

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 25, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman Tom Downey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He 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:

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

Excused Absences: Deb VanMatre

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Collin Quandt – Agronomist, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Project Coordinator and Courtney Olson – Office Assistant.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – District Conservationist

**MEETING NOTICES:** Vice-Chairman Downey 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 August board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:** Vice-Chairman Downey asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

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

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Vice-Chairman Downey reported that Deb VanMatre requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**NRCS REPORTS:** Joe Krolikowski, District Conservationist reported on the EQIP and RCPP contracts in the Central Platte NRD as well as a Small Urban Project in Hall County (see attached).

**VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE:** Barry Obermiller, chairman, reported that the Variance Committee met earlier today to discuss a request from Grand Island Hospital Holdings, LLC in Hall County. The request was to allow for the approval of a new Commercial/Industrial water well permit to provide sprinkler water for their green spaces and to supplement their water feature (pond).

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the variance for Grand Island Hospital Holdings, LLC in Hall County for a new commercial/industrial water well permit to provide sprinkler water for their green spaces and to supplement their water feature (pond) with the following conditions: They must complete an approved transfer of irrigated acres to offset the new use within two years of drilling the well. The district will sell water to the permit holder for up to two years until the permanent offset can be secured. They must install a district approved meter and provide an annual report of water pumped to the district. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Todd Arends who voted No. Motion carried.

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

i.e design presented a bid proposal for office furniture at our new building. After some discussion, the committee recommended approving the bid proposal not to exceed \$340,000.00.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the bid proposal from i.e design for office furniture for the new office building, not to exceed \$340,000.00. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Reynolds reported that JEO Consulting presented CPNRD with information to go to bid for the new CPNRD Maintenance Shop. The shop would be 60' x 145'. Bids should be expected at our October board meeting for review and action.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to go to bid for the new CPNRD Maintenance Shop.

Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

**BOARD SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Marvion Reichert, chairman, reported that the committee interviewed a potential candidate for sub-district #3. After some discussion the committee is recommending Luke Ourada to fill in the sub-district #3 seat on the board. His term will expire December 2026.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to appoint Luke Ourada of Elm Creek to sub-district #3 seat on the Central Platte NRD board of directors. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Land Advisory Committee reported to the Governance Committee that populations of Whooping Cranes, Piping Plovers and Least Terns have increased. And the first increment goal for land acquisition is close to being met.

Vogt reported that CPNRD staff met with the City of Gothenburg regarding water needs for Project Meadowlark. The City of Gothenburg has agreed to provide Meadowlarks offsets.

Vogt reported that some of the existing furniture and equipment that CPNRD will no longer need will be sold to other NRD's that have shown interest.

Vogt reported that the Schroder Property in Dawson County will go up for sale after harvest this fall.

Tom Downey gave a short update on the Water Quality and Water Quantity Task Force discussion.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications** - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$2,000 from Soil Moisture Sensors to increase Prescribed Burn by \$2,000, and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Burn Preparation, Prescribed Burn and Cover Crop (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 the motion to approve the cost share transfer and applications as reported. Lon Bohn 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 September

financial report.

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

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** No Report

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** No Report

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Vice-Chairman Downey reviewed the upcoming events.

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, October 23. Details to follow.

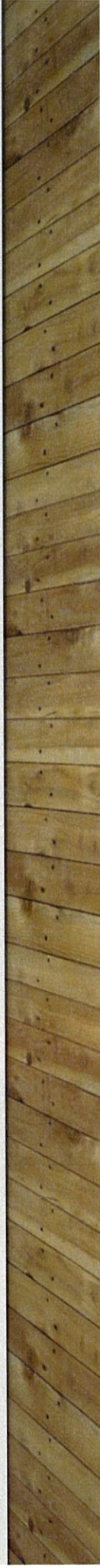
**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURN:** Vice-Chairman Downey adjourned the board meeting at 3:13 p.m.

# SMALL SCALE URBAN AG (SSUA) PROJECT

---

REVIEW OF AN ACTIVE PROJECT IN HALL COUNTY



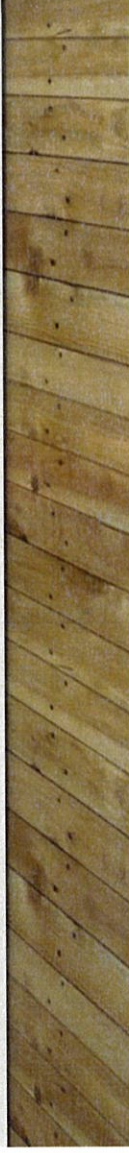
# COMMON SSUA PRACTICES

---

- High Tunnels
- Low Tunnels
- Irrigation related practices
- Composting facilities
- Nutrient and Pest management
- Drains and waterways (as needed) due to site specific needs of constructed high tunnels

# HIGH TUNNEL

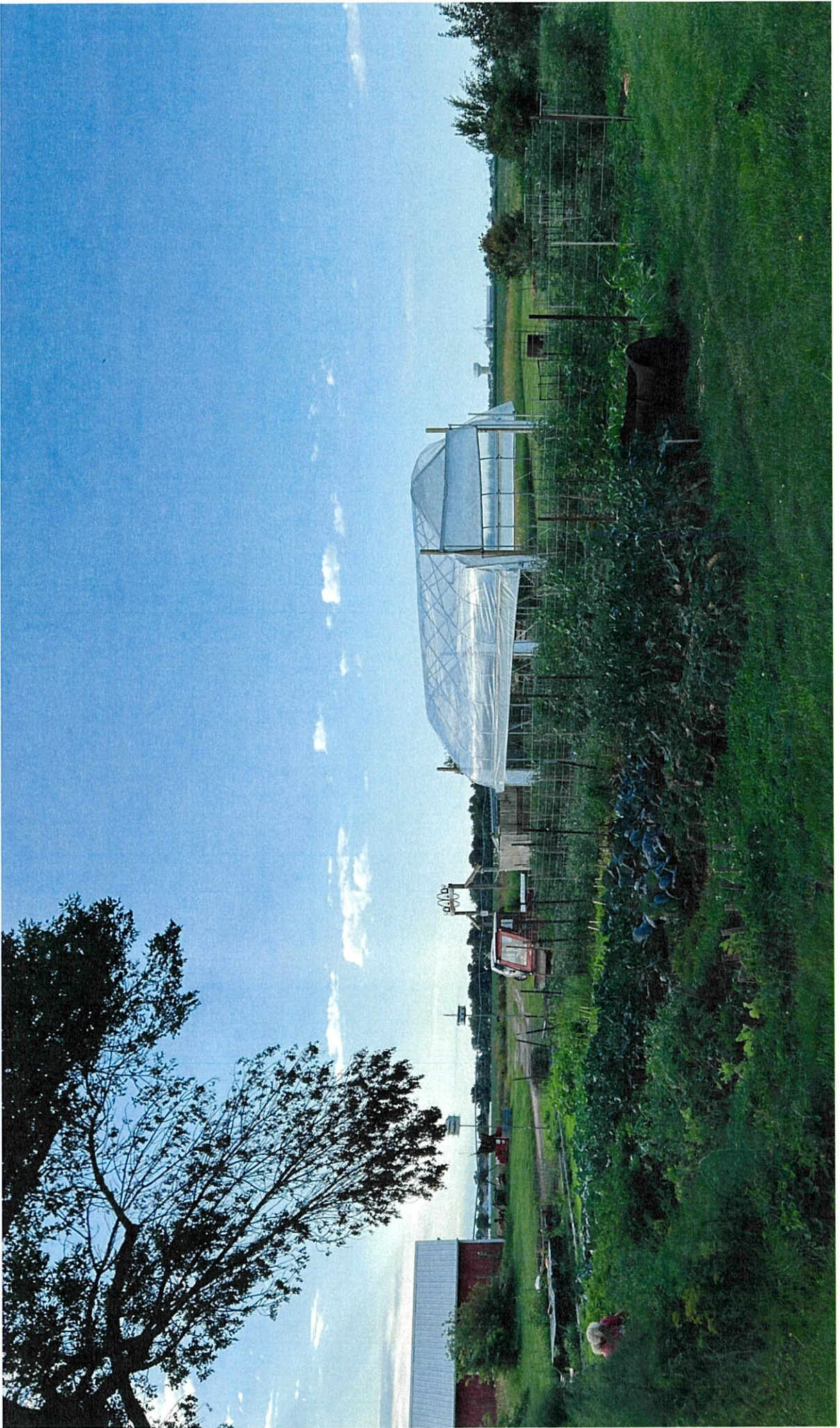
- Extends growing season
- Versatile, many options and styles
- Commonly confused as a greenhouse
- Generally steel framed with plastic covering
- Payment based on square feet installed
- Comes in a manufacturer kit to be installed



# CONSTRUCTED HIGH TUNNEL

---





# LOW TUNNELS

---

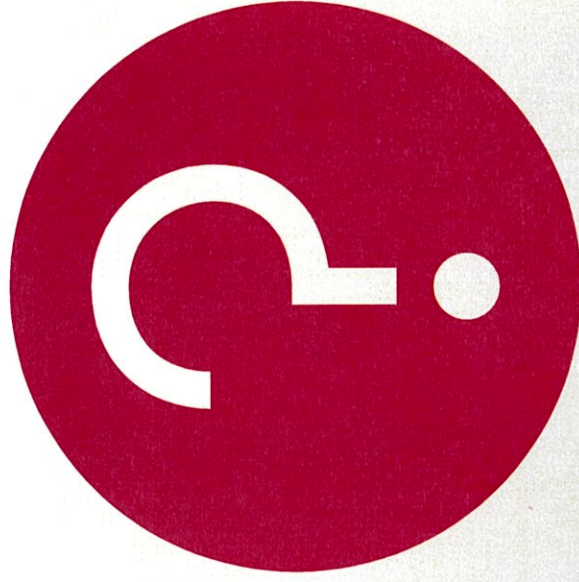
- Can take on various forms and sizes
- Can be constructed out of various materials
- Used for further frost protection and some pest protection
- Short (less than 3 ft tall) frame can be anything from steel, wood, even pvc
- Can be used inside or outside of a high tunnel



# LOW TUNNEL PHOTOS

- Not yet constructed but here are some general photos.





# QUESTIONS



United States Department Of Agriculture



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

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

September 18, 2025

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY2025 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and their activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD). Also included are the timelines for FY 2026, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the application deadline. The FY2026 application deadline is November 21, 2025. We have already completed an outreach effort to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, as well as all the programs. Its our hope this will also help emphasize the benefits to conservation after implementation of these conservation practices across the Central Platte.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

Attachment: CPNRD FY 2025 EQIP Contract Summary  
FY2026 Blank EQIP Application

# FY 2025 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$1,263,089.37 (22 contracts/3,676.0 acres)

- 2 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 4 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 5 Dryland Only Contracts
- 10 IWM/FM
- 1 Combustion System Improvement

Grazing Lands: \$385,881.03 (6 contracts/1,754.6 acres)

- Brush Mgt/Prescribed Burn/Water Supply/X-Fence/PGS

Soil Health: \$552,648.00 (8 contracts/2,029.9 acres)

- Cover Crop/Terrace/Grassed Waterway/No-Till/Nutrient Mgmt

Conservation Activity Plans & Burn: \$3,179.00 (2 contracts/430.9 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans & Burn

Forestry/Wetland/Wildlife Improvement: \$0.00 (0 contracts/0.0 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/WB Renovation/Forrest Stnd Imprvmt

High Tunnels & SSUA Projects: \$23,291.00 (1 contracts/10.4 acres)

- High Tunnels/Irrigation & Nutrient Mgmt/Cover Crops

# FY 2025 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

## Field Office Summary

Central City – 6 contracts - \$683,833 – 1,203.2 acres

Grand Island – 13 contracts - \$152,577.18 – 1,678.8 acres

Kearney – 11 contracts - \$931,765.19 – 3,049.5 acres

Lexington – 6 contracts - \$301,054.03 – 1,204.4 acres

Polk – 3 contracts - \$158,859 – 765.9 acres

Totals – 39 contracts - \$2,228,088.40 – 7,901.8 acres

# What comes next?

# FY 2026 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: November 21, 2025

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2026 TBD

# Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 62 - \$7.7 Million

Grazing Lands: 18 - \$569,803

Soil Health: 38 - \$2.2 Million

Total Applications: 118 - \$10.5 Million

# FY2025 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)  
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)  
1966 Nebraska Soil Carbon Project (RCPP)  
2271 Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (RCPP)

- Contracts: 49
- Obligations: \$2,889,454.40
- Treated Acres 14,028.5

# QUESTIONS?

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

|                             |                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Applicant (Decision Maker): | Application Date:                       |
| Address:                    | Location where assistance is requested: |
| Email:                      |                                         |
| Telephone:                  | Receive text messages (optional):       |
| Assistance Requested:       |                                         |

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

1. Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

☐ Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)  
☐ Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)  
☐ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

☐ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
☐ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

3. Applicant Information:  
Select the business structure and enter the legal name and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

| Business Structure<br>(Mark with an X) |                          | Applicant Legal Name | Tax Number<br>(last four digits) |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Individual                             | Entity                   |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                                  |

To add more applicants, complete [CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the legal entity or joint operation?  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Page 1 of 3

b) Complete the table below for all applicants who meet the requirements for one or more of the historically underserved categories. If none, leave blank. (optional)

| Applicant Legal Name | Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher | Beginning Farmer or Rancher | Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher | Veteran Farmer or Rancher | Veteran Discharge Date |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |
|                      | <input type="checkbox"/>           | <input type="checkbox"/>    | <input type="checkbox"/>                 | <input type="checkbox"/>  |                        |

c) If awarded an EQIP contract, would you be interested in receiving an advance payment to assist you with implementing the conservation practice(s)? The availability of an advance payment only applies to EQIP contracts where the participant meets the definition for one or more of the historically underserved categories. Refer to the instructions to learn more about advance payments. If not applicable, leave blank. (optional)

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. **Land Information.** The following questions apply to the land being offered for enrollment through this application.

a) **Land Type (check all that apply):**

- ☐ Private Land  
☐ Public Land: ☐ Federal Government ☐ State Government ☐ Local Government  
☐ Indian Land: ☐ Allotted ☐ Tribal Trust Land ☐ Tribal Non-Trust Land ☐ Other

b) **Control of Land Documentation (check all that apply):**

- ☐ Deed or other evidence of land ownership  
☐ Written lease agreement

☐ Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

c) **Is the land currently enrolled in other USDA conservation program(s)?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

Which program(s):

d) **Organic Certification:**

- ☐ Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)  
☐ Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP  
☐ Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP  
☐ Not Applicable

e) **What is the primary crop type(s)?**

f) **What is the primary livestock type(s)?**

The applicant agrees not to start any financially assisted conservation practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified technical service provider before the program contract is executed by NRCS. The applicant understands that if they start a conservation practice or activity prior to NRCS executing the program contract, the applicant will be ineligible to receive payment for the conservation practice or activity. The applicant may request a waiver to begin a conservation practice or activity early by submitting their written request to the applicable NRCS State Conservationist.

Applicants must provide NRCS with written authorization from the landowner to install structural or vegetative practices on leased land included in this application.

The applicant acknowledges that they have or will file all other required eligibility information including highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation certifications, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations with the FSA, as applicable, prior to NRCS approving a program contract based on this application.

The applicant may obtain a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix, which defines the full terms and conditions of program participation at the local NRCS office.

☐ Check here if NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page, Applicant Information is attached.

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Applicant Signature</b> | <b>Date</b>      |
| <br><br><br><br>           | <br><br><br><br> |

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, September 25, 2025

|                                           |    |          |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----|----------|----------|
| BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM ..... |    | \$       | 4,500.00 |
| Casey Peterson – Custer                   | \$ | 4,500.00 |          |
| PRESCRIBED BURN COST SHARE PROGRAM.....   |    | \$       | 1,824.00 |
| Eugene Boryca – Nance                     | \$ | 800.00   |          |
| COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....       |    | \$       | 2,000.00 |
| Duane Skrdlant – Hall                     | \$ | 2,000.00 |          |
| TOTAL .....                               |    | \$       | 8,324.00 |