Wildlife Fund Pool - Nebraska

10% of EQIP Funding for Wildlife Practices

Wildlife Related EQIP Contracts FY ‘19

- WIN 71 contracts / $1.4 million / 32,000 acres
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
FY15 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- **State Fund Pool**
    - CPNRD, TPNRD, TMID, SCC, CDC
    - $1.7 million

- **National Fund Pool**
  - Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative (5 years, 2015 – 2019)
    - Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
    - $885,000 (Nebraska allocation)
Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Enhancement Initiative RCPP

- Grassland Bird RCPP Contracts 2019
  - 12 contracts / $250,000 / 3,000 acres
  - Project has ended
FY16 RCPP Approvals – Nebraska State Fund Pool

- 3 Proposals Approved
  - Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife – NGPC  $700,000
  - Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project  $400,000
  - Republican Basin Conservation Partnership – LRNRD (Lead), MRNRD, URNRD  $2.1 million
Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife - RCPP
Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife RCPP

FY ‘19
48 contracts / $270,000 / 6,249 acres

The future…
FARM #1

- Planted 7/28/19
- Custom Mix
- County- Harlan
Farm #2

- County: Harlan
Farm #4

- Planted 7/28/19
- County Harlan
FY17 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- State Fund Pool
  - Divots in the Pivots
    - UBBNRD and RWBJV Partners
    - Combination of ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE and EQIP

- Critical Conservation Area (CCA) Fund Pool
  - Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27
  - LPNNRD Partner
Divots Under the Pivots

The Rainwater Basin is completely contained in Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 79, the Central Loess Plains. In Nebraska this region lies South of the Platte River and North of the Republican River. This landscape intersects 21 counties including Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Clay, Dбаров, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Kearney, Madison, Nuckolls, Phelps, Polk, Sarpy, Seward, Thayer, Webster, and York. This landscape was characterized by rolling hilly plains with deep deposits of wind blown silt with a high density of clay pan soils. Historically there were more than 11,000 pivot wetlands covering just over 304,000 acres in the RWB (Bishop and Vrdoljak 2008). To maintain agriculture production, a majority of the wetlands were drained. Today only 46,000 acres or 20% of the historic wetland acres remain (Bishop and Vrdoljak 2008). Researchers et al. (1996) estimated and Hart (1984) while only 15% of the historic footprint (1,100 footpints) demonstrated some level of function (perd water or grew hydrophytic). Approximately 60% of these functioning wetlands are in public ownership while the others remain in private ownership. Restoration and enhancement of these privately owned 20,000 acres of wetlands is the priority. Based on the Farm Service Agency Common Land Unit these tracts are owned by 2,309 different landowners with 1,576 different tenancy operations working those lands.
Divots in the Pivots RCPP

5 ALE Easements
- Wetland restoration beginning this fall
- Variable rate irrigation installed this fall

3 WRE Easements, in process
720 acres
$1 million in RCPP funding
$1 million in non-federal funds