

**Central Platte Natural Resources District
Rules and Regulations**

Commodity crop growers must adhere to the following regulations

Phase I - between 0 & 7.5 ppm; Phase II - between 7.6 & 10 ppm; Phase III - 10.1 ppm or higher
Phase IV - Areas where nitrate levels are not declining at an acceptable rate

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
1. Fall applications of N fertilizer on sandy soils are prohibited.	X	X	X	X
2. Fall N applications on non-sandy soils are prohibited until after November 1.	X	X	X	X
3. Application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer is prohibited on all soils until after March 1st.			X	X
4. Spring (after March 1) applications of commercial nitrogen fertilizer: (a) Split applications, either pre-plant, pre-emergent or post-emergent, when less than 50% of actual nitrogen is being applied as pre-plant or pre-emergent, (b) If more than 50% is applied as pre-plant or pre-emergent, the operator is required to furnish documentation that a nitrogen inhibitor was used at the recommended rate, (c) In cases where the total application is 80 lbs per acre of nitrogen or less, a nitrogen inhibitor is not required, (d) No restrictions if all nitrogen fertilizer is applied post-emergent.			X	X
5. Farm operators using nitrogen fertilizer must be certified. Certification good for 4 years.		X	X	X
6. All crops must be reported (including corn, sorghum, potatoes, beans, alfalfa, small grains and any other commodity crop), on District approved report forms. Reports will be due each crop year by March 31st and include the legal description of well(s) irrigating the crop, acres of each crop and the crop planted. Soil and water tests are <u>not</u> required on crops other than corn, sorghum and potatoes.		X	X	X
7. In addition to the above, the report for corn, sorghum, and potatoes must list the following for the upcoming crop year : expected yields, water and soil test results, credits for past legume crop and manure or sludge, and the UNL's recommended nitrogen application rate. The report will also include the following for the previous crop year : actual yields, fertilizer applied as pre-emergent or sidedress, and irrigation water applied. Laboratory reports for soil, water and manure analysis, and an inhibitor receipt if used, must be submitted with the annual report.		X	X	X
8. 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
9. 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
10. 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
11. 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
12. Operators must monitor groundwater applications to allow for the better management of fertilizer applications and control leaching of nitrates.		X	X	X
13. Nitrogen applications must not exceed District recommendations with a copy of a fertilizer receipt attached to the annual report.				X
14. NRD staff work with individuals on best management practices				X
15. The expected yield to be set by the District (last 5 year average of regulated crop + 5%)				X
16. Phase II, III and IV areas can be established based upon nitrate levels not declining at an acceptable rate or based on N levels in the Vadose Zone as determined by the Board of Directors.		X	X	X