

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deb VanMatre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She reported that the NRD abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business and said that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the south wall of the conference room. The Board reserves the right to change the order of an item on the agenda, and some items on the agenda are subject to closed session.

ATTENDANCE: Board members present by roll call were:

Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	John Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
Amy Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Kevin Werner
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: Todd Arends, Barry Obermiller and Luke Ourada

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Collin Quandt – Agronomist and Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – District Conservationist and Jason Scholz – Resources Conservationist Grand Island Office

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman VanMatre reported that the notices of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island Independent, and the news release was provided to other media outlets in the district.

MEETING MINUTES: Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the February board meeting minutes. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Maser who abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Chairman VanMatre asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman VanMatre asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman VanMatre reported that Todd Arends, Barry Obermiller and Luke Ourada requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORTS: Jason Scholz, Resource Conservationist, reviewed the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP) (see attached).

Joe Krolikowski, District Conservationist, reviewed the current CRP enrollment (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, presented a video to the board on the progress of the building.

Reynolds reported that a quote from Five Nines Technology Group was reviewed. The quote was for a Wireless Predictive Design in the amount of \$3,193.75 for the new office building. The design will determine the best access point placement, coverage areas, capacity planning, and channel/power configurations to meet the connectivity needs of Central Platte NRD.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the Five Nines Technology Group quote in the amount of \$3,193.75 for the Wireless Predictive Design for the new office building. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Reynolds reported on a change order with Rogge General Contractor with an estimated amount up to \$550,000. The change order will add 11 offices, a breakroom and a conference room in the basement of the new office building for another entity to occupy.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to accept a change order with Rogge General Contractor with an estimated amount up to \$550,000 for the addition of 11 offices, a breakroom and a conference room in the basement of the new office building for another entity to occupy. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Charles Maser, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Maser reported that Clear Creek #6 Dam near Shelby, NE that Central Platte NRD owns, which is classified as a High Hazard Dam, needs improvements due to safety inspections done in 2024. A bid from Kokes Construction of Ord in the amount of \$72,095.30 was received. The bid includes improvements to the surface embankment and adding gravel,

seeding, fertilizer, mulch and fencing with gates.

Charles Maser made a motion to approve the bid from Kokes Construction in the amount of \$72,095.30 for the repairs on Clear Creek #6 Dam. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Milner reported that two contracts were received from the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) to receive reimbursements through the One Red Grant (federal dollars) and Water Resources Cash Fund (state dollars). The reimbursement funds will support the Pilot Nitrogen Technology Program. The total available for the contracts equal \$900,000 and 45,000 acres. Central Platte NRD will administer the program and request reimbursement from DWEE.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the One Red Grant and Water Resources Cash Fund contracts in order to receive reimbursement for the Pilot Nitrogen Technology Program through the Department of Water, Energy and Environment with total availability of \$900,000 and 45,000 acres. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Milner reported that a contract from Sentinel Ag was reviewed. This contract is to provide Passthrough Payments from DWEE to Sentinel Ag for the Pilot Nitrogen Technology Program.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the Sentinel Passthrough Agreement for the Pilot Nitrogen Technology Program. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Milner reported that a contract from Seim Ag Technology was received in the amount of \$650,661.00. This contract purchases 100 flow meters with telemetry and maintenance. The Central Platte NRD received a WaterSmart grant to install 100 flow meters with telemetry across our district.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the contract with Seim Ag Technology in the amount of \$650,661.00 to purchase 100 flow meters with telemetry and maintenance. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Milner reported that Central Platte NRD received a quote from McCrometer to provide telemetry service for 100 flow meters for the next 5 years at \$35 per system. The total for 5 years is \$17,500.00.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve a 5-year service quote for \$17,500.00 from McCrometer to provide telemetry data for 100 flow meters. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, Manager, reported that Tri-Basin has asked Central Platte NRD about the possibility of transferring water to Tri-Basin. We will discuss it next month at a committee meeting.

HAZARD MITIGATION UPDATE: Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, reported that planning has begun for the Central Platte NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is due for renewal in 2027. In the past funding was provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program (BRIC) at 75%. The BRIC funding has now been reduced to 50%. Planning has begun with FEMA to discuss local funding for the other 50%, which is approximately \$93,000.

IRRIGATION VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that 17 violation letters were mailed on January 13, 2026. Of the 17: 10 are completed, 5 are waiting for paperwork and 2 are in various stages but working to complete.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Burn Preparation, Sensor Based Nutrient Management, Soil Moisture Sensor and Tree Planting (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she recommended they be approved.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the March financial report.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the March financial report as presented. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that NARD has approved sponsorships for the Nebraska & National Envirothon and NE Public Media UNL & Creighton Baseball. Reminder that Award Nominations are due May 1st. Preliminary budgets have been approved. And officer elections took place: Ryan Reuter, NPNRD, President; Mason Hoffman, LBNRD, Vice President; Deb VanMatre, CPNRD, Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Bethune, UBBNRD,

Legislative Chair and Deb Hansen, LNNRD, I&E Chair.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Doug Reeves, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that their next meeting will be April 29, 2026.

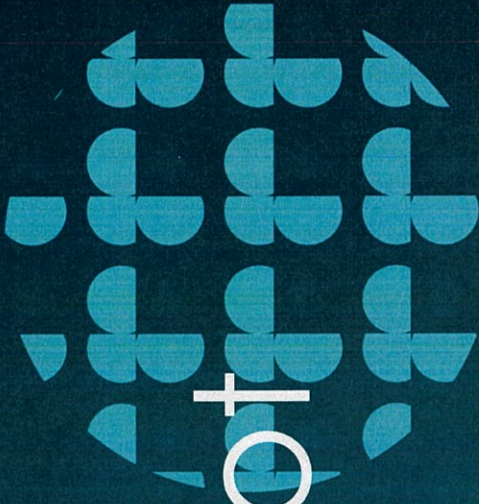

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY TASK FORCE: Tom Downey, Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Representative, reported that the task force delivered its final report to Governor Jim Pillen on March 25, 2026. The recommendations given included new funding sources for groundwater and surface water projects, nitrogen use efficiency, rural drinking water systems, soil health practices and expanding regional water systems.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, April 23. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

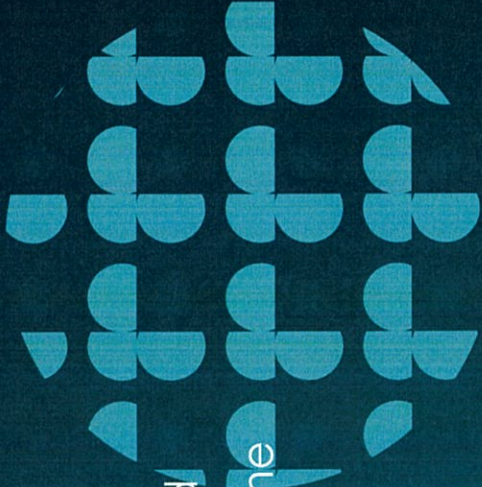
ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 3:19 p.m.



Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP)

Requirements

- ▶ Whole farm assessment
- ▶ Focuses on Cropland, Rangeland, Pastureland, Forestland
- ▶ Minimum resource concern threshold met by the end of the contract
- ▶ Primary Regenerative Agriculture practices
- ▶ Soil Health Testing requirement (CEMA 216)
- ▶ 5-year minimum contract length
- ▶ Offered in both EQIP and CSP programs.



Whole Farm Assessment

- ▶ EQIP applications
 - ▶ Different land uses (Cropland vs Grazing land)
 - ▶ Producer driven
- ▶ CSP all acres within control of applicant are included in the application.
 - ▶ Cropland, rangeland, etc.
- ▶ At minimum, all water and soil related resource concerns must be met by the end of the contract.



Assessment example

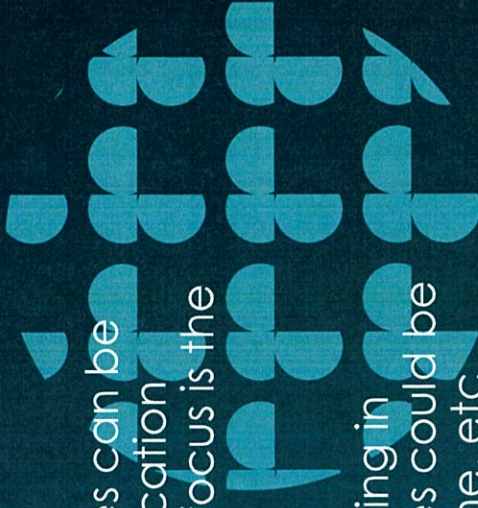
- ▶ Producer is corn-bean or corn-corn-bean rotation, no-till, has no flowmeter or irrigation scheduling
 - ▶ Producer might meet a number of the resource concerns but might not meet leaching potential for nutrients/pesticides or all the water quantity concerns.
- ▶ The producer is interested in RPP and adds additional conservation practice(s) which address soil/water resource concerns and soil health testing.
 - ▶ The total of the planned practices and the existing condition are now high enough that all the required soil and water resource concern thresholds are met. Application is eligible to be ranked.

Primary Regenerative Practices

- ▶ Conservation Crop Rotation
- ▶ Contour Farming
- ▶ Cover Crop
- ▶ Forage Harvest Management
- ▶ Forest Stand Improvement
- ▶ Irrigation Water Management
- ▶ Nutrient Management
- ▶ Pest Management
- ▶ Prescribed Grazing
- ▶ No-till

▶ Secondary Practices can be added to the application although the main focus is the primary practice.

▶ An example of adding in secondary practices could be fence, tanks, pipeline, etc needed for crossfencing rangeland but prescribed grazing would be the primary RPP practice.



Contract length requirements

- ▶ CSP: 5 year contract
 - ▶ May plan practices on all fields or certain fields
 - ▶ Each practice may have different requirements depending upon the purpose of the practice (example- cover crops for soil health vs soil erosion).
- ▶ EQIP: 5-10 year contract
 - ▶ Minimum required length is 5 years but no longer than 10
 - ▶ Typical EQIP (Non-RPP) contract is 3 years
 - ▶ Practices scheduled depending upon resource concerns present in the field and producer objectives.



Soil Health Testing Requirement (CEMA 216)

- ▶ Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA)
- ▶ Quantitative testing for biological, chemical and physical characteristics of soil using approved lab methods.
- ▶ Basic and advanced testing options based on previous testing, presence of resource concerns, practices already being completed and producer objectives.
- ▶ Testing is completed in the same spot each time a test is completed to track improvement or degradation to soil health. Required in first and last years of the contract for RPP.
- ▶ Each sample subset may be combined into the same sample.



CEMA 216 soil sampling

- ▶ Sample must be collected when soil temp is at least 50 degrees.
- ▶ Sample when soil moisture and temperature are not extreme and no ground disturbance.
- ▶ Sampling may occur 3-4 weeks after physical disturbance or addition of soil amendments or chemicals have been applied.
- ▶ Important to reach out to the lab that will analyze the sample to obtain protocol they require before taking the samples.
- ▶ To collect sample, dig an 8 inch deep hole and remove a 2 inch thick slice 6-8 inches long then 20-50 ft collect 4 soil samples in each direction with a minimum 1 in diameter soil probe.

Soil Sampling Methods

- ▶ Minimum of three sample locations regardless of sampling method chose per planned instance of CEQA 216.
- ▶ Random- not set location samples will be taken from but must be done in same location at end of contract.
- ▶ Stratified- example of this method would be sampling the different soil types that makes up the field.
- ▶ Problem area – sampling specific areas in the field to track/address a specific concern.
- ▶ May take more than the minimum required three sampling locations.



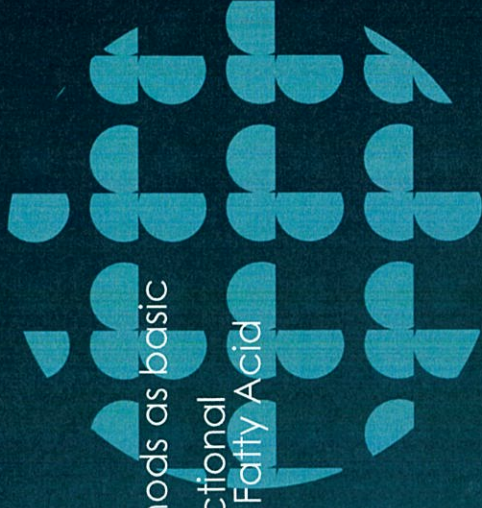
Qualified Individuals

- ▶ All sampling must be completed by a Qualified Individual (QI) or a Technical Service Provider (TSP).
- ▶ A QI for Soil Health Testing CEMA 216 meets one of the following:
 - ▶ 1) Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Certified Professional Agronomist (CPAg) through the American Society of Agronomy or a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) or Associate Professional Soil Scientist (APSS) through the Soil Science Society of America.
 - ▶ 2) Technical Service Providers (TSP) certified for Soil Health Management Plan Conservation Practice Activity (116) or Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity (162).
 - ▶ 3) An associate degree or higher in an agricultural or soil science field with at least 2 years of experience collecting soil for laboratory analysis.
 - ▶ 4) Individuals working under the guidance or management of a QI are allowed to collect soil samples for this CEMA.

Soil Health Indicators and Methods Used

- ▶ Basic
- ▶ Soil Aggregation - Wet Aggregate Stability - Wet sieving
- ▶ Carbon Cycling - Soil Organic C (SOC) - Dry combustion
- ▶ Microbial Activity - Soil Respiration - 24-hour incubation/burst
- ▶ Carbon Food Source for Microorganisms - Labile Carbon - Permanganate Oxidizable Carbon
- ▶ Food Source for Organisms - Bioavailable Nitrogen - Autoclaved citrate extractable protein content
- ▶ Soil Texture - KSSL PSDA by pipette
- ▶ Soil pH - 1:1 water

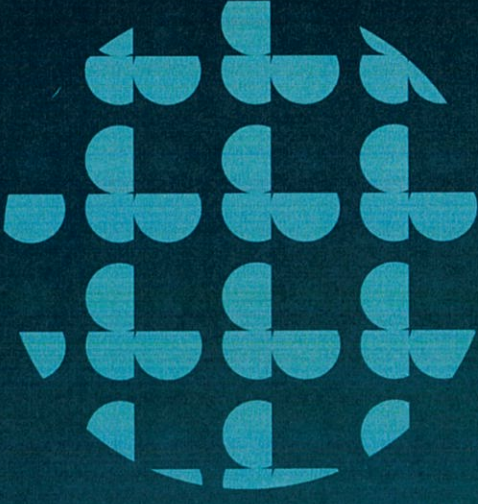
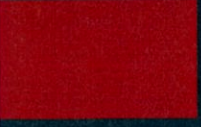
- ▶ Advanced
- ▶ All the same tests/methods as basic
- ▶ Microbial Diversity/Functional Diversity - Phospholipid Fatty Acid



Funding process

- ▶ All eligible applications are assessed and ranked
- ▶ Final ranking score is calculated based on cumulative assessment results and ranking questions.
- ▶ Ranking score is combination of how practices are going to treat and address resource concerns.
- ▶ Applications are funded in order of highest ranked application down until funds are expended.





Questions?

United States Department Of Agriculture


Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 S Webb Rd, Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

March 23, 2026

Central Platte NRD
215 North Kaufman Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803

March Report to CPNRD

Please find attached a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) New Release for Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Enrollment in Nebraska for 2026. The enrollment for Continuous CRP started February 12th and was open through March 20, 2026. The enrollment for General CRP started March 9th and will be open through April 17, 2026. FSA plans to announce enrollment dates for the Grassland CRP in the near future. These are competitive programs that are administered by the Farm Service Agency.

CRP is one of USDA's flagship conservation programs, it provides financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who are willing to place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and agree to voluntarily convert the land back to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. The *Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026*, extends FSA's authority to administer CRP through Sept. 30, 2026.

After reading this new release, if producers are still interested and want to find out more about the Continuous, General, and Grassland CRP programs, they should contact their local Farm Service Agency to discuss these programs in more detail.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment News Release

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



USDA to Open Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2026

News Release | February 10, 2026

Washington, D.C., February 10, 2026 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the enrollment periods for agricultural producers and landowners to submit offers for the Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for Continuous CRP starting Feb. 12, 2026, through March 20, 2026. Enrollment for General CRP will run from March 9, 2026, through April 17, 2026. FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

CRP is USDA's flagship conservation program, providing financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The *Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026*, extends FSA's authority to administer CRP through Sept. 30, 2026.

"We're still very close to the 27-million-acre statutory cap with 1.9 million acres available for all CRP enrollments this fiscal year so enrollment is likely to be competitive," USDA's Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Richard Fordyce said. "This isn't about the total number of acres enrolled, it's about producers and landowners offering and USDA accepting the acres that can best deliver real, lasting benefits to soil, water and wildlife."

Continuous CRP (Signup 65)

FSA will batch [Continuous CRP](#) offers submitted by interested agricultural producers and landowners. Offers to re-enroll expiring CRP continuous acreage will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. New acreage offered in continuous CRP practices will be considered for acceptance on a first-come, first-serve basis if they support USDA conservation priorities including but not limited to practices that address water quality, such as filter strips and grass waterways, and practices that restore native ecosystems or target specific resource concerns.

The first Continuous CRP batching period ends on March 20, 2026. Offers submitted after this date will be considered for acceptance in subsequent batching periods if acreage remains available.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- **Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative:** Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.
- **CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative):** Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.

- **Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI):** Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):** Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.
- **State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative (SAFE):** Restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.

General CRP (Signup 66)

[General CRP](#) offers are submitted through a competitive bid process. After the enrollment period closes, General CRP offers are ranked and scored by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

More Information

Producers and landowners interested in participating in CRP should contact their [local FSA county office](#).

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production, the program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, March 26, 2026

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	6,543.25
Timothy Dean – Dawson – Planned Grazing	\$	6,543.25
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	10,000.00
Linda Berens – Dawson	\$	10,000.00
SENSOR BASED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COST SHARE	\$	4,979.50
Hinkson Land Tech – Hall	\$	4,198.50
Ronald Rickert – Hall		781.00
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	4,000.00
Carol Micek – Polk	\$	2,000.00
Cory Micek – Polk		2,000.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	3,000.00
Ag Dryer Services Inc. – Buffalo	\$	3,000.00
TOTAL	\$	28,522.75