

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
October 11, 2018
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**USDA Providing Funds to Protect and Restore
Agricultural Working Lands, Grasslands and Wetlands
across Nebraska**

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). This program, created under the 2014 Farm Bill, provides funding for the purchase of conservation easements to help productive farm and ranch lands remain in agriculture and to restore and protect critical wetlands and grasslands.

The main goal of ACEP is to prevent productive agriculture land from being converted to non-agricultural uses and to restore and protect wetlands and wildlife habitat. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forestland are eligible.

Applications can be submitted at any time, but to be considered for 2019 funding opportunities, applications in Nebraska must be received by November 1, 2018. Applications are currently being accepted for both agricultural land and wetland reserve easements.

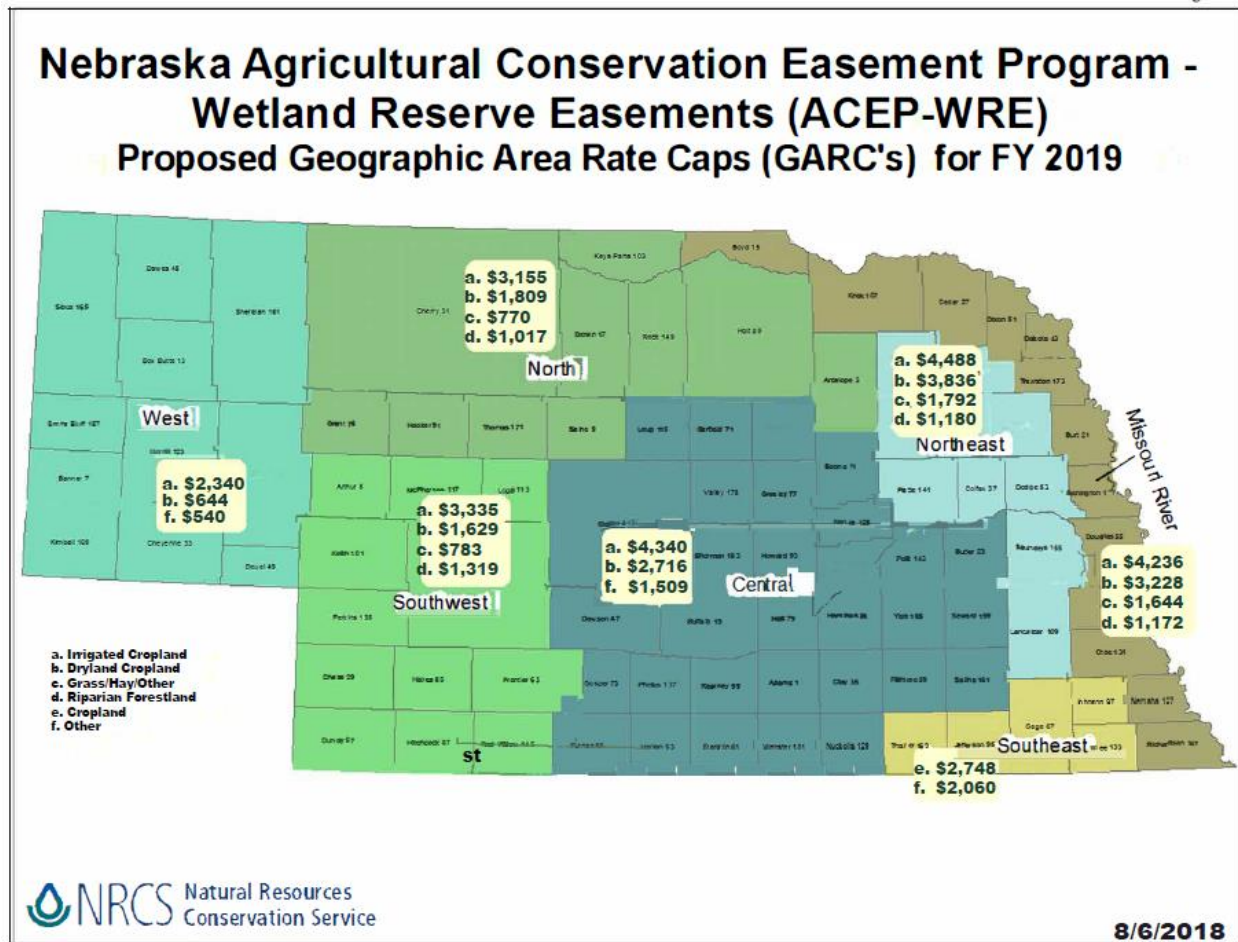
NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private and tribal landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of conservation easements. Eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. Tribal landowners also have the option of enrolling in 30-year contracts.

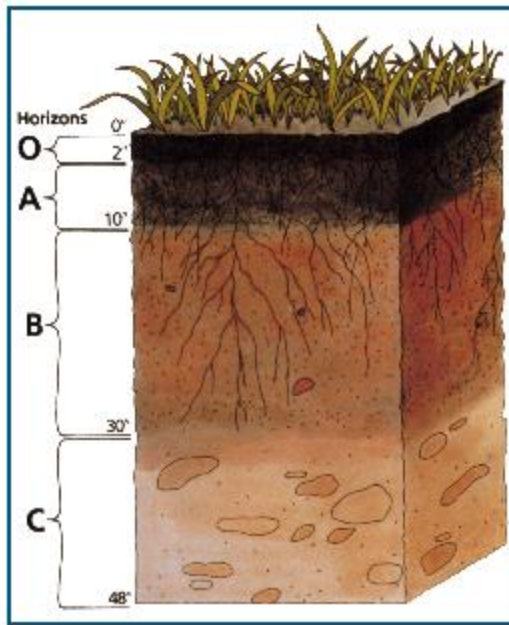
A key option under the agricultural land easement component is the "grasslands of special environmental significance" that will protect high-quality grasslands that are under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development and other non-grazing uses. To qualify, the application would need to be located in an area meeting the designated criteria.

All applications will be rated according to the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds, fish and other wildlife. Eligible applicants will be compensated with a payment rate comparable to the local land use value.

Applicants will need to provide accurate records of ownership and ensure they have established current fiscal year ownership eligibility with USDA's Farm Service Agency. Application information is available at your local [USDA Service Center](#) and at www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted.

NRCS staff will work with all interested applicants to help them through the application process and provide one-on-one assistance to create the conservation easement option that works best for their farming or ranching operation.





USDA Website Puts Soils Information, Tools at Your Fingertips

USDA has re-designed its [Soil Tools web page](#), to now serve as a one-stop source for new, leading-edge tools and technologies to help farmers, ranchers, and other land users understand, evaluate and conserve soils.

Managed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the web page offers single-site access to soil data and maps, soil databases, digital soil applications, climate data, descriptions of soils, ecological sites, statistical packages and soil-property

calculators. The USDA maps and information are free with no user ID or password required.

Highlights include:

- Access to download up-to-date [soil data and maps](#) used for comparing soils over broad areas, make conservation planning and soil evaluation easier.
- Access to [Web Soil Survey](#) and other tools that provide the ability to search for soils maps and data by location.
- Access to [soil apps](#) that display and allow users to access data and view interactive maps.
- Access to [calculators](#) for soil texture and water budgeting.

The new resources are made available thanks to the joint effort of the [National Cooperative Soil Survey](#) partnership, which includes Federal and State agencies, universities, and professional societies, and exists to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate, and publish information about soils.

Soil Survey

- [Soil Survey - Home](#)
- [Soil Surveys by State](#)
- [Partnerships](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Soil Classification](#)
- [Soil Geography](#)
- [Tools](#)
- [Soil Survey Regional Offices](#)
- [Soil Climate Research Stations](#)



[Link to WSS](#)

Soil Data and Maps

FEATURED TOOL

Web Soil Survey

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides official soil data and maps produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world.

Block Diagram Locator

More than 3,750 block diagrams (line drawings) from published soil surveys. Most of the diagrams relate soils to landscape positions. The interactive map shows the location of survey areas for which a diagram is available.

Geospatial Gateway

Provides access to a map library of over 100 high resolution vector and raster layers.

GlobalSoilMaps

U.S. soil property maps in a raster format that meet the GlobalSoilMap standards.

Gridded Soil Survey

Soil survey in raster format.

Hydric Soils

Find the most current information about hydric soils, including criteria, lists, and links to technical references and procedures.

Laboratory Data

Allows you to generate, print, and download reports containing soil characterization data from the Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory. Data can be viewed onscreen or downloaded in comma-delimited text files for use in other applications.

LRR, MLRA, and LRU

Portal into the Land Resource Region (LRR) and Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) concept.

Soil Data Access

Portal to soil data access through scripted queries.

Soil Data Express

The Soil Data Warehouse and Data Mart provide the authoritative pathway for distributing current official soil survey data to service centers and to the public. The Staging Site (also called Staging Server) is the step on this pathway where final validation of data is performed before their release.

Soil Data Viewer

Create customized soil-based thematic maps and reports outside of Web Soil Survey.

CONSERVATION

Our Purpose.
Our Passion.

Helping People Help the Land.

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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.

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