

## Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) Program Handout

LB 1368 (2024) established the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA), Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 2-411 to 2-417, a state program to provide incentives to producers for reducing the use of commercial fertilizers. The requirements of NiRIA are that producers verify a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer application rates as the lesser of 40 pounds per acre or 15% of their baseline application rate. Funding and partnership for the 2026 NiRIA program is provided by the Nebraska Corn Board.

### NiRIA Program Payment Example

Eligible producers will enroll in the NiRIA program once accepted by their local Natural Resources Districts (NRDs). Producers will have one year from the application deadline to show their reduction in nitrogen applications by the lesser of 40lbs or by 15%. Once proper documentation is given, the NRD will pay producers an incentive payment based on their priority area.

### NiRIA Program Details

|                   |                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Incentive Payment | Priority A- \$15 per acre<br>Priority B- \$12 per acre<br>Priority C- \$10 per acre |
| Enrollment Period | September 17 <sup>th</sup> - November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025                       |
| How to Enroll     | Contact your local NRD or fill out the online application using this QR Code        |



### NiRIA Program Field Eligibility

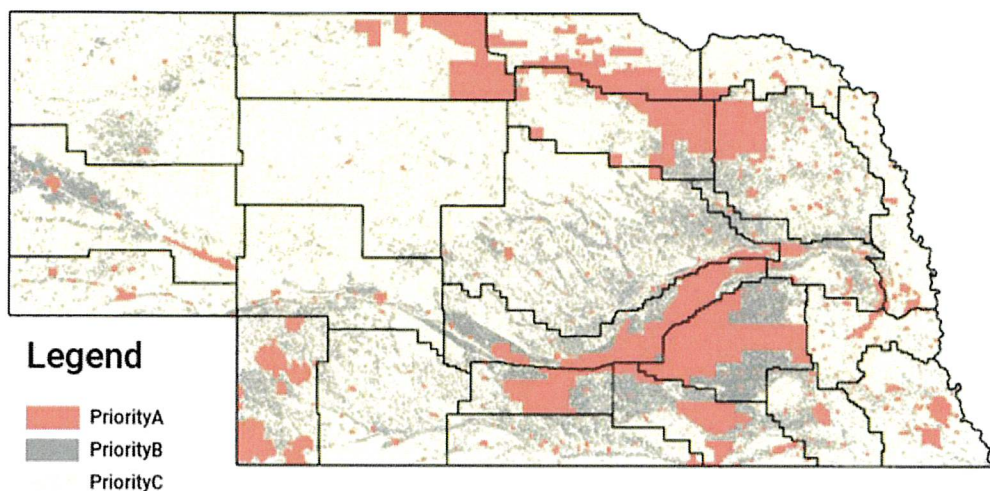
|                       |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geography             | All of Nebraska                                                                                     |
| Crop Type             | Corn, Sugar Beet, Potato, Wheat                                                                     |
| Farmer Enrollment Cap | There is no acre cap in most NRDs. Acceptance is through local NRDs based on technology and funding |
| Application Cap       | Applications are limited to 160 acres                                                               |
| Program Funding       | Funding is limited to \$1 million statewide for the 2026 program year                               |

### NiRIA Program Data Requirements

The requirements of NiRIA are that producers verify a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer application rates as the lesser of 40 pounds per acre or 15% of their baseline application rate. Contact your local NRD to know which Priority Area you are in.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority A Areas | Priority A Areas represent areas of elevated nitrate levels with enhanced management including wellhead protection areas and phase II or higher areas. NRD crop report data will be used to establish baseline nitrogen application rates for producers in these areas |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority B Areas | <p>Priority B Areas represent areas that are not in the Priority A Areas and have acres that are certified to irrigate. Priority B areas will be required to establish a baseline level of nitrogen application, as established by the NRD, through one or both of the options outlined below</p> <p>Option One: Submit all the reporting data required on local NRD phase II or greater locations for the prior 3 growing seasons,</p> <p>or</p> <p>Option Two: Complete soil sampling, as established by the NRD, prior to the cropping season for which the incentive payment is requested</p> |
| Priority C Areas | <p>Priority C Areas encompass all other areas of the state not captured in Priority A or B Area designations. Producers in Priority C areas will be required to establish a baseline level of nitrogen application, as established by the NRD, through one, or both, of options outlined in Priority B</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



## How to get started:

Visit <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/lb-1368-nitrogen-reduction-incentive-program> or your local NRD for more details. Scan the QR code to see the guidance document and standard application.



Not sure what NRD you're in? Scan this QR code to find out!

# Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act Program Application

There is a limit of 160 acres per application, but you may have more than one application\*

Name & Address of Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Natural Resources District (NRD): \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description (Submit one application per field): \_\_\_\_\_

Field Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Crop Year: 2026\_\_ Total Acres to Be Enrolled (Limit of 160 acres per application): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Dryland Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of NRD Certified Irrigated Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Crop: ☐Corn ☐Sugar Beet ☐Wheat ☐Potato

Previous Crop: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you apply manure or lagoon water to this field?

☐Yes

☐No

*If yes, attach documentation with the known amount of nitrogen in manure or lagoon water.*

Do you apply nitrogen in the fall?

☐Yes

☐No

Did you participate in the 2025 NiRIA program?

☐Yes

☐No

**Identify the practice(s)/ product(s) you plan to implement to achieve the 40lbs or 15% reduction of commercial fertilizer by checking a box below.** Note that the below options do not represent a ranked list and practices/products are subject to individual NRD approval.

☐ Reduction in Nitrogen Application

☐ Implementation of In-Season Sensor-Based Technology

☐ Implementation of A Biological Product

☐ Implementation of Other Technology Utilizing Nitrogen Timing and/or Rate

☐ Implementation of a Nitrogen Stabilizer

☐ Other, Please Describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the type of documentation that will be used to determine baseline and to evaluate nitrogen reduction\*.**

Producers that successfully participated in the 2025 NiRIA program may participate in the 2026 NiRIA program, if reductions are on different fields. \*Please note that individual NRDs may require additional information.

☐ NRD or producer crop reports (Priority A Areas)

☐ Submit all data required on local NRD phase reports for the prior 3 growing seasons (Priority B or C Areas)

☐ Complete soil sampling, as established by the NRD, prior to the cropping season (Priority B or C Areas)

Receive information about enrolling your fields in Nitrogen research trials?

☐Yes

☐No

\*Applicant Signature (Receiving 1099): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NRD Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*By participating in this program, I acknowledge that the data I provide may be shared with the local NRD, the Corn Board, and DWEE for the purpose of program administration, resource management, and reporting.

