lead Partner- Twin Platte NRD

Total Financial Assistance- \$4,716,990.00

Practices- IWM only.

Project Goal-. The goal of the proposed RCPP project in Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) is to implement advanced irrigation water management to ensure sustainability of the District's water resources in the near and long term while also providing ecosystem benefits, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and enabling financial savings for farmers

