

Incentive Program for Target Area Producers



INCENTIVES FOR PRODUCERS IN THE RECHARGE LAKE
WATERSHED, BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED, &
QUALIFYING MUNICIPAL WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREAS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is offering a new incentive program for producers in portions of the Recharge Lake Watershed, Beaver Creek Watershed, and qualifying municipal Wellhead Protection Areas.

To get started, please complete a short form on our website or call the NRD at (402) 362-6601 with any questions you might have. The application process is quick and easy to allow for timely installation of conservation practices. This program is funded directly by the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District and is not affiliated with any federal conservation programs. However, the program does include collaboration with local NRCS soil specialists to ensure best results.

Primary Qualifying Practices Include:

- Cover Crops
- Buffer/Filter Strips

**Other land treatment practices may also apply. More practices are listed on our website.*

COVER CROPS

For approved applications, the maximum cost-share rate can be up to \$50/acre for the cost of seed and seeding or 100% of the actual cost, whichever is less up to \$7,500 per landowner per year. Applications are approved for a five-year term. NRCS and/or other federal, state, or local funds may not be combined with this program. All seed selection and seeding must abide by NRCS Code 340 Cover Crop Criteria and Scenarios. Cover crop termination is not eligible for funding under this program.

*Do you qualify for
incentive payments?*

Check the maps on our website
to see qualifying areas.

Contact us to learn more.

upperbigblue.org/WQMPincentiveprogram



Cover crops are proven to:

- Reduce erosion
- Increase soil organic matter (SOM)
- Capture/recycle/redistribute nutrients in the soil profile
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation & reduce energy use
- Increase biodiversity
- Suppress weeds
- Manage soil moisture
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction
- Improve yields by enhancing soil health
- Reduce use of herbicides and pesticides
- Create grazing opportunities

WQMP Incentive Program

BUFFER STRIPS

The Nebraska Buffer Strip Program offers financial assistance for landowners that install filter strips (narrow strips of grass) or riparian forest buffer strips (strips containing trees and grass). These strips are placed next to seasonal or permanent streams, wetlands and ponds. These practices provide protection between cropland and waterbodies by helping to stabilize the environment and filter agrochemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides.

Contracts run from 5 to 10 years. State program payments vary from \$20 to \$250 per acre, depending on soil type, whether the acres are irrigated or not and whether payments are received from other programs. In addition, there are incidental haying and grazing allowances through the program.

The Upper Big Blue NRD is offering an additional incentive payment for filter and buffers strips within the Recharge Lake Watershed and the Beaver Creek Watershed. The landowner will receive an additional payment set at 50% of the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program payment for the life of the contract (5 to 10 years).

ELIGIBILITY

COVER CROPS

- Landowners & operators are eligible for this program.
- If approval is given to a tenant, the District will notify the Landowner by mail that the practice was approved for planting.
- Land must be located within the “Very High Risk” or “High Risk” categories within the Recharge Lake Watershed and/or within a qualifying Municipal Wellhead Protection Area.
- Approval secures funding for up to five years of cover crop implementation.

BUFFER STRIPS

- Only landowners are eligible for the program.
- Lands located within the Recharge Lake watershed and/or the Beaver Creek watershed are eligible for the additional Upper Big Blue NRD incentive program.
- Landowner must meet all requirements and be approved under the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.
- Only new or renewed buffer strip projects are eligible for the additional incentive program.



Jerod Fling, NRD integrated water program specialist, is here to answer your questions about the incentive program options. Contact Jerod at JFling@upperbigblue.org or call the office at (402) 362-6601.



Upper Big Blue

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