

Lower Republican Natural Resources District

Conservation Funding Available for Irrigation Improvements

Farmers in southwest Nebraska have until November 16th to apply.

(Alma, NE) The Lower Republican NRD is pleased to announce that agricultural producers have the opportunity to receive conservation funding. In 2016, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs \$2.1 million as part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and approximately \$300,000 remain for funding in 2019. Eligible producers have until November 16, 2018 to apply for funding.

Producers in the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs in southwest Nebraska, which includes all or portions of Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls counties, may apply for funding to make irrigation system efficiency improvements. Eligible conservation practices include: converting gravity systems to subsurface drip with a maximum payment of \$1,000 per acre; permanently retiring end guns on pivots for \$2,000 per acre; and installing high intensity soil moisture sensors for an approximate total of \$5,000 over a three-year period. Priority is given to high water use areas, but all areas within the three NRDs are eligible.

Funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is also available to producers in the Republican NRDs to improve wildlife and pollinator habitat and improve soil health through increasing cover crop and crop rotation activities.

Producers in the Republic Basin NRDs interested in participating in these conservation efforts should contact their local NRCS office and apply for funding by November 16, 2018.

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