

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 a Community Water System Protection Area, a Targeted Watershed, or a Phase II or III Area within LPSNRD (see Cover Crop Cost-Share Areas map). 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. Cover crops shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed. Each participant will enroll a total of 20 – 80 acres.

Procedure: Landowners 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:

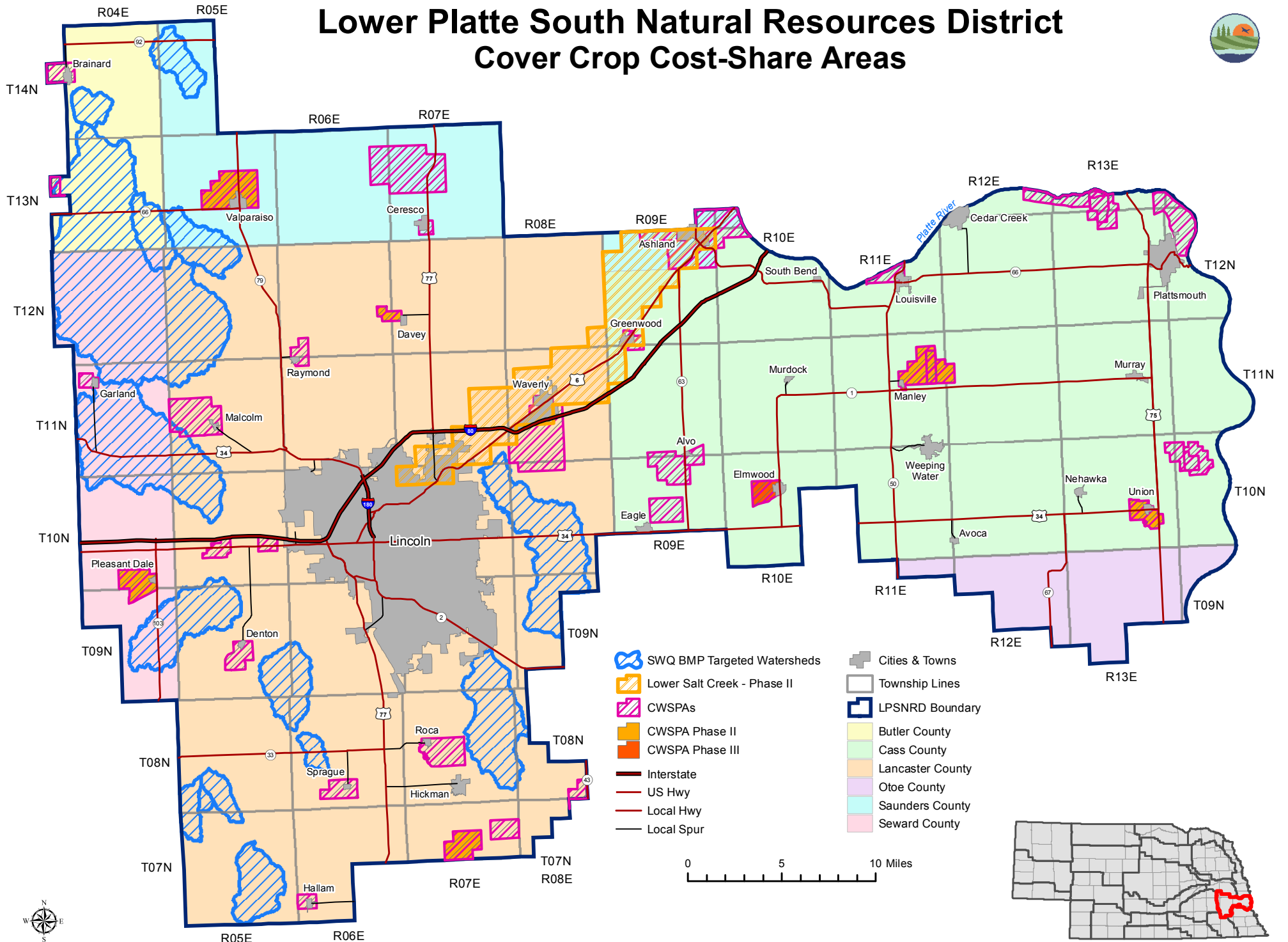
1. Contact your County NRCS Office
2. Meet with NRCS/NRD Personnel to complete application
3. Submit application to NRCS (NRCS will forward completed application to NRD).

Priority: Priority will be given based on the date of application. 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.

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 \$25/acre; multiple species \$30/acre.
- Annual Payment Limit of \$2,000 per farm/landowner.
- 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 landowner 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



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

Terms

- Cropland must be located in a Community Water System Protection Area, a Targeted Watershed Area, or a Phase II or III Area located within the LPSNRD.
- Cover crop options include: #1 rye only; #2 rye/rape/radish; or #3 "deluxe cocktail" mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acre: Single species \$25/acre; multiple species \$30/acre.
- Annual payment limit of \$2,000 per farm/landowner.
- 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-CPA-7 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. Cover crops shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed.
- Landowner will provide NRCS with completed NE-CPA-7, 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 landowner after NRCS certification.

Landowner Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Location of Cropland: _____, Sec. _____, T _____ N, R _____ E, _____ County

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

Tenant/operator, if not property owner: _____

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

Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____