

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.

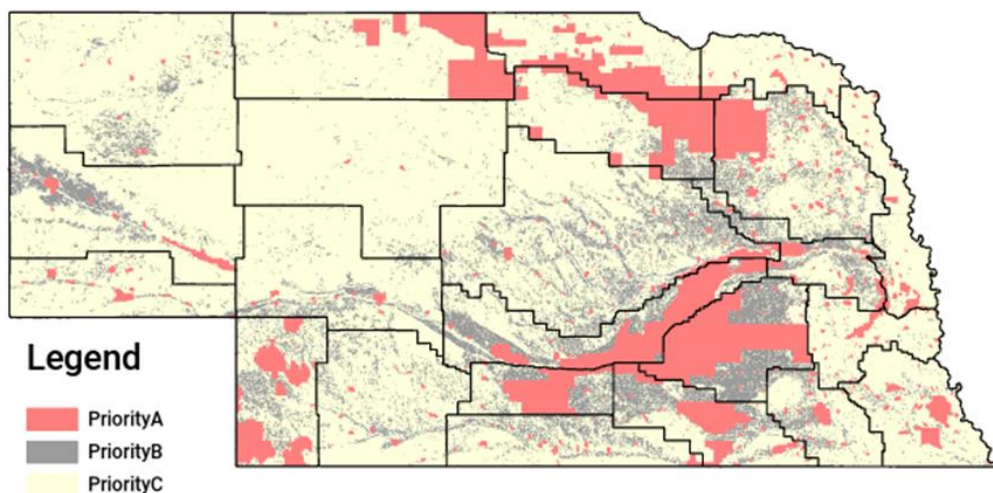
NiRIA Program Payment Example	
Eligible producers will enroll in the NiRIA program once accepted by their local Natural Resources Districts (NRDs). Producers will have one year from the application deadline to show their reduction in nitrogen applications by the lesser of 40lbs or by 15%. Once proper 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 Priority B- \$12 per acre Priority C- \$10 per acre
Enrollment Period	September 17 th - November 15 th , 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 Beat, 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	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 Option One: Submit all the reporting data required on local NRD phase II or greater locations for the prior 3 growing seasons, or Option Two: Complete soil sampling, as established by the NRD, prior to the cropping season for which the incentive payment is requested
Priority C Areas	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



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!