

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Cover Crop Program

Purpose: Reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, capture and recycle nutrients, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture, and minimize/reduce soil compaction by utilizing cover crops within selected areas of the LPSNRD.

Eligibility: Land shall be located in the Salt Creek Watershed upstream of Lincoln, a Community Water System Protection Area (CWSPA), a Targeted Watershed, or a Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area and within LPSNRD (see Cover Crop Cost-Share Areas map), or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle. Cover crops may be established on Highly Erodible (HEL) and Non-Highly Erodible (NHEL) land that is currently in a continuous no-till cropping system. HEL fields where corn has been cut for silage are not eligible, per NRCS. Cover crops in the program shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed, to maximize the water quality benefit. Each participant will enroll a total of 20–80 acres, and may be allowed down to 10 acres, provided it is a complete field.

Procedure: Producer will contact their local NRCS Field Office to determine land eligibility and prepare an application prior to October 1st. Applications will be reviewed by NRD staff and approved by the General Manager.

How To Apply:

1. Contact your County NRCS Office
2. Meet with NRCS/NRD Personnel to complete application
3. Submit application to NRCS (NRCS will forward completed application to NRD).
4. Applicant may be the producer (either landowner or operator) with corresponding social security number or tax id number, but the application must have the signature of the landowner, or legal representative of the landowner.

Priority: Priority will be given based on the date application is received. The earliest applications will be approved up to the District's budgeted amount of the current fiscal year. Once the budgeted amount is reached, applications will not be approved. Furthermore, applications received prior to September 1st for CWSPAs, targeted watersheds, groundwater management Phase II or III areas, or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle will be given priority over other eligible areas.

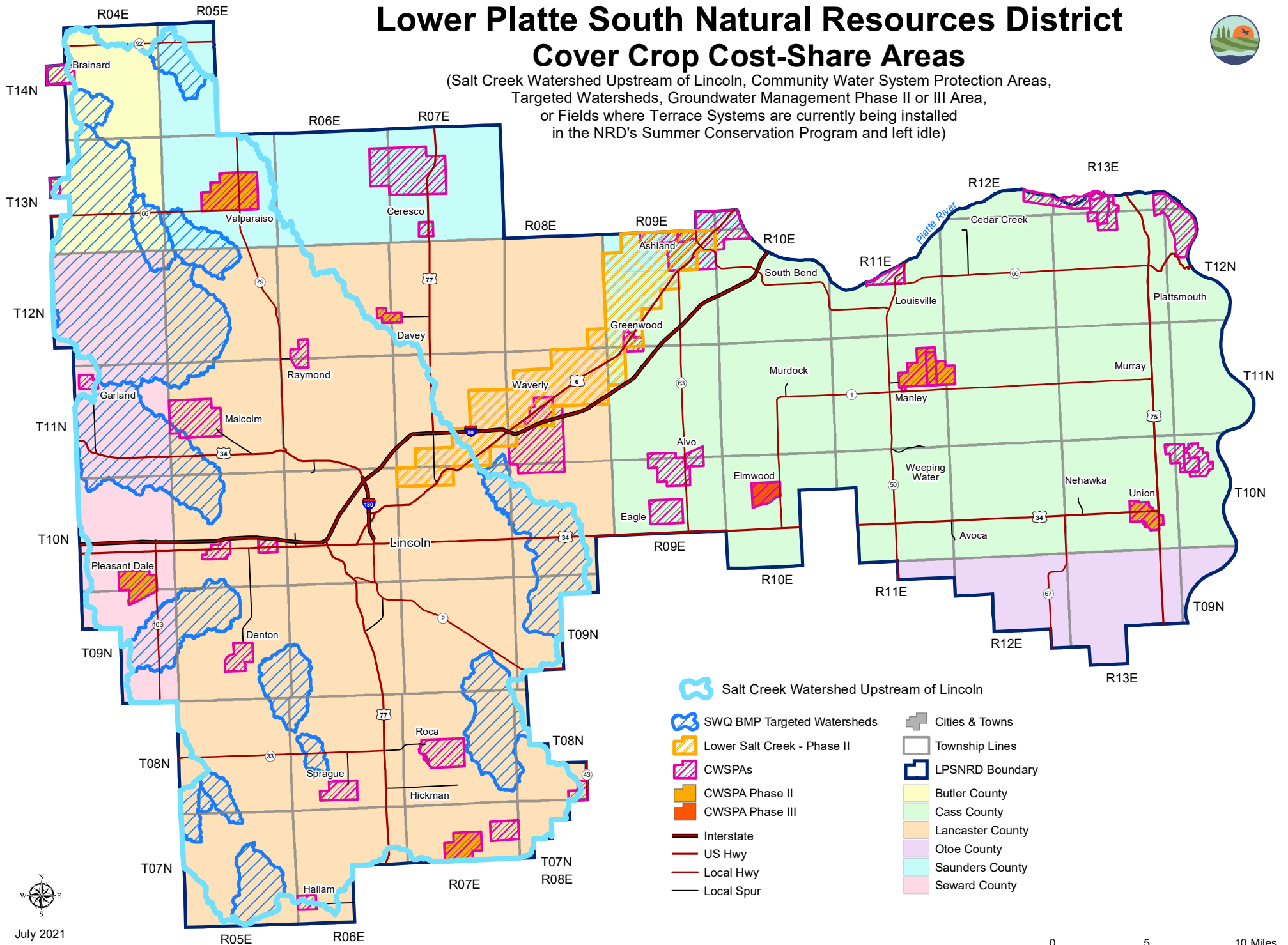
Terms:

- Cover crop options include: #1 – rye only; #2 – rye/rape/radish; or #3 – “deluxe cocktail” mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acres: Single species \$30/acre; multiple species \$35/acre.
- Annual Payment Limit of \$2,500 per producer.
- All Cover Crops must be planted prior to October 1st for aerial application and November 1st for drilling.
- NRCS will certify successful completion to the NRD upon termination of cover crop per NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, without inversion tillage. The NRD will make payment to the producer after certification by NRCS.
- The program will also comply with NRCS Code 340 - Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standards that may be found at <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Cover Crop Cost-Share Areas

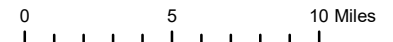


(Salt Creek Watershed Upstream of Lincoln, Community Water System Protection Areas, Targeted Watersheds, Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area, or Fields where Terrace Systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle)



July 2021

Sources: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District; Nebraska Dept of Natural Resources; Nebraska Dept of Environmental Quality; Nebraska Department of Roads



APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
Cover Crop Cost-Share Program
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

Terms

- Cropland must be located in the Salt Creek Watershed upstream of Lincoln, a Community Water System Protection Area, a Targeted Watershed Area, or a Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area located and within the LPSNRD, or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program and left idle.
- Cover crop options include: #1 rye only; #2 rye/rape/radish; or #3 "deluxe cocktail" mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acre: Single species \$30/acre; multiple species \$35/acre.
- Annual payment limit of \$2,500 per producer. A total of 20-80 acres are eligible, and may be allowed down to 10 acres, provided it is a complete field.
- Application deadline is October 1st
- Cover crops must be seeded prior to October 1st for aerial application and November 1st if planted with a drill. The producer is responsible for arranging seeding (either by aerial or ground application).
- The producer will obtain NE-340-IR Cover Crop Design Worksheet from NRCS prior to seeding cover crop for approved species, seeding rates, and seeding dates.
- The program will also comply with NRCS Code 340 - Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standards that may be found at <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
- HEL fields where corn has been cut for silage are not eligible, per NRCS. Cover crops in the program shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed, to maximize the water quality benefit.
- Producer will provide NRCS with completed NE-340-IR, seed bills, and aerial/drill application bills prior to NRCS certification of cover crop.
- NRCS will certify successful completion to the NRD upon termination of cover crop per NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, without inversion tillage. The NRD will make payment to the producer after NRCS certification.
- Priority on applications given as stated in program details.

Producer's (applicant) Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ ZIP:_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Location of Cropland: _____, Sec. _____, T_____N, R_____E, _____ County

Number of Acres: _____ Type of Application: _____ (aerial) _____ (ground)

Landowner: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

The undersigned (applicant) agrees to the terms listed above and hereby applies for cost-share assistance.

Producer's Signature: _____ Date: _____