

NRCS Conservation Programs in Nebraska

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2018 FARM BILL

“Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018”

Farm Bill Implementation

➤ FY 2019

- Existing Rules and Mandates

➤ FY2020

- Phase-1 – Interim Rules

➤ FY2021

- Phase-2 – Final Rules

2018 Farm Bill Process

- Incorporate decisions into draft interim regulations
 - Obtain approval from Department and OMB
 - Publish in Federal Register for 60 day comment period
- Review comments received on interim regulation
- Prepare final regulation and publish in the Federal Register

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program



ALE



WRE

FY19 ACEP-ALE - Implementation

- ALE (General)
 - Agreement approved with 2 parcels
 - Located in Webster and Sioux Counties.
 - 4039 acres
 - Entity holding easement
 - NE Land Trust
 - Final Estimated Federal Cost = \$675,010.00
- RCPP – ALE
 - 3 Agreements approved with 1 parcel each
 - Located in Phelps, Clay and Fillmore Counties
 - 348 acres
 - Entities holding easements
 - Little Blue NRD, Tri-Basin NRD and the Upper Big Blue NRD
 - Final Estimated Federal Cost = \$472, 420.00

FY19 ACEP-WRE Implementation

- Nine offers to purchase – Accepted
 - WRE
 - 7 approved
 - Located in Otoe, Dodge, Holt, Custer, Platte and Valley Counties
 - 439.3 acres
 - \$2,072,534.00
 - WREP
 - 1 approved
 - Located in Hall County
 - 15.6 acres
 - \$62,478.00
 - RCPP-WRE
 - 1 approved
 - Located in Hall County
 - 42.0 acres
 - \$366,105.00

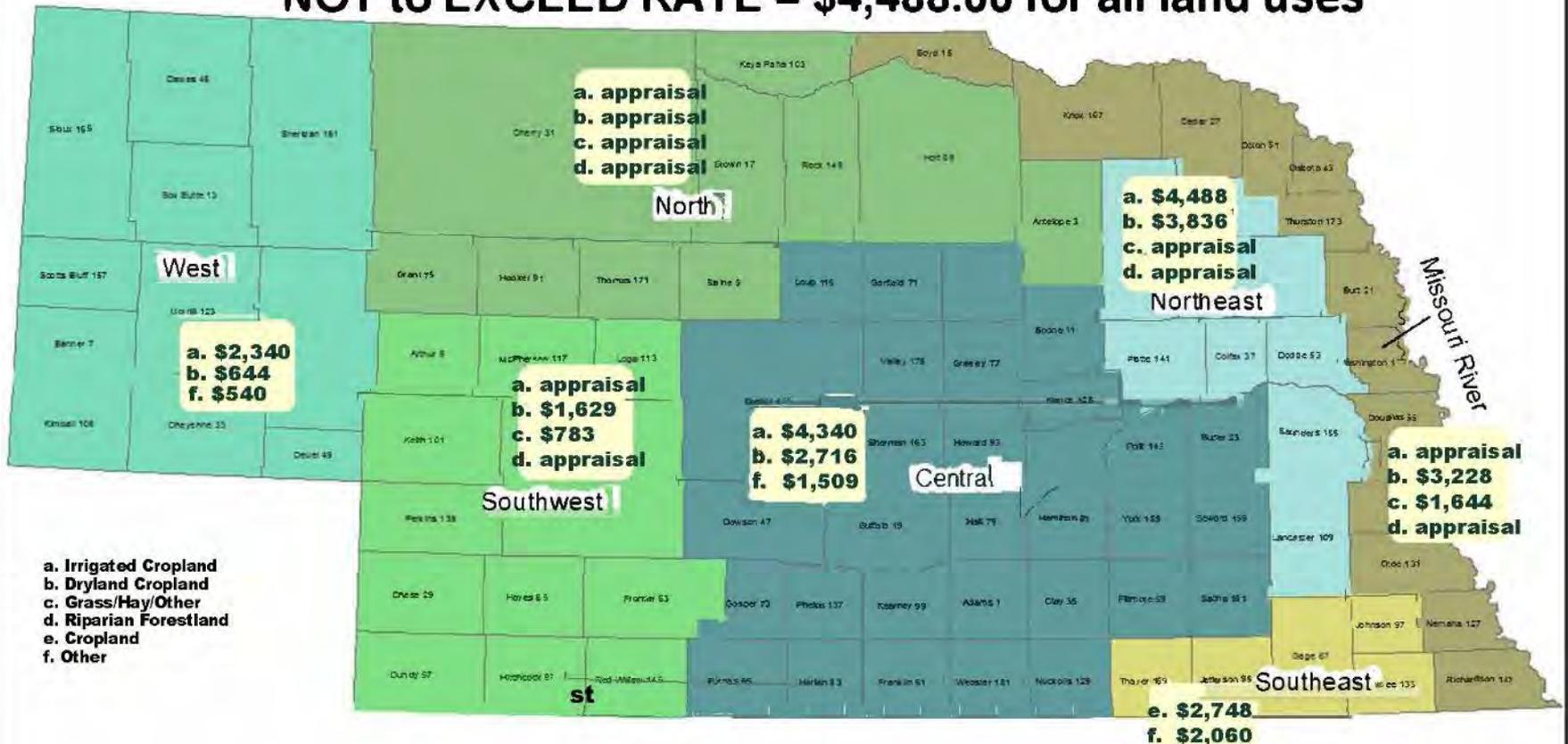
FY2020 ACEP-WRE Compensation

- For FY2020 we have requested an extension of the FY2019 Area Wide Market Analysis (AWMA).
- Land values are within +/- 10% since the 2019 AWMA was completed.
- In FY2021, we will be required to obtain a new AWMA.

Nebraska Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC's) for FY 2020

NOT to EXCEED RATE = \$4,488.00 for all land uses



FY2020 ACEP sign-up information

- With the new 2018 farm bill, new rules and regulations are being worked on in D.C.
- A sign-up deadline will not be announced until this has been completed.
 - We are hoping for a late winter or early spring sign-up.
 - Ranking system will be changed
 - We are sure there will be other changes.
- WRP Teams are still working with possible applicants to look at sites and develop restoration plans

ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

- Means grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species as defined by State or Federal Law.
- Are subject to the threat of conversion to non-grassland uses or fragmentation and the land is:

1(a) Rangeland, pastureland, shrubland or wet meadows on which this vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs or

1 (b) Improved naturalized pastureland, rangeland and wet meadows

and,

ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

2(a) Provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species

2(b) Protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or

2(c) Provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

NRCS may authorize a waiver to increase the Federal share of the cost of an agricultural land easement to an amount not to exceed 75% of the fair market of the agricultural land easement if all of the following apply:

- The eligible entity has identified on the application that the offered parcel is applying for funding consideration as a GSS.
- NRCS determines the land to be enrolled meets the GSS definitions

ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

- An eligible entity will share in the cost of purchasing an agricultural land easement in an amount that is no less than 33.33% of the Federal share. The eligibility entity share may include a qualified landowner contribution if the eligible entity contributes its own cash resources in an amount that is at least 16.67% of the Federal share.
- The eligible entity agrees to incorporate and enforce additional deed restrictions to manage and enforce the easement to ensure the GSS attributes are protected.

ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)

- States must designate eligible lands for GSS consideration
- **State Technical Committee concurrence required**
 - Nebraska NRCS is requesting to designate the entire state of Nebraska eligible for GSS as long as the definitions of GSS are met, and
 - That the application does not exceed 5% cropland.
- We will then review this next year once we get an idea of the interest in this portion of the ACEP-ALE program.

2019 Spring Flood



EWP – Floodplain Easement Program

- Sign up ended October 31, 2019.
- 28 active applications on approximately 6300 acres.
- Nebraska received an initial allocation of \$4.3 million for easement purchases and restorations.
- With only 5 cost estimates completed, there is a need of over \$13,000,000 in these 5 applications.
- National Office Personnel visiting NE, IA and MO this week with staff.

Conservation Stewardship Program



Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

- Results of 2019 General Signup
 - Applications = 614
 - New contracts = 226
 - Acres in contracts = 467,707
 - Contract obligations = \$22M

Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

- Results of 2019 General Signup
 - New contracts in 59 counties
 - Counties with highest number of new contracts:
 - Harlan, Lincoln, Nemaha

Popular CSP Activities in 2019

- Prescribed Grazing
- Pest Management
- Cover Crops
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Nutrient Management

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- The Agricultural Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) authorized NRCS to enroll producers with eligible base acres in GCI contracts from FY2019 – 2023. The GCI assists producers in protecting grazing uses; conserve and improve soil, water and wildlife resources; and achieving related conservation values.

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- Eligible Land
 - Base acres documented as grass, idle, or fallow through the years 2009 – 2017.
 - Entire farm # base acres must be eligible
 - Must address a resource concern associated with grassland.

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- Applicant Eligibility
 - Must be the operator, owner or other tenant, and must have control of the land and have an interest in the operation where the base acres are located.

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- Payment = \$18 /acre/year
- Contract term = 5 years
- Applicants can only enroll once during the 5-year farm bill

CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative

- Nebraska 2019 GCI signup
 - 246 contracts
 - 73 different counties
 - \$1.5M in obligations
 - Brown, Holt, Lancaster, Lincoln and Thurston have most contracts (>10).

FY2020 CSP-GCI

- CSP-GCI
 - Ranking cutoff – November 8
 - 210 applications
 - 57 counties
 - Contracts obligated by January 24, 2020

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Funding (National):
 - \$700 million in FY19
 - \$723 million in FY20
 - \$750 million in FY21
 - \$800 million in FY22
 - \$1 billion in FY23

FY2020 CSP Fund Allocation - Nebraska

- Nebraska
 - \$10 million - General
 - \$3.4 million - GCI
 - \$8.6 million - Renewal

CSP Changes in the 2018 Farm Bill

- Allows for the extension of contracts due to expire 12/31/2019 and authorizes renewal of these contracts (does not include contracts previously renewed).
- Bases program allocations on funds rather than acres.
- Provides one-time payment to participants who agree to develop a comprehensive conservation plan
- Adds organic producers or producers transitioning to organic as a category of producer with a targeted ranking pool

CSP Changes in the 2018 Farm Bill

- Requires that the program be managed to enhance soil health
- Requires CSP be aligned with EQIP in applications, contracting, conservation planning, conservation practices and related administrative procedures.
- Adds advanced grazing management as another type of supplemental payment.
- Modifies “eligible land” to include public land when the land is a working component of the participant’s operation

CSP Changes in the 2018 Farm Bill

- Expands the regulatory \$400,000 contract limit for all joint operations.
- Adds language to allow for contract increases due to minor adjustments made to conservation activities at the discretion of NRCS.
- Includes an eligibility restriction for renewal-eligible participants who choose not to renew in favor of competing for a new contract. 2 – year wait.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Building on Success

- 375 active projects
- 2,000 partners
- \$1 Billion in NRCS investment
- \$2 Billion in non-NRCS investments



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Provides mandatory funding at \$300 million (from \$100 million)
 - 50% of available funds for state or multi-state projects
 - 50% of available funds for projects within critical conservation areas
 - **Removed National funding pool**
- Removes 7% funding contributions from covered programs

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Adds CRP and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act as covered programs
 - Land enrolled into the new CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative is not eligible
- Agreements can be for longer than 5 years if longer period is necessary to meet the objectives of the program
- A partnership agreement may be renewed for a period not to exceed 5 years.
- Provides ability to renew partnership agreements through an expedited non-competitive process if Secretary determines that a project has met or exceeded the objectives of the project and extension is requested by the partner.

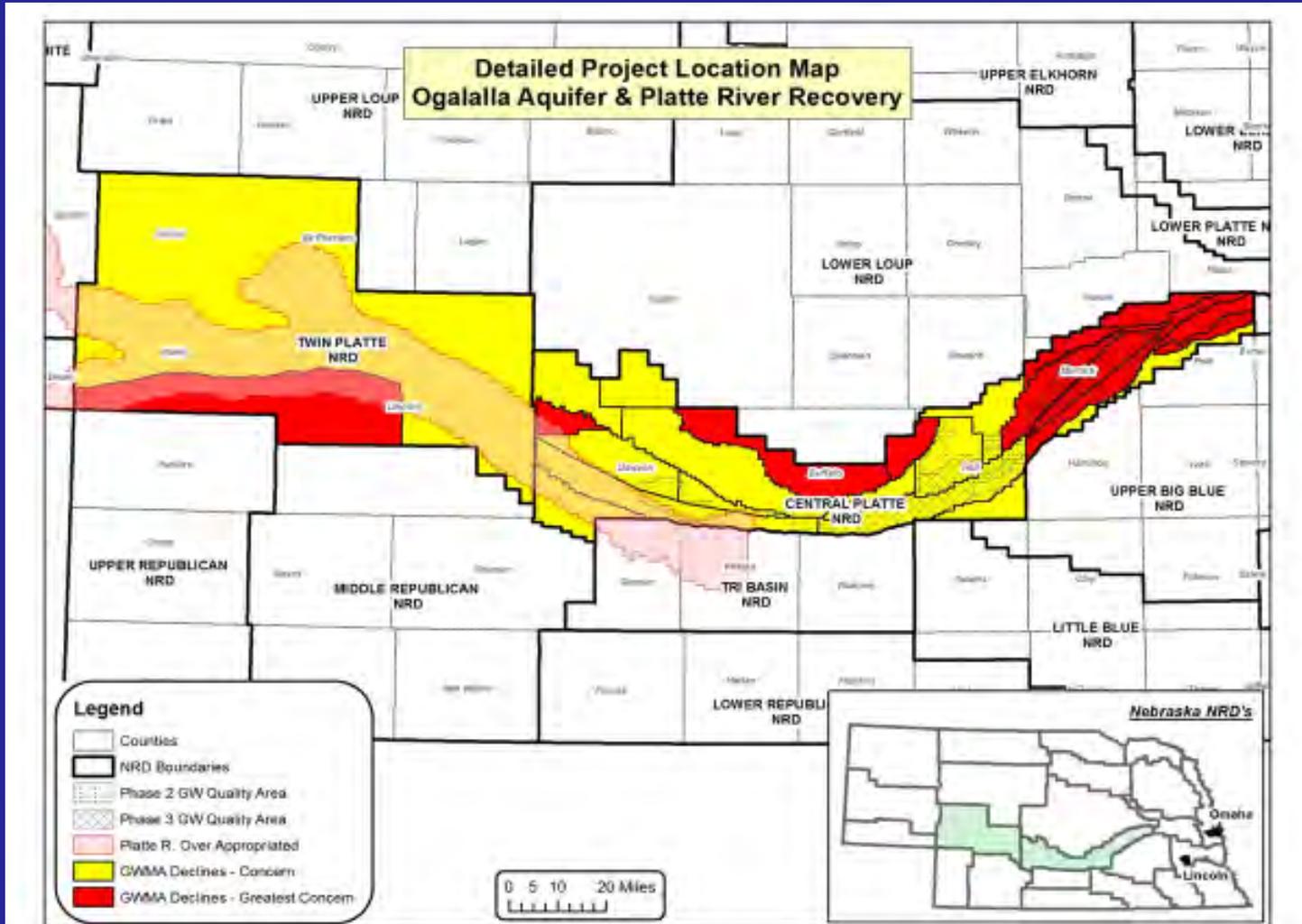
- **Existing Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects in Nebraska**

- **Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery – CPNRD & TPNRD**
- **Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative - NGPC**
- **Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife – NGPC**
- **Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project**
- **Republican Basin Conservation Partnership – LRNRD**
- **Divots in the Pivots – UBBNRD/RWBJV**
- **Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27 – LPNNRD**
- **Papillion Creek Site WP-1 Dam - PMRNRD**

FY15 RCPP

Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (5 Years, 2015 – 2019)

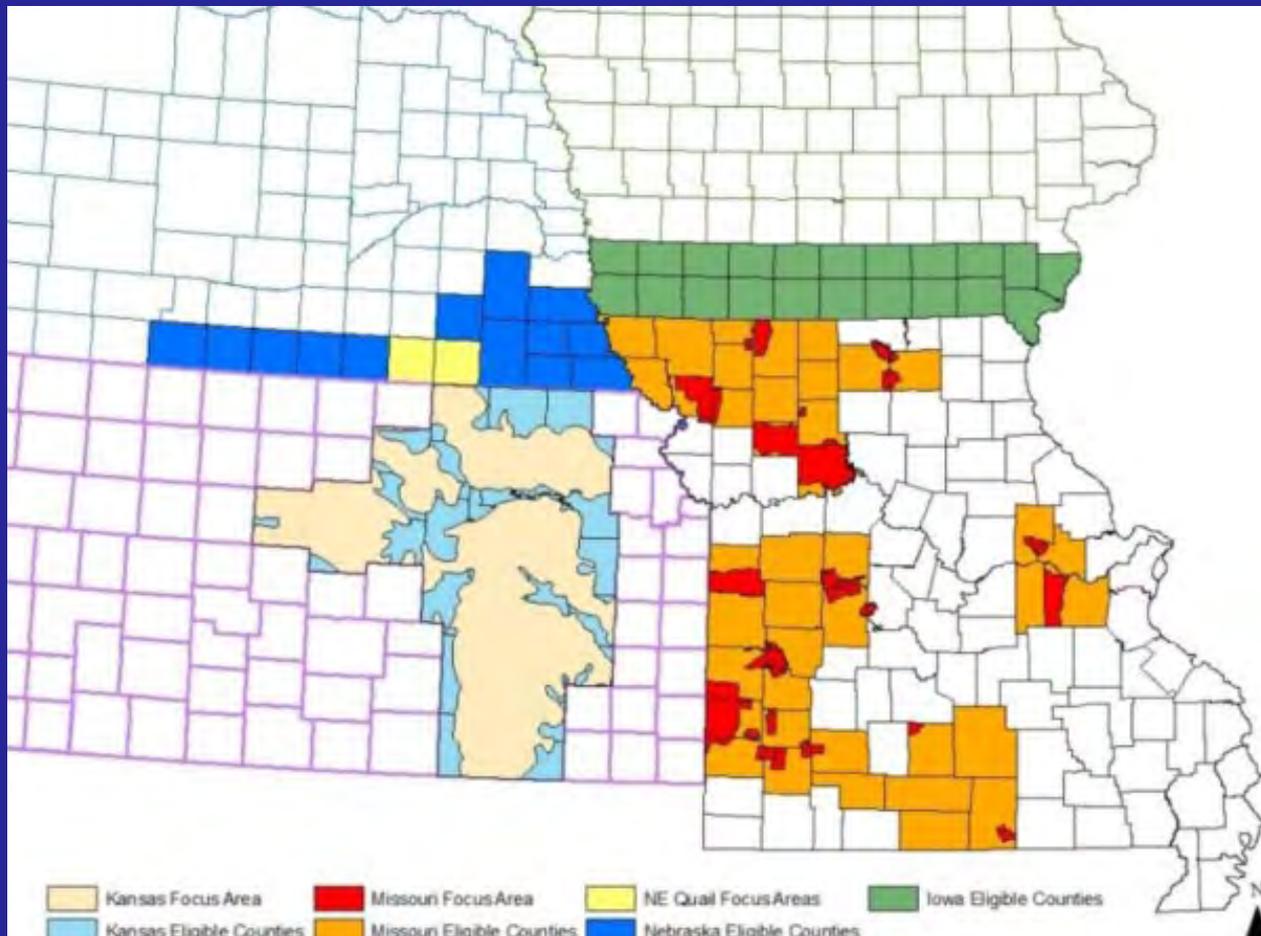
- CPNRD, TPNRD
- \$ 1.7 million



FY15 RCPP

Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative (5 years, 2015 – 2019)

- Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
- \$ 885,000 (Nebraska allocation)

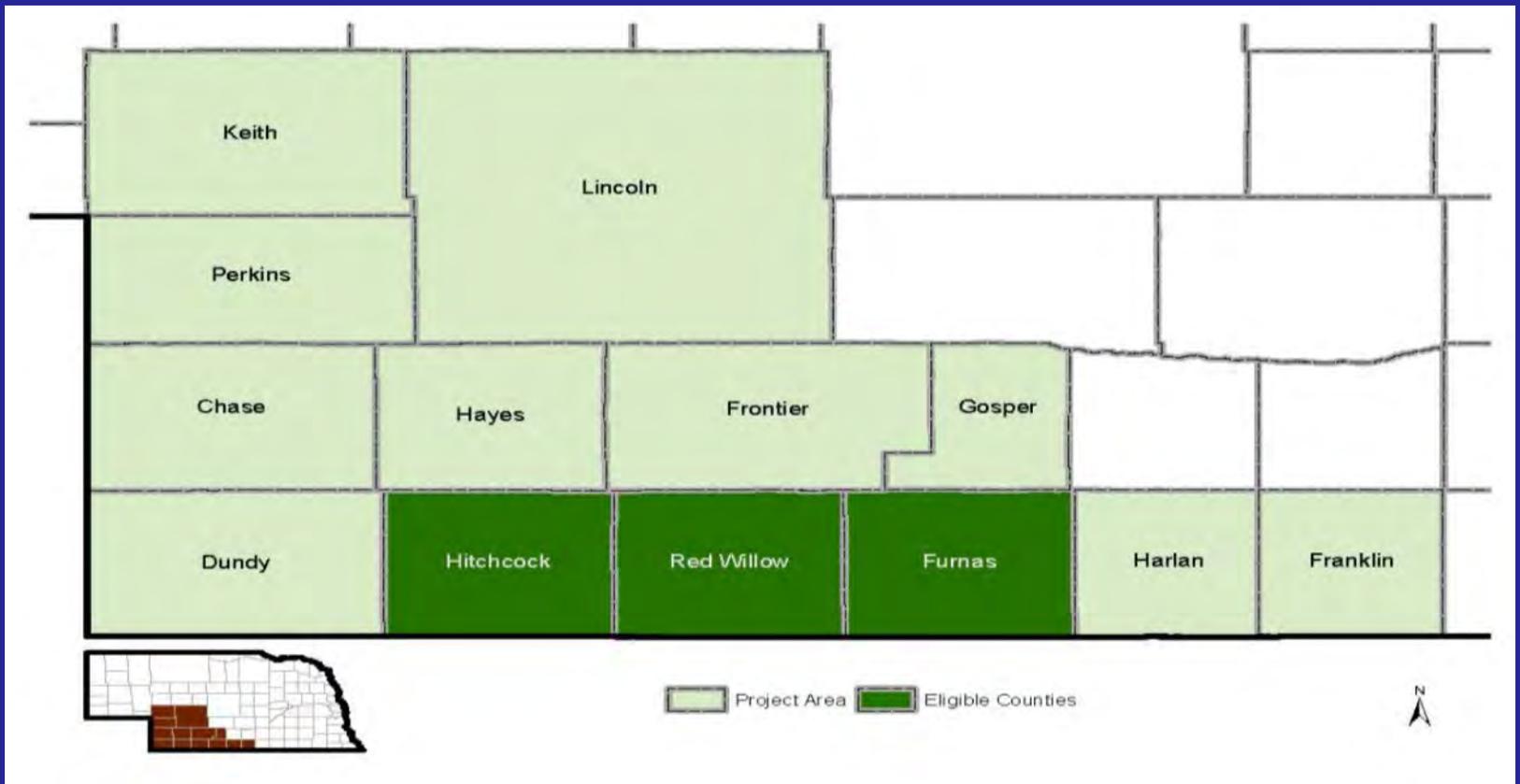


FY16 RCPP

Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife

– NGPC

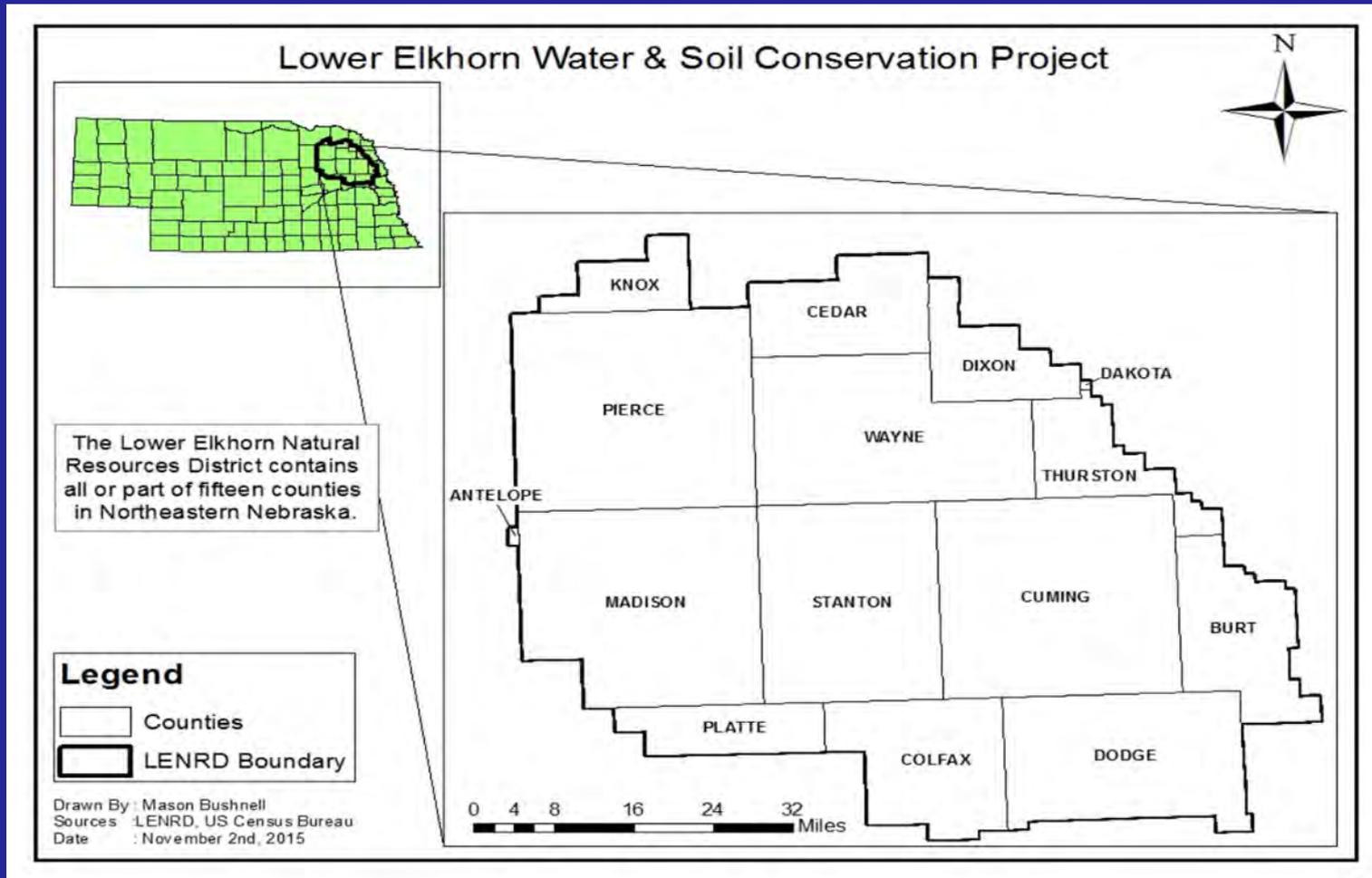
- \$700,000



FY16 RCPP

Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project

- \$400,000

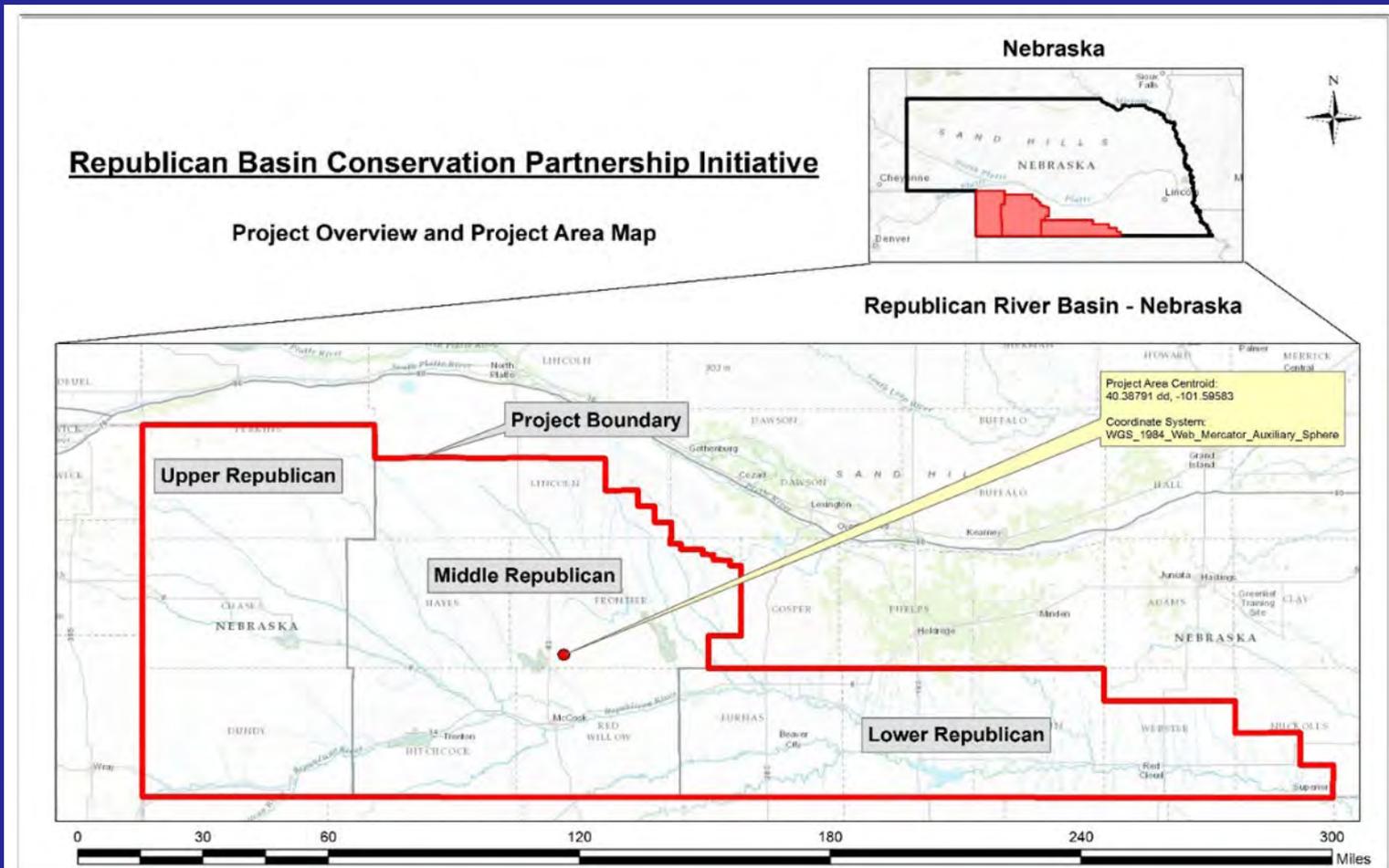


FY16 RCPP

Republican Basin Conservation Partnership

– LRNRD, MRNRD, URNRD

- \$2.1 million

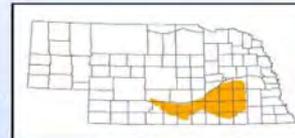


Divots in the Pivots

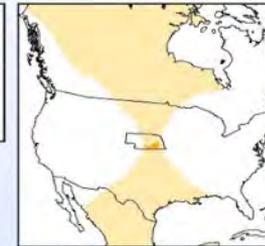
- UBBNRD and RWBJV Partners
- Combination of ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE and EQIP
- \$1.8 million

Divots Under the Pivots

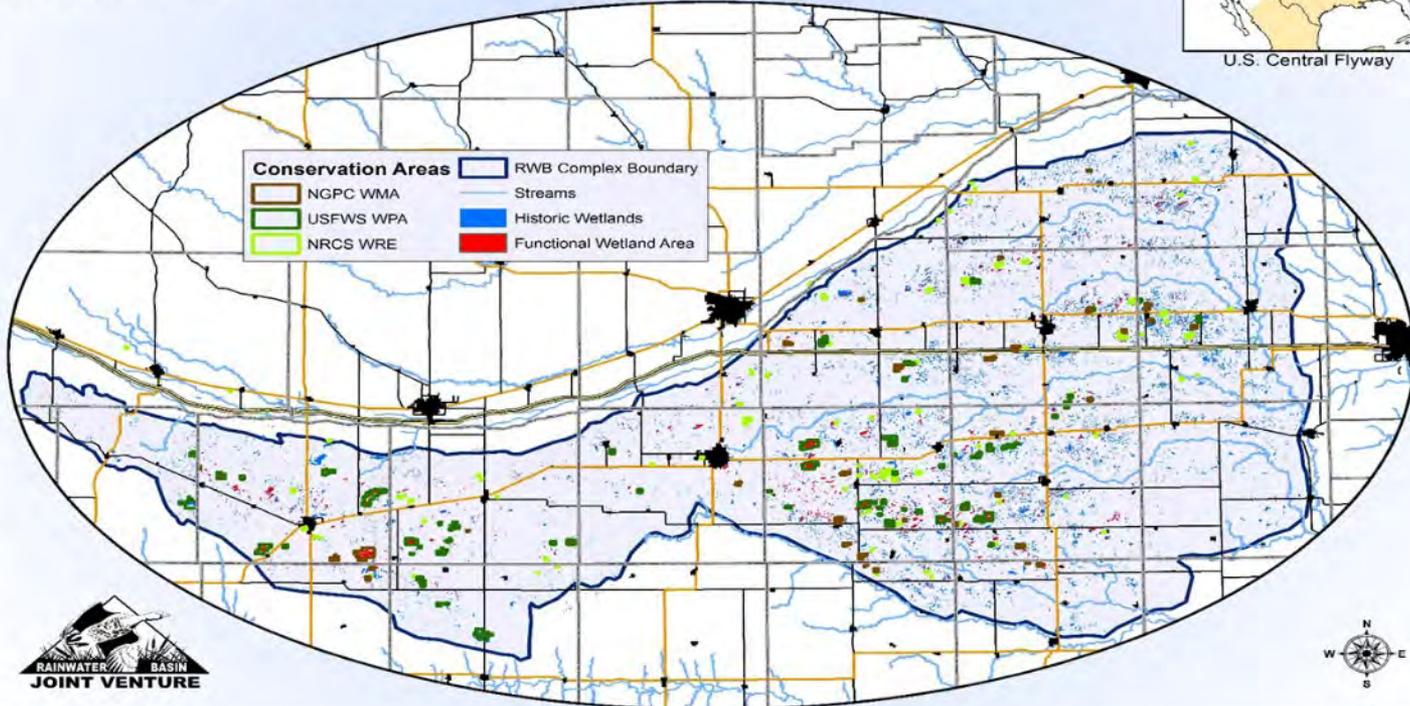
The Rainwater Basin is completely contained in Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 75, the Central Loess Plains. In Nebraska this region lies South of the Platte River and North of the Republican River. This landscape intersects 21 counties including: Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Clay, Dawson, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, Webster, and York. This landscape was characterized by rolling loess plains with deep deposits of wind-blown silt with a high density of clay pan playa wetlands. Historically there were more than 11,000 playa wetlands covering just over 204,000 acres in the RWB (Bishop and Vrtiska 2008). To maximize agriculture production, a majority of the wetlands were drained. Today only 40,000 acres or 20% of the historic wetland acres remain (Bishop and Vrtiska 2008, Raines et al. 1990, Schildman and Hurt 1984), while only 10% of the historic footprints (1,100 footprints) demonstrate some level of function (pond water or grow hydrophytes). Approximately 50% of these functioning wetlands are in public ownership while the others remain in private ownership. Restoration and enhancement of these privately owned 20,500 acres of wetlands are the priority. Based on the Farm Service Agency Common Land Unit these tracts are owned by 2,369 different landowners with 1,576 different farm operators working these lands.



State Location



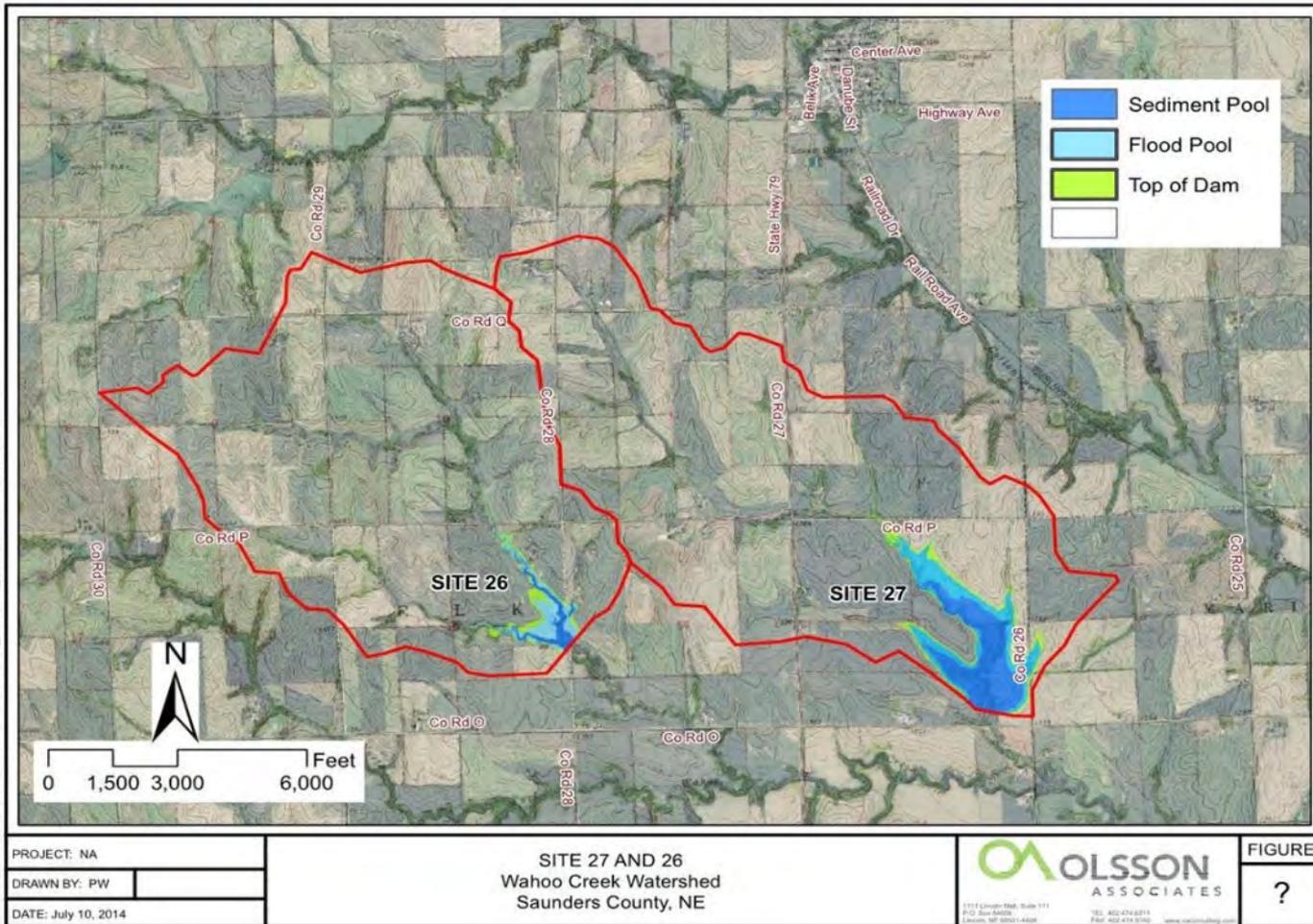
U.S. Central Flyway



FY17 RCPP

Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27

- LPNDRD Partner
- \$1.5 million



FY18 RCPP

- **Papillion Creek Site WP-1 Dam**
 - P-MRNRD Partner
 - \$4.4 million

RCPP APF Timeline – FY2019

- **September 3, 2019:** Announcement of Program Funding (APF) through grants.gov:
 - Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NRCS-NHQ-RCPP-19-01
 - CFDA #: 10.932, Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- **December 3, 2019:** Applications due by 5:00 p.m. EST
- **Results: 4 Proposals submitted involving Nebraska**
- **Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.**

RCPP APF – FY2019

- **Vision and Goals of the Program**

- ***Impact***—RCPP applications must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project's impact and results.

RCPP APF – FY2019

- **Vision and Goals of the Program**

- ***Partner Contributions***—Partners are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage NRCS’s RCPP investments. It is NRCS’s goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in an RCPP project. Substantive and sizable partner contributions are given priority consideration as part of the RCPP application evaluation criteria.

RCPP APF – FY2019

- **Vision and Goals of the Program**

- ***Innovation***—NRCS seeks projects that integrate multiple conservation approaches, implement innovative conservation approaches or technologies, build new partnerships, or effectively take advantage of program flexibilities to deliver conservation solutions.

RCPP APF – FY2019

- **Vision and Goals of the Program**

- *Partnerships and Management*—Partners must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental (and when possible, economic and social) outcomes of an RCPP project. RCPP ranking criteria give priority consideration to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

RCPP FY 19/20 Timeline

<u>RCPP Action</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
RCPP FY 2019 funding announcement released	September 3, 2019
RCPP renewals awards announced	By November 15, 2019
Application period closes	December 3, 2019
RCPP review process initiated	December 4, 2019
RCPP Interim Final Rule released	Late 2019/Early 2020
AFA funding announcement released	Soon after IFR release
RCPP review process complete	January 15, 2020
RCPP award announcement	Week of March 9, 2020
FY 2019 RCPP partnership agreements (including renewals) executed	By mid-June 2020
Next funding announcement released	July 1, 2020
AFA awards announced	Summer 2020

Environmental Quality Incentive Program



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Funding: \$9.1 Billion (increase of \$1.17 billion)

\$1.75 Billion for FY19

\$1.75 Billion for FY20

\$1.8 Billion for FY21

\$1.85 Billion for FY22

\$2.025 Billion for FY23

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Proportion of EQIP funding:
 - **Livestock: 50%** (reduced from 60%) of the funds under the program shall be targeted at practices relating to livestock production and grazing management practices
 - **Wildlife Habitat: At least 10%** (increased from 5%) of the funds under the program shall be targeted at practices benefitting wildlife habitat.
 - Clarifies that contracts entered into solely for wildlife practices can be up to 10 years in length

Source Water Protection Program

- Dedicate at least **10 percent** of the total funds available for conservation programs (with the exception of CRP), each year, to be used for source water protection.
- STCs working with the State Technical Committee, public water utilities and the State drinking water agency must select initial local priority areas where we can anticipate targeting approximately 10 percent of conservation program funding to benefit source water protection.

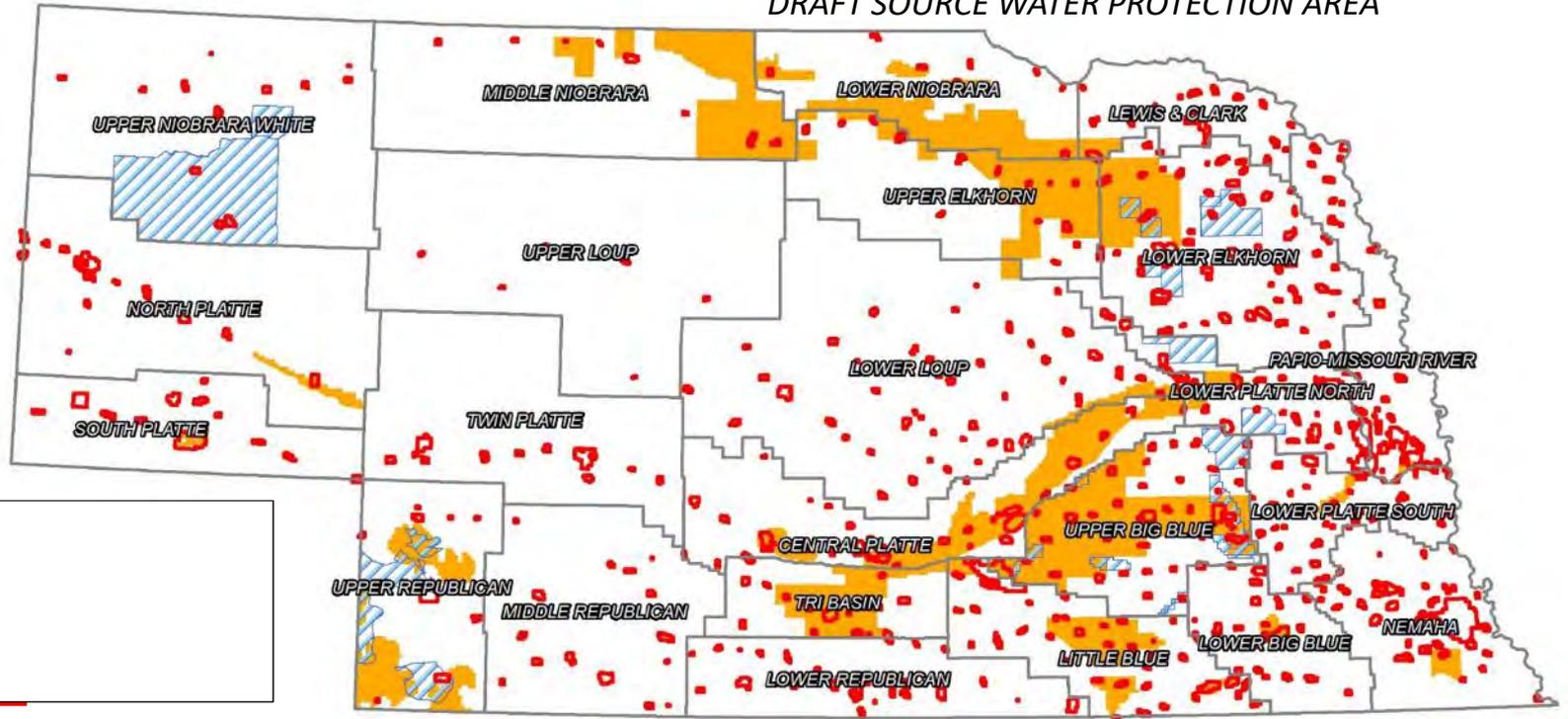
Source Water Protection Program

- Addresses excessive nutrients, and other impairments of drinking water sources (ground water or surface water).
- Addresses the conservation of water to advance drought mitigation
- Practice incentive payments for this initiative will go to EQIP eligible owners/operators of agricultural land who install conservation practices relating to water quality and quantity.
- States can select up to 10 conservation practices to be eligible for 90% practice payment rate.

Source Water Protection Program

- Is geographically located to address a national resource concern in a specific watershed.
- Focus of initiative is the protection of community water systems that is defined by 25 people or more, 15 or more service connections, year-round.
- In Nebraska, 99% of municipalities use ground water as their source of drinking water.
- Groundwater Management Areas – may be eligible if they encompass several community water systems.

DRAFT SOURCE WATER PROTECTION AREA



The Phase 2-4 and Quantity Management Areas that intersect a Wellhead Protection Area define the medium priority level.

Total Medium & High Priority Areas: 8,006,050 acres

Source Water Protection Practice List

* High priority practices with potential up to 90% c/s rate

- 327 Conservation Cover
- *328 Conservation Crop Rotation
- 332 Contour Buffer Strips
- *340 Cover Crop
- 342 Critical Area Planting
- 355 Well Water Testing
- 386 Field Border
- 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393 Filter Strip
- 412 Grassed Waterway
- *449 Irrigation Water Management
- *590 Nutrient Management
- 635 Vegetated Treatment Area
- 656 Constructed Wetland

Source Water Protection Practice List

* High priority practices with potential up to 90% c/s rate

- 351 Water Well Decommissioning
- 430 Irrigation Pipeline
- *441 Irrigation System, Micro irrigation
- *442 Sprinkler System
- 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
- 550 Range Planting
- *595 Integrated Pest Management
- 657 Wetland Restoration
- 659 Wetland Enhancement

EQIP Allocation Formula

FY 2020

2020 Statewide Fund Pools

- Source Water Protection – 10%
- Wildlife Initiative – 10%
- Historically Underserved – 10%
- Livestock – 50%

FY2020 STATEWIDE FUND POOLS

- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Organic
- Energy
- Conservation Activity Plans
- Animal Feeding Operations
- Tribal
- HEL Treatment

FY2020 STATEWIDE FUND POOLS

➤ Working Lands For Wildlife

- Target Species

- Greater Prairie Chicken
- American Burying Beetle

- Project Goal

- Use EQIP to modify current livestock grazing infrastructure to achieve desired habitat conditions and increased profitability

➤ Forestry Service Partnership

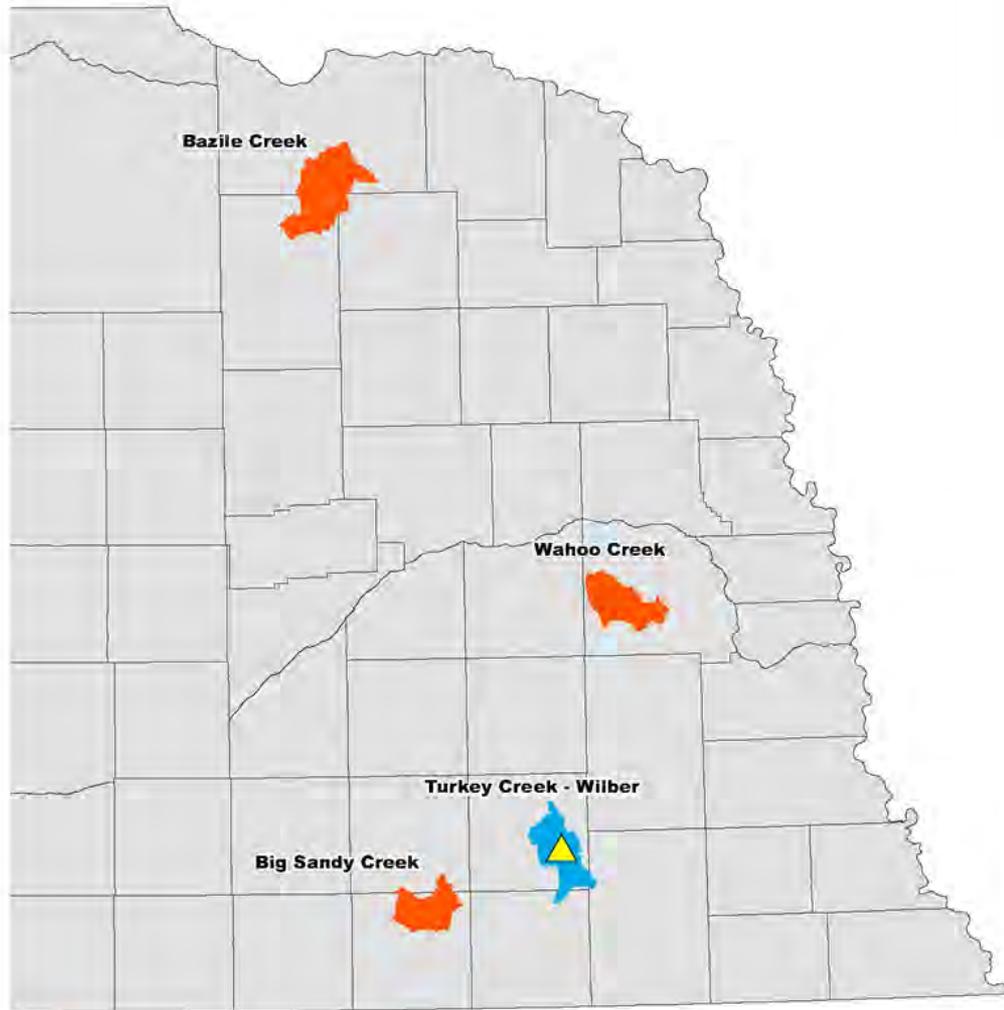
- UNWNRD, MNNRD, ULNRD

➤ National Water Quality Initiative

National Water Quality Initiative

- Wahoo Creek - Saunders
- Bazile Creek – Antelope, Pierce, Knox
- Big Sandy Creek – Little Blue NRD
- Turkey Creek – Lower Big Blue NRD
 - Readiness Phase Project

Nebraska NWQI FY 2019 Watersheds

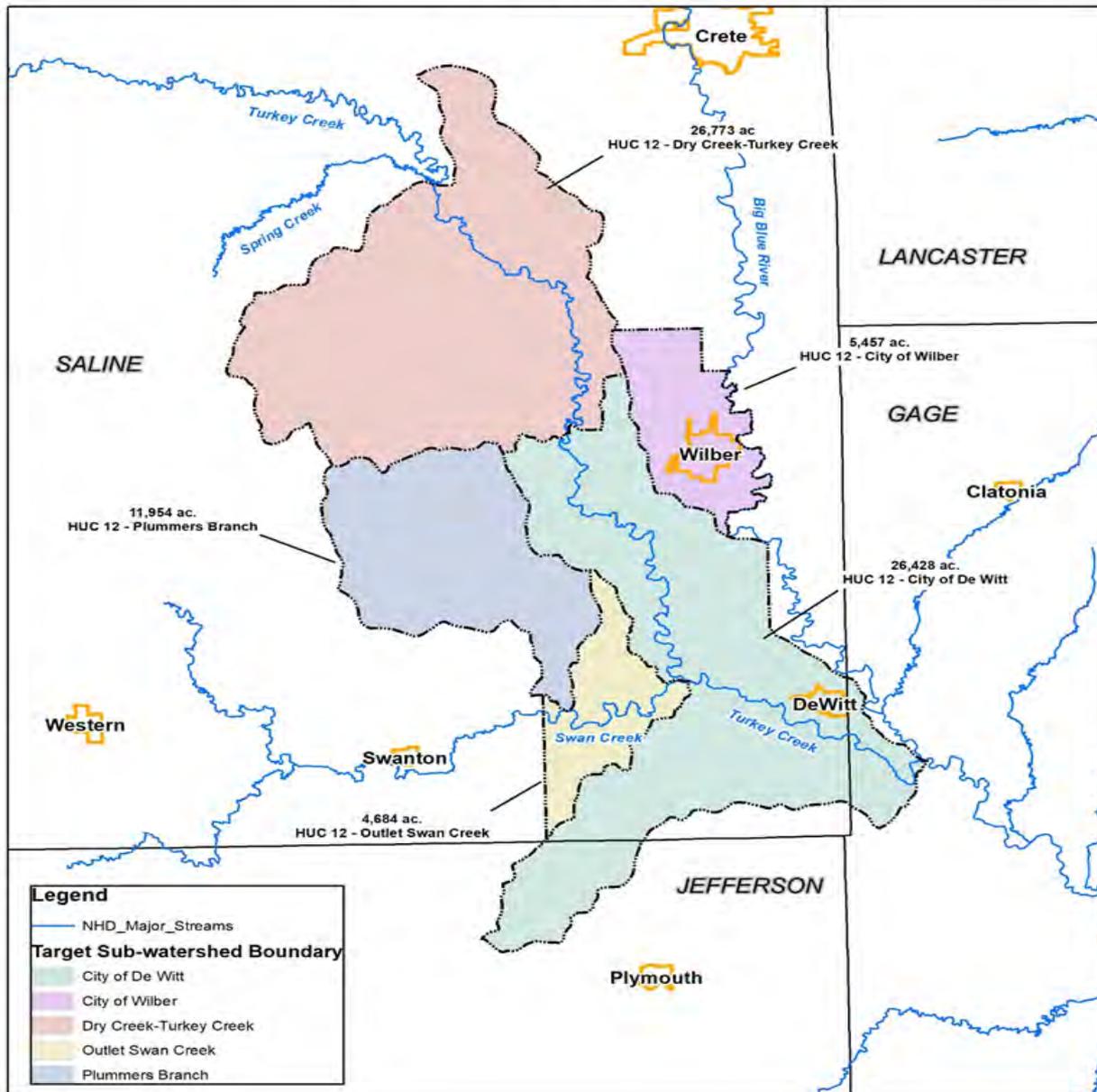


 **FY2019 NWQI Watersheds
(Implementation Phase Priority Areas)**

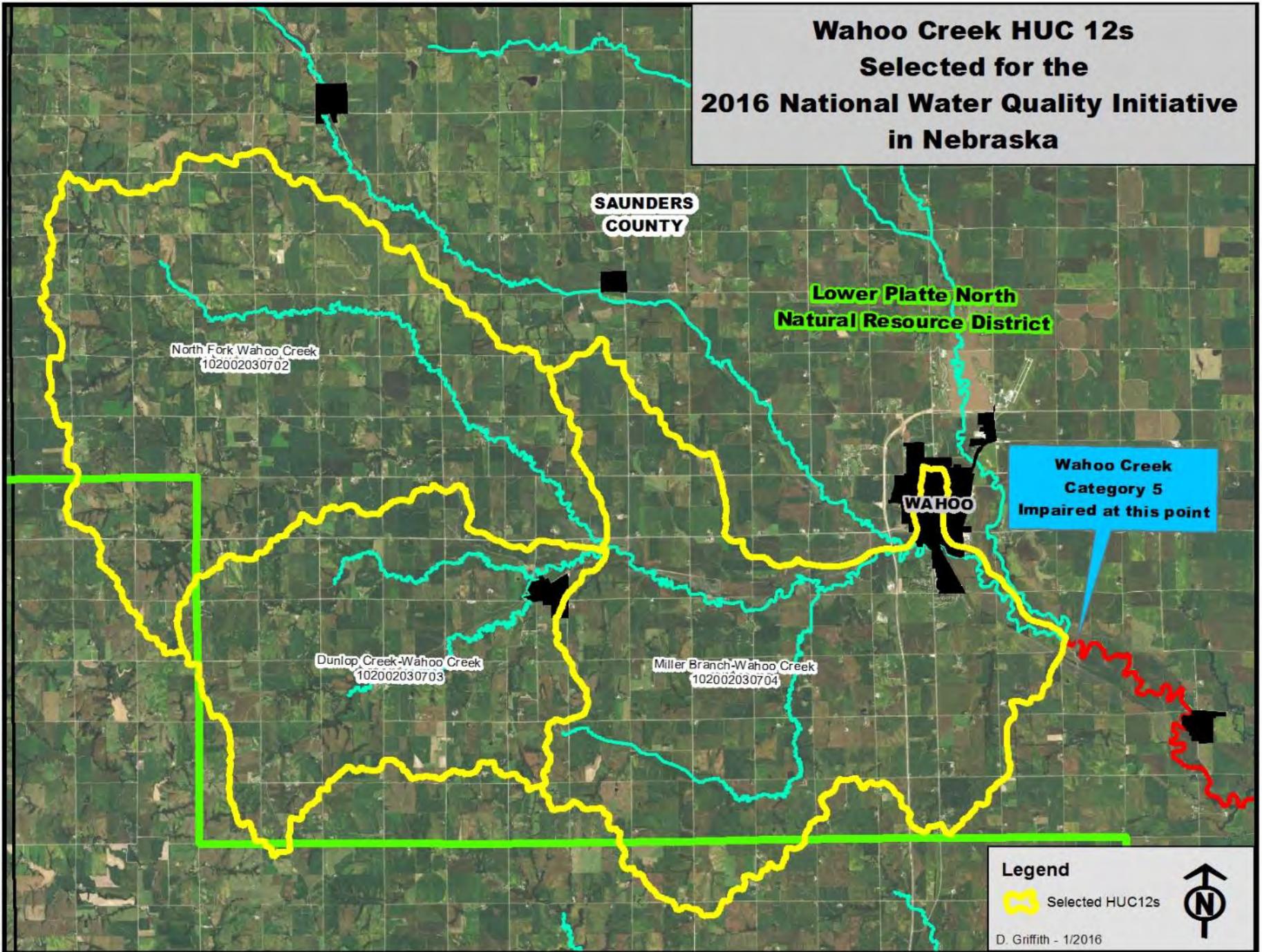
 **FY2019 NWQI Watershed Assessments
(Planning Phase Priority Areas)**

 **Source Water Protection Areas - FY 2019
(Planning Phase)**

TURKEY CREEK PRIORITY SUB-WATERSHED MAP FINAL NWQI BOUNDARY



Wahoo Creek HUC 12s Selected for the 2016 National Water Quality Initiative in Nebraska



SAUNDERS
COUNTY

Lower Platte North
Natural Resource District

North Fork Wahoo Creek
102002030702

Dunlop Creek-Wahoo Creek
102002030703

Miller Branch-Wahoo Creek
102002030704

WAHOO

Wahoo Creek
Category 5
Impaired at this point

Legend

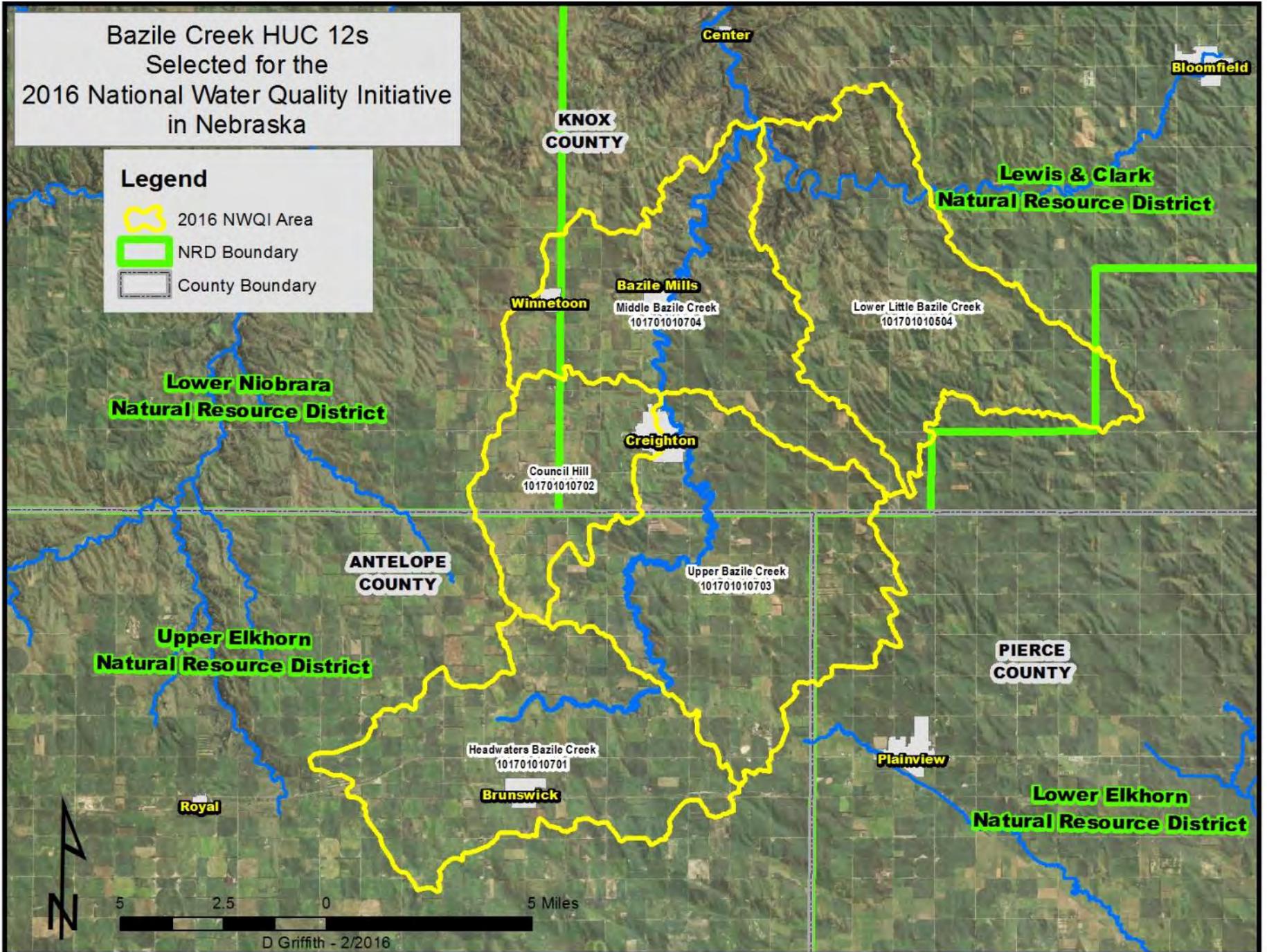
 Selected HUC12s



Bazile Creek HUC 12s
Selected for the
2016 National Water Quality Initiative
in Nebraska

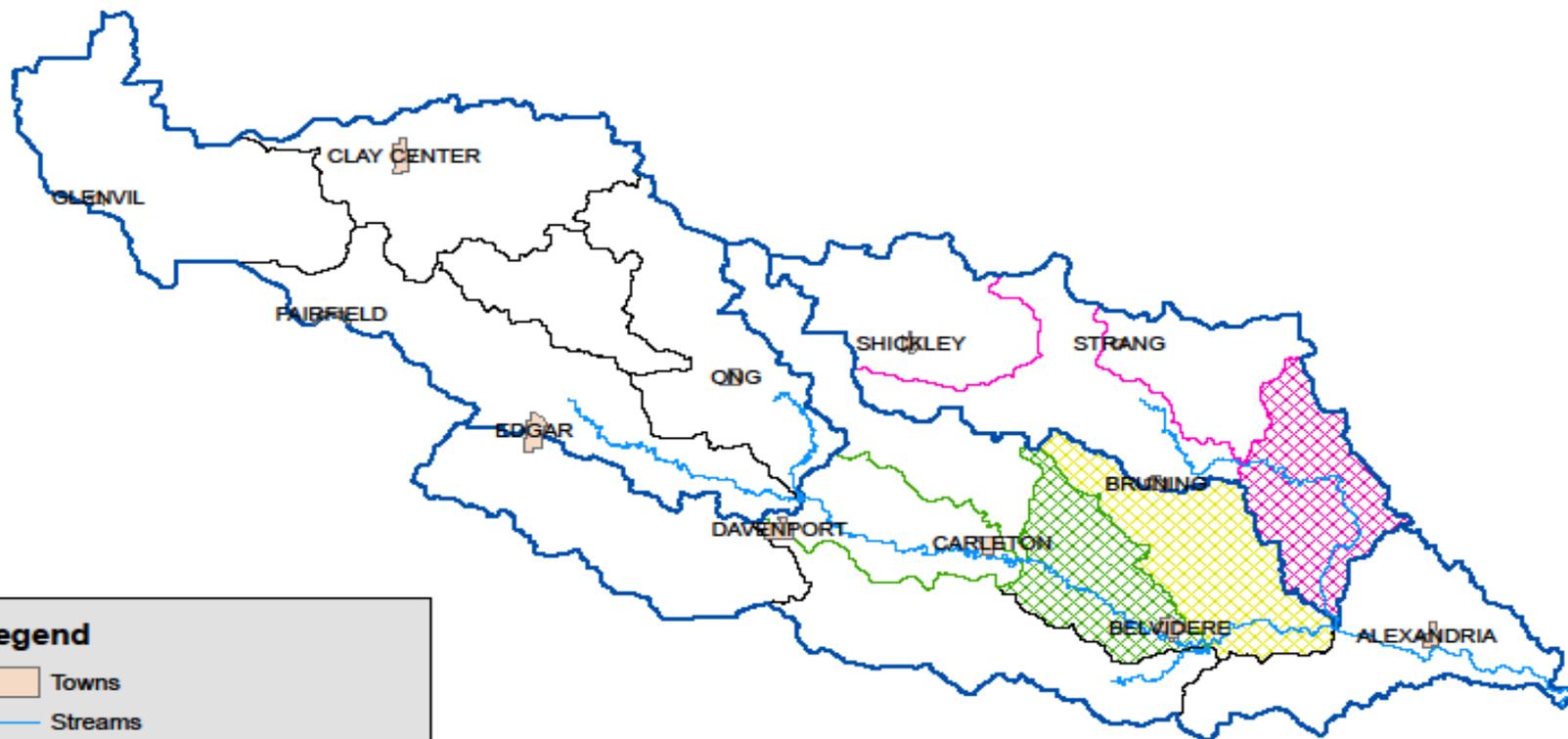
Legend

- 2016 NWQI Area
- NRD Boundary
- County Boundary





Big Sandy Creek - NWQI Target Watersheds



Legend

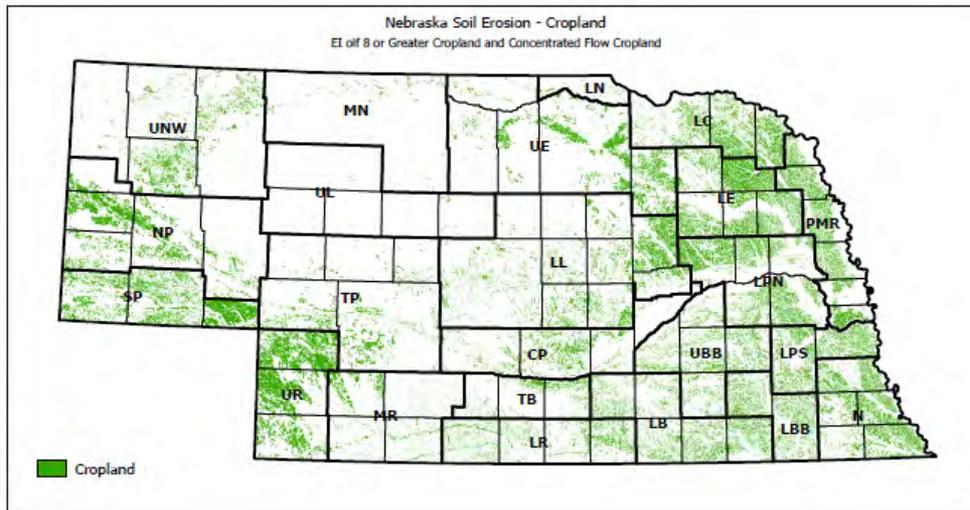
- Towns
- Streams
- Big Sandy Creek HUC 10s
- HUC 12s
- HUC 12: City of Belvidere
- HUC 12: Big Sandy Creek
- HUC 12: Outlet Dry Sandy Creek



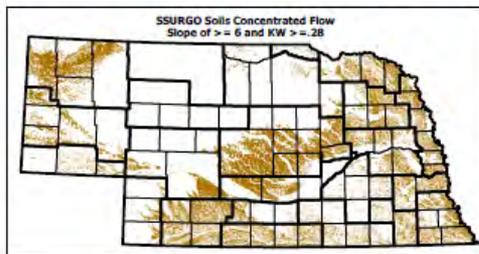
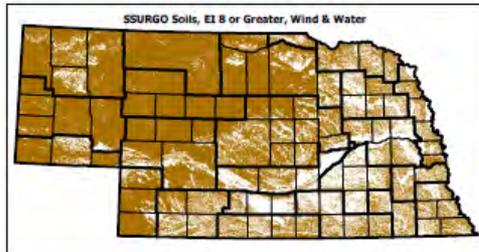
2020 Local Work Group Fund Pools

- Allocation provided to 23 Local Work Groups
 - Allocations to local work groups are based on Resource Concern Critical Acres

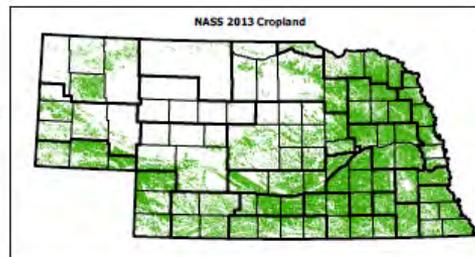
Resource_Concern	Nebraska Derived Critical Ac based on Statewide Datasets (w/Fert Ac)	% of Nebraska Derived Critical Acres	Manual Adjustmen ts	Ex: \$15,967,994 to distribute based on Nebraska Derived Critical Ac %'s
Soil Erosion	13,921,289	23.1%		\$ 3,687,204
Soil Quality Degradation	1,458,536	2.4%		\$ 386,309
Excess Water	-	0.0%		\$ -
Water Quality Degradation	15,372,612	25.5%		\$ 4,071,602
Degraded Plant Condition	6,879,003	11.4%		\$ 1,821,978
Air Quality		0.0%		\$ -
Livestock Production Limitation	15,000,505	24.9%		\$ 3,973,046
Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife		0.0%		\$ -
Insufficient Water	7,656,306	12.7%		\$ 2,027,855
Totals for Local Pools	60,288,250			\$ 15,967,994



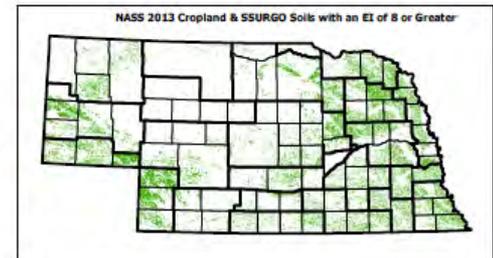
Resource Concern – Soil Erosion on Cropland



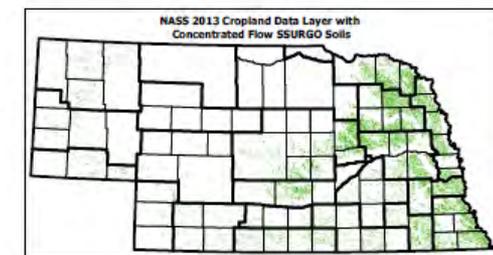
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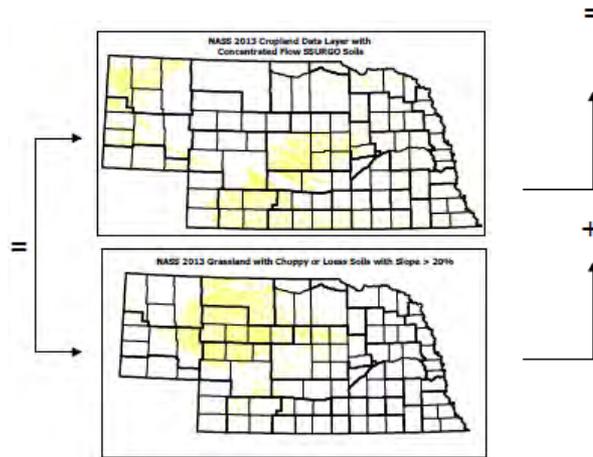
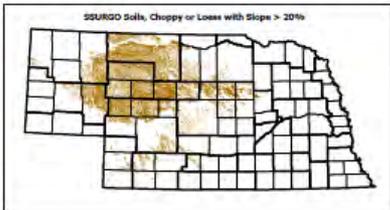
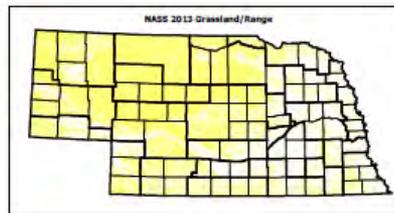
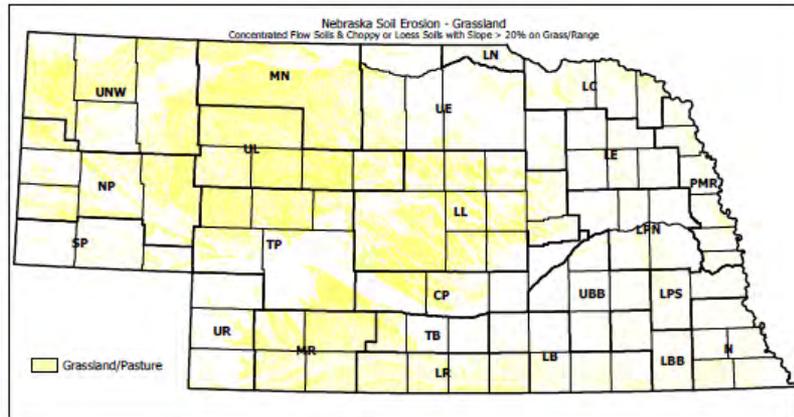


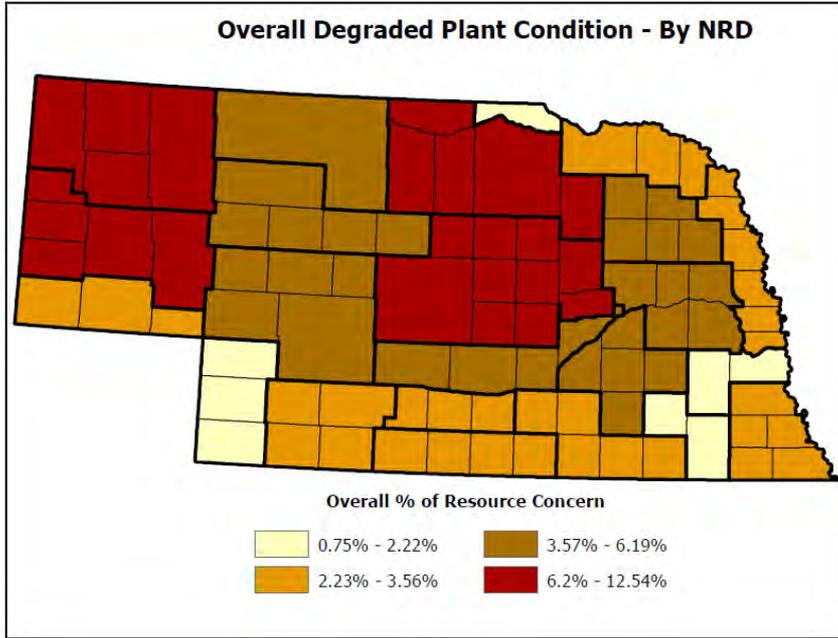
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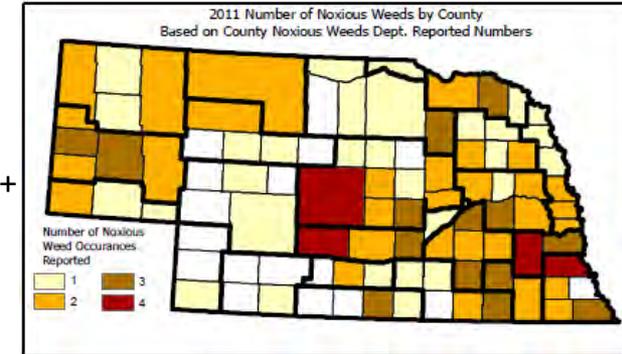
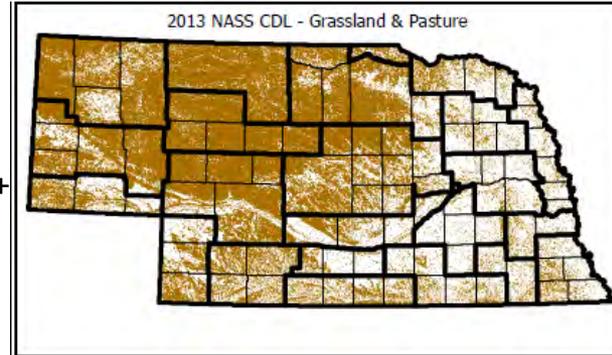
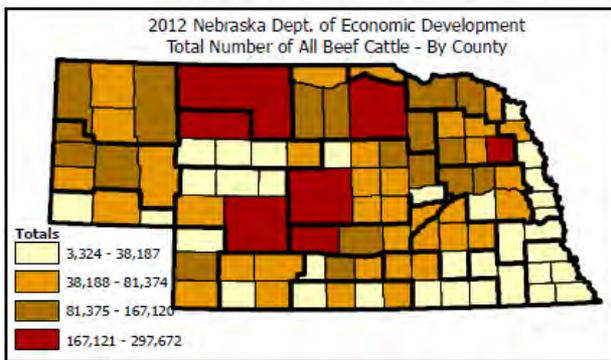
Resource Concern – Soil Erosion on Grassland





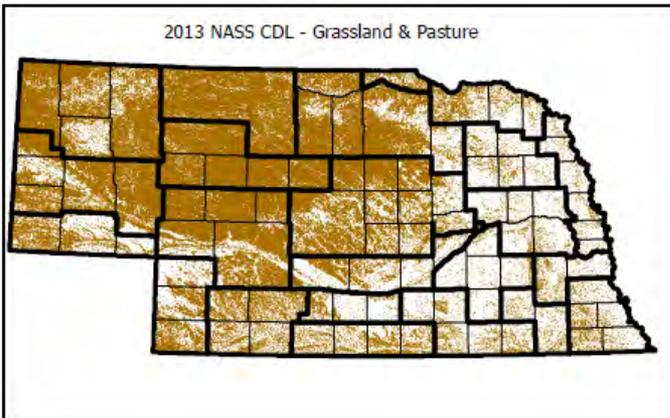
Resource Concern
 Degraded Plant Condition on Grassland/Pasture
 Undesirable plant productivity & Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

The map to the left represents all factors listed below by the overall percentage that each NRD has of the individual resource factors. Those factors are: Total number of cattle, Total acres of grassland/pasture, and Total number of instances of unique noxious weed occurrences.

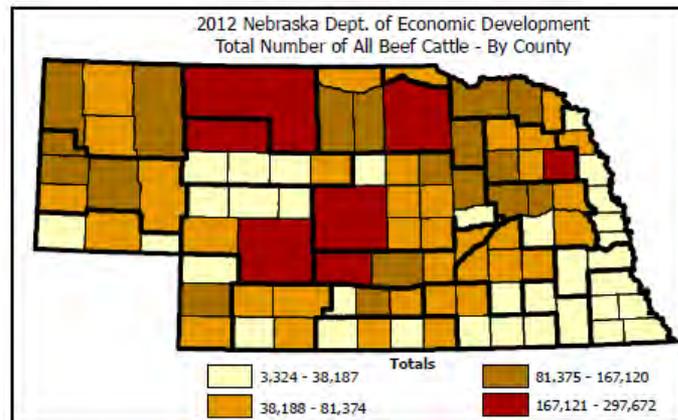


Resource Concern - Livestock Production Limitation On Grassland/Pasture

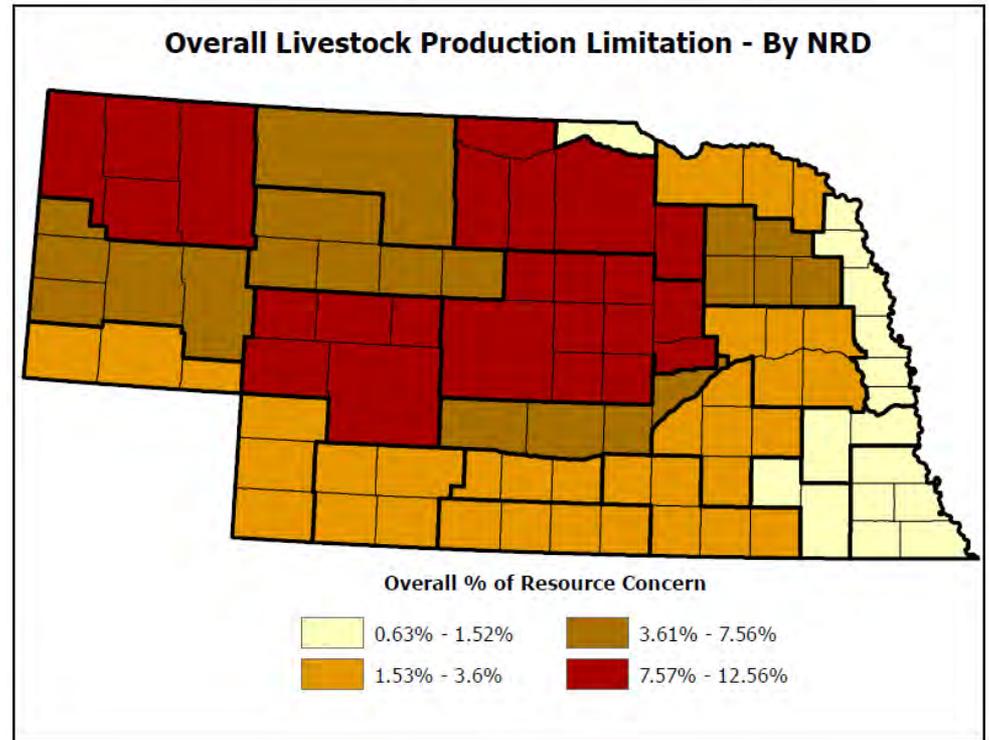
Inadequate livestock shelter



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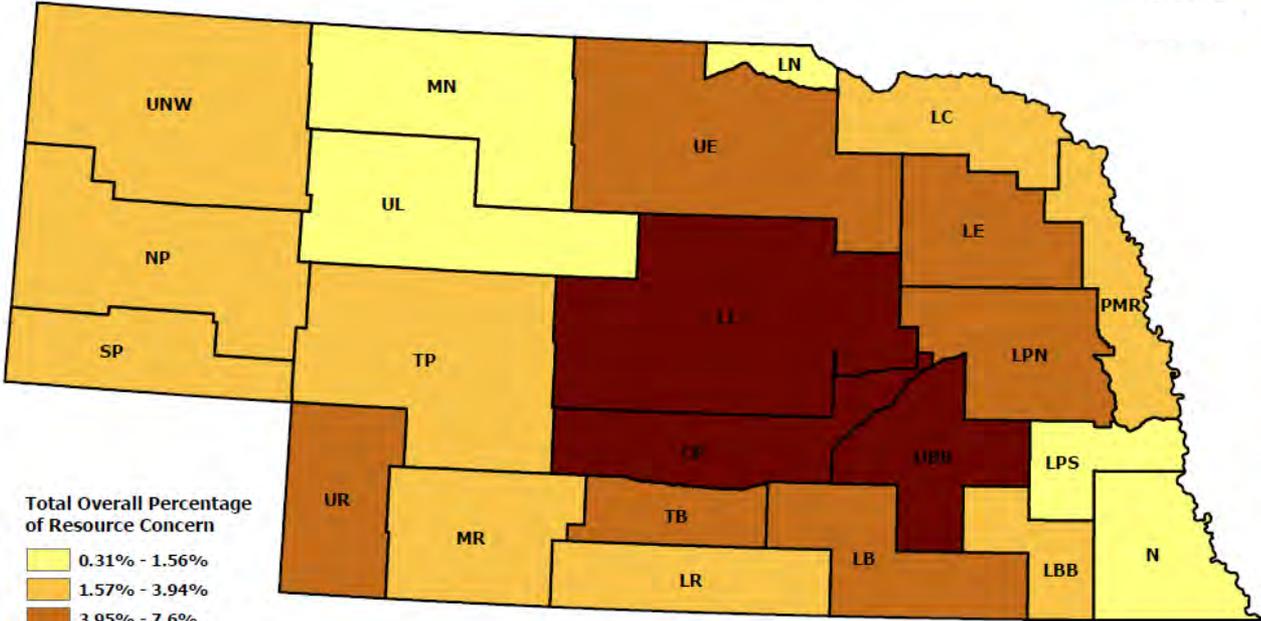
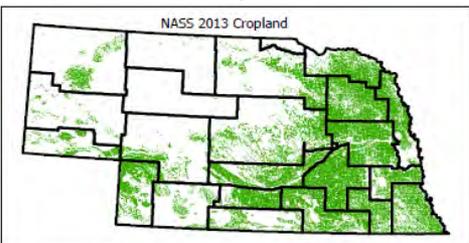
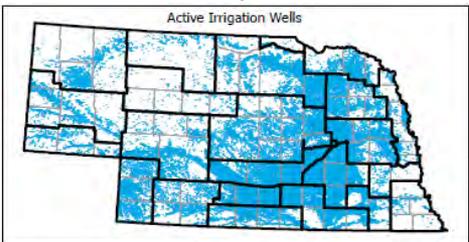
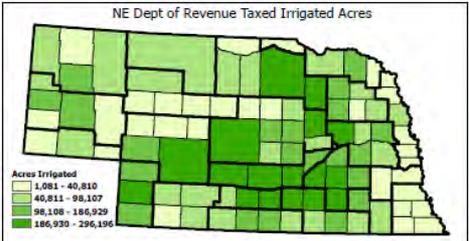
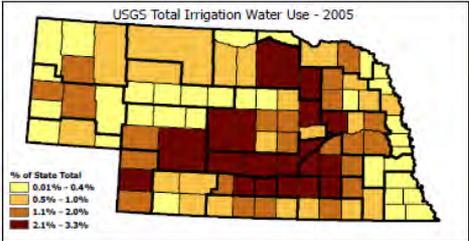


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This map represents all factors listed below by the overall percentage that each NRD has of the individual resource factors. Factors: Total number of cattle, Total acres of grassland/pasture.

Resource Concern – Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water on Cropland

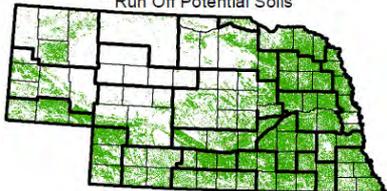


This map represents all factors listed below by the overall percentage that each NRD has of the individual resource factors. Factors: Total Taxed Irrigated Acres, Irrigation Wells, USGS 2005 Acres Surface Irrigated, NASS 2013 Total Cropland Ac.

Resource Concern Water Quality Degradation

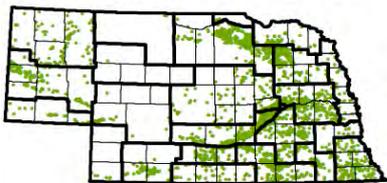
Excess nutrients & Pathogens in surface & ground waters

2013 NASS Crops with Med - High Run Off Potential Soils



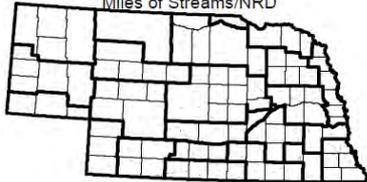
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Number of High Nitrate Wells per NRD



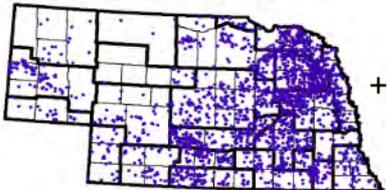
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303d Listed Streams - Nutrients Miles of Streams/NRD



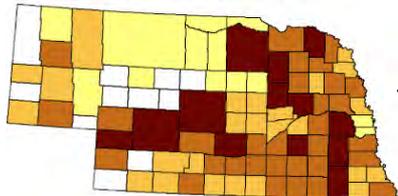
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2004 Permitted CAFOs



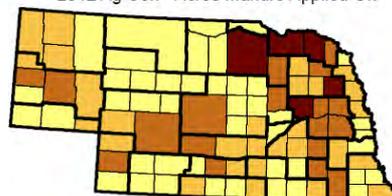
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2012 AgCen - Crop Ac Fertilized

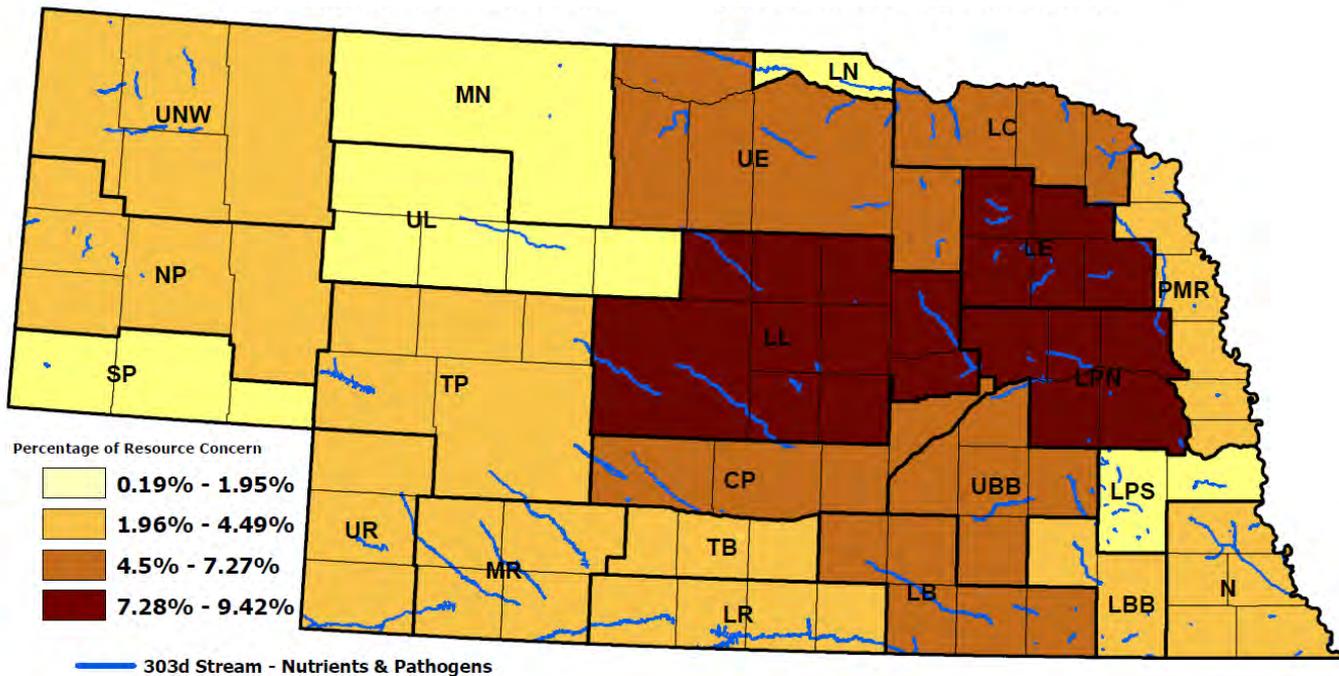


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2012 Ag Cen - Acres Manure Applied On



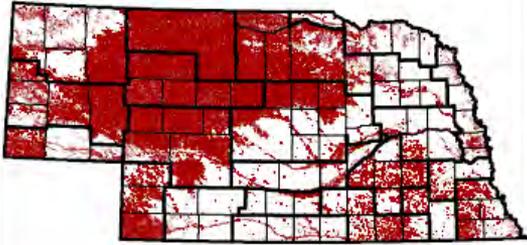
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Resource Concern Soil Quality Degradation

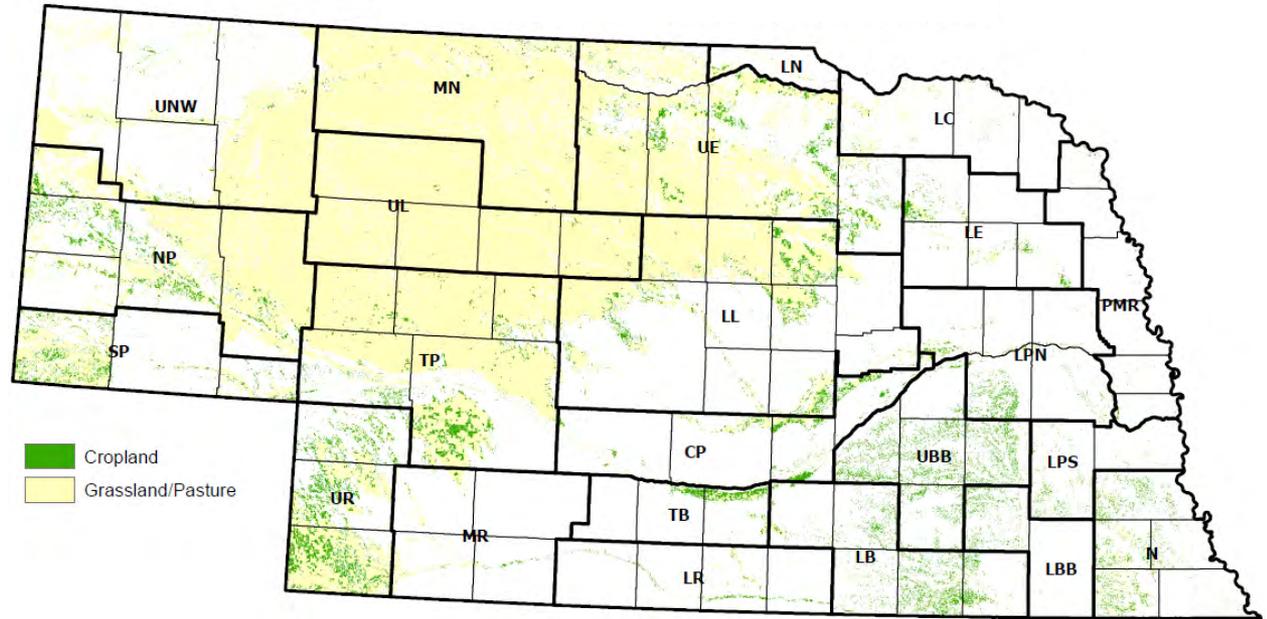
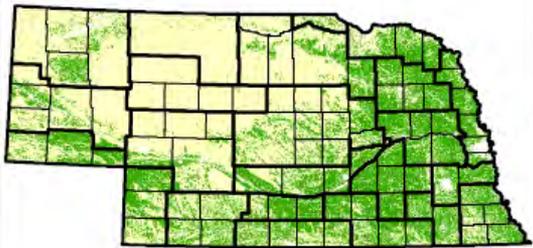
Organic matter depletion, Cropland/Grassland/Pasture

SSURGO Soils Organic Matter 0.9 or less



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2013 NASS Cropland, Grassland & Pasture

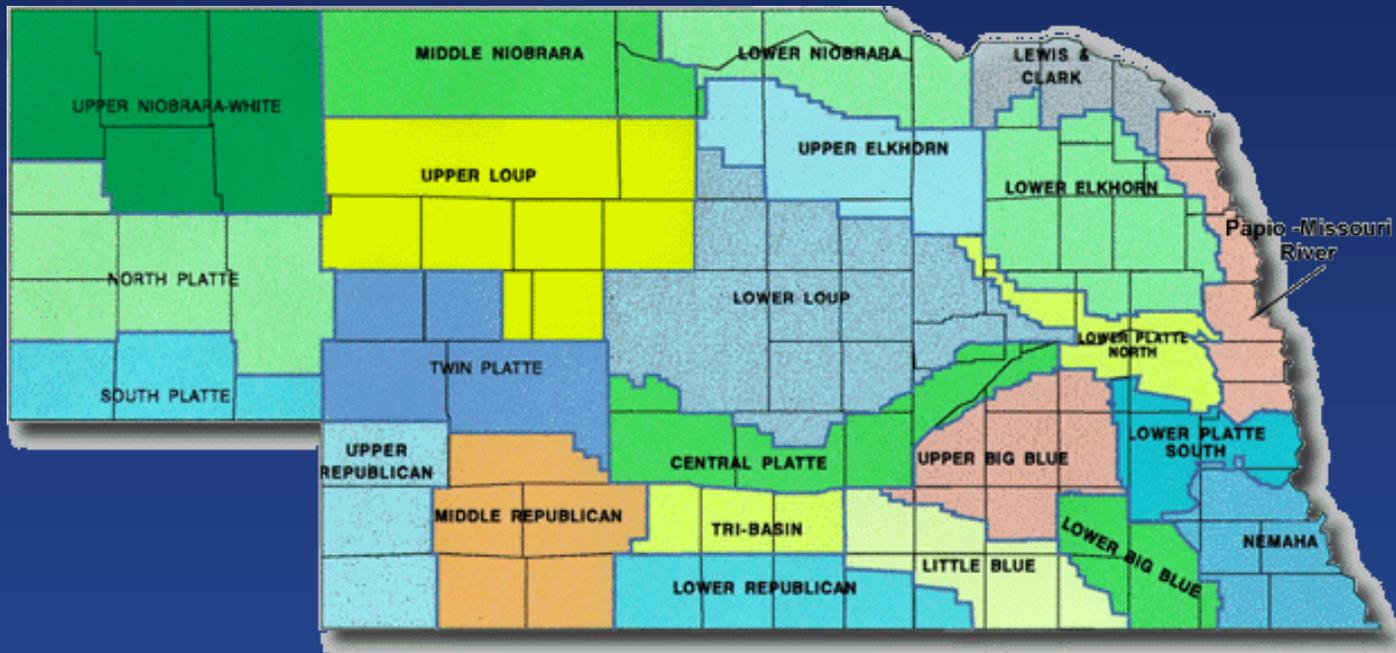


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Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Local Work Groups



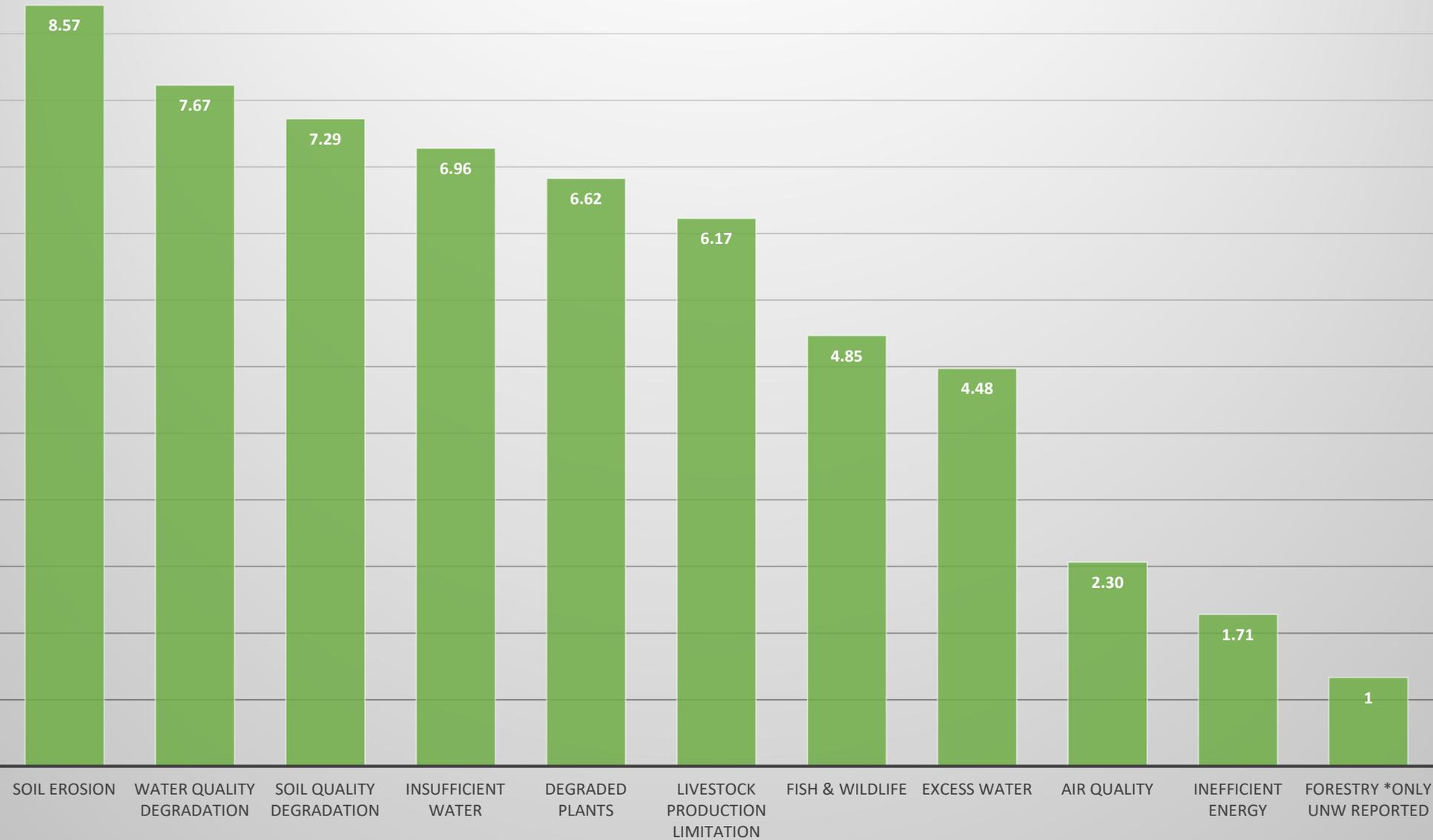
LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS

- Meetings completed in January/February 2020
- LOCAL WORK GROUP AGENDA ITEMS:
 - Priority Resource Concerns
 - Fund Pool - Ranking Tools – Screening Tools
 - Revised ranking process for FY2020 – CART
 - Practice Payment Schedule
 - Local issues

SUMMARY: Priority Resource Concerns

- 1) Soil Erosion
- 2) Water Quality degradation
- 3) Soil Quality Degradation
- 4) Insufficient Water
- 5) Degraded Plants
- 6) Livestock Production Limitation
- 7) Fish and Wildlife
- 8) Excess Water
- 9) Air Quality
- 10) Inefficient Energy

Resource Concern Priorities - Statewide Results



FY2020 EQIP State Policy Decisions

- FY2020 LWG/NRCS Recommended and Approved by STC
 - Revised policy on EQIP payments for Eastern Red Cedar
 - End option for irrigated to dry re-enrollment
 - EQIP application cutoff date - TBD
 - Applications ranked/Preapproved - TBD
- Multiple adjustments to practice scenarios and payment rates
 - Integrated Pest Management (595) – Develop new scenario for a non-atrazine alternative for corn to protect surface water quality and assist with managing herbicide resistance
 - Brush Management (314) – Develop “Ultra Low Density” scenario

FY2020 EQIP State Policy Decisions

- FY2020 LWG/NRCS Recommended and approved by STC
- Practice Payment caps
 - Establish \$10,000 payment cap for Nutrient Management (590)
 - Establish \$80,000 payment cap for Waste Storage Facility (313)
 - Establish \$10,000 payment cap for Integrated Pest Mgmt. (595)
 - Retain existing payment caps:
 - (340) Cover Crop - \$7,500
 - (329) No Till - \$5,000
 - (528) Prescribed Grazing, Adaptive Mgmt - \$15,0000
 - (327) Conservation Cover - \$7,500
 - (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. - \$7,500

Questions?



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