

**Central Platte Natural Resources District's
Groundwater Quality Management Requirements**

Rules & Regulations

**Corn, sorghum and potato growers in the Central Platte NRD
must adhere to the following regulations**

Phase I - between 0 & 7.5 ppm; Phase II - between 7.6 & 15 ppm; Phase III - 15.1 ppm or higher

Phase IV - Areas where nitrate levels are not declining at an acceptable rate

**Because NRDs do not have the authority to regulate surface water, surface water irrigators
are not required to take water samples or monitor water applications**

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
Fall applications of N fertilizer on sandy soils are prohibited.	X	X	X	X
Fall N applications on heavy soils are permitted after November 1.	X			
Application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer is prohibited on all soils until after March 1st.		X	X	X
Commercial nitrogen fertilizer can be applied on sandy soils after March 1 .	X	X		
Spring application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer will require split application [pre-plant/pre-emergent and sidedress (post-emergent)] or the use of an approved inhibitor on corn and sorghum. Up to 80 pounds of pre-plant/pre-emergent nitrogen can be applied without an inhibitor. Operators who pre-plant/pre-emergent apply are required to furnish certification from dealer than inhibitor was used at the recommended rate.			X	X
A report must be submitted each crop year to Central Platte NRD. The first half must be submitted by March 1 . The report must list the expected yields, acres, crop, water and soil tests, credits for past legume crop and manure or sludge, and the District's recommended nitrogen application rate. Laboratory reports for soil and water analysis MUST be attached . After harvest, a form will be provided to the producer to complete the annual report. The report will list actual yields, fertilizer applied as pre-emergent or sidedress, and irrigation water applied. This form will be due by December 31 .		X	X	X
An annual deep soils analysis for residual nitrogen (NO ₃ -N) on each field or 80 acre tract growing corn, sorghum or potatoes, whichever is smaller, with the analysis to be conducted by a laboratory participating in the University of Nebraska Soil Testing Program. A composite sample tested must consist of a mixture from no less than one three-foot probe every five acres. The report from the lab must be attached to the annual report .		X	X	X
A groundwater analysis for nitrogen (NO ₃ -N) content on each field growing corn, grain sorghum or potatoes must be made annually . The report from the lab must be attached to the annual report .		X	X	X
If manure or sludge is used, a credit for the nitrogen in the manure or sludge must be used in the calculation for the nitrogen recommendation. A laboratory analysis must be conducted for each source of manure or sludge and attached to the report form.		X	X	X
A credit for previous year's crop if the previous year was in beans, alfalfa, etc., must be used in the calculation for the nitrogen recommendation on corn and sorghum.		X	X	X
The expected yield to be set by the District (last 5 year average of regulated crop + 5%)				X
Nitrogen applications must not exceed District Recommendations with a copy of a fertilizer receipt attached to the annual report.				X
NRD Staff work with individuals on best management practices				X
Farm operators using nitrogen fertilizer must be certified .		X	X	X
Operators must monitor groundwater applications to allow for the better management of fertilizer applications and control leaching of nitrates.		X	X	X
Phase II, III and IV areas can be established in the future based on N levels in Vadose Zone or based upon nitrate levels not declining at an acceptable rate as determined by the Board of Directors.		X	X	X