

NRCS Conservation Programs in Nebraska

Brad Soncksen

*Assistant State Conservationist for
Programs*

Lincoln, NE

brad.soncksen@ne.usda.gov

www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov

EQIP - FY 2017

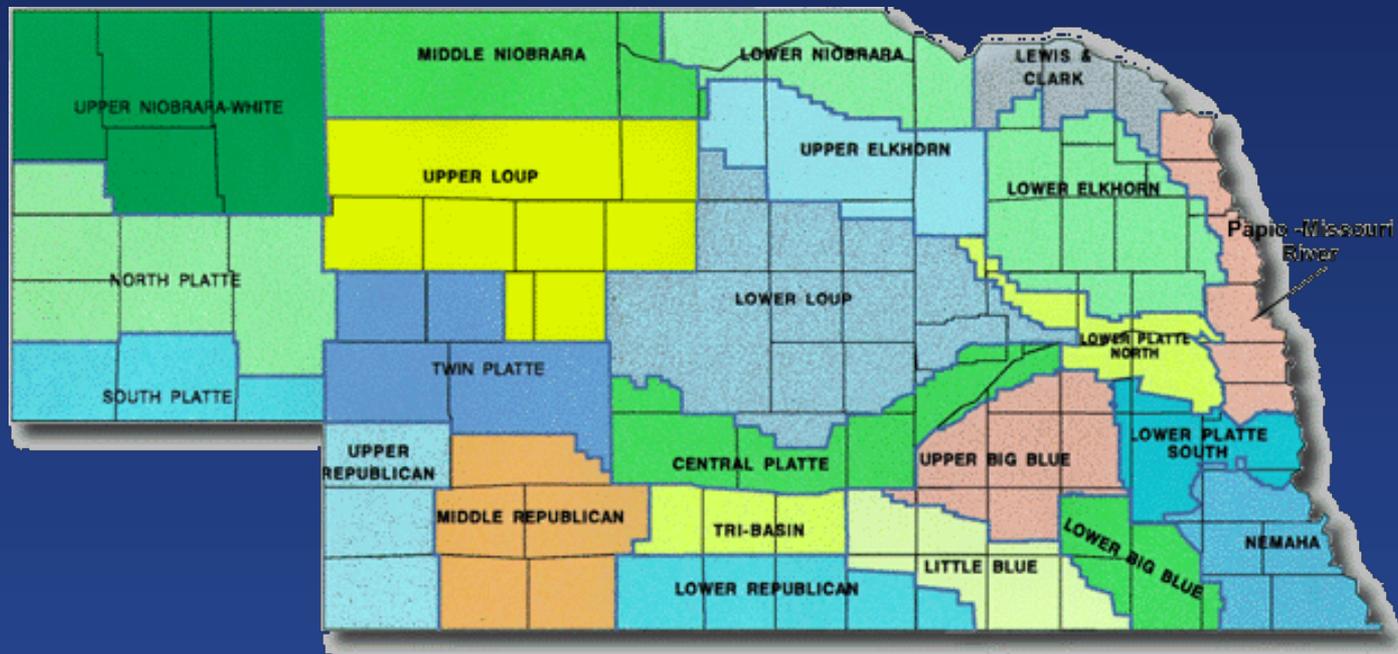


EQIP – FY2017 Time Lines

- Local Work Group Meetings – Feb/March
- Determine Special Initiatives & Fund Pools - July
- Revise FY17 ranking tools - August
- Complete Practice Payment Schedule – September
- Update EQIP Fund Allocation Formula - October
- FY17 application cutoff Date – October 21, 2016
- Application ranking deadline - TBD

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Local Work Groups



Application Cutoff Dates

- Single cutoff date, 3rd Friday of October – 14 LWG's
- Single cutoff date, 3rd Friday of November – 4 LWG's
- Two cutoff dates, First in August/September & second in January/February – 1 LWG
- Multiple cutoff dates for AFO's and CNMP CAP's only. Monthly or Bimonthly – ECS staff
- Utilize FSA electronic mailing list for notifications

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Single application cutoff date of October 21, 2016 for all funding pools “except” AFO and CNMP-CAP applications. AFO and CNMP-CAP application cutoff dates 3rd Friday of October and January.

Ranking Tools – Screening Tools

- Add State ranking question to prioritize water quantity applications on Stream Flow Depletion Factor based on the location of practice

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017

- Prioritize C/S for VRI using speed control over VRI using zone control

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Clarify NE policy on VRI for FY2017

- Revise Area of eligibility for VRI systems. Identify statewide priority Areas (Zone Control).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Revise eligible priority areas for FY2017

Ranking Tools – Screening Tools

- Require 5 years previously irrigated for Irr. to Dry payments.
Low priority if < 5 yrs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017

- Revise WIN ranking questions related to the filling reuse pits. Reduce number or points.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017. Revise ranking tool questions.

- Revise WIN ranking to reduce emphasis on brush management increased emphasis on enhancement of wildlife habitat

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017. Revise ranking tool questions.

Ranking Tools – Screening Tools

- Delete cropland grazing question (State ranking question #2)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017. Revise ranking tool questions.

- Increase points for Degraded Plant Condition questions (State questions 7 & 8)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017. Revise ranking tool questions.

- Add screening criteria on applications for practice 314, Brush Management, to remove cedars. Tag as Low priority unless a prescribed burn is implemented in subsequent years to control cedar regeneration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No Action for FY2017.

Ranking Tools – Screening Tools

- Develop screening criteria for State wide fund pools

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017

- Local Work Groups review and edit priority designations for local fund pools

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017

- Low priority for SDI applications that replace an EQIP funded pivot

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Implement in FY2017

Revise Fund Pools

- Create statewide fund pool for advanced irrigation technology (VRI, etc.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No Action for FY2017

- Add local fund pool for Irrigation systems and IWM

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Local Work Group decision in FY2017

Revise Fund Pools

- Allocate funds 50/50 between cropland and grassland fund pools

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Local Work Group decision in FY2017

- Add Soil Health Livestock Integration Initiative.
“Build soil health through diverse rotations on their cropland and re-integrate livestock back into their operation”

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No Action for FY2017

Practice 576 – Livestock Shelter Structure

- Add practice 576 to Nebraska Tech guide. Prioritize wood material over steel material. Allow portability. Ensure placement doesn't have negative impact on Grouse leks/grouse habitat.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No Action for FY2017



Practice 442 – Sprinkler System

- Reduce payment rate (EQIP General PR = \$30.30/LnFt)
- Remove scenario 3 “System Renovation, Renozzle”
- Add scenario for retrofitting pivots with speed control VRI

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Revise State policy related to VRI applications, including area of eligibility and clarifying guidance related to “zone control” and “speed control” applications. Reduce payment rate for practice 442. Maintain renozzle scenario #3 with significant revisions to guidance doc.

Practice 441 – Irrigation System, Micro irrigation

- Increase payment rate. Increase payment % from 30% to 35% (EQIP General = \$563.56/Ac)
- Decrease payment rate

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Maintain payment rate similar to FY16

Practice 430 – Irrigation Pipeline

- Combine all scenarios and use scenario #2
- Decrease payment rate

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Review and consider a reduction of payment rate for FY17

Practice 449 – Irrigation Water Management

- Eliminate scenario for Basic Technique
- Increase payment rate scenario 3 “IWM, Intermediate Technique, Subsequent Years” (EQIP General PR = \$2.63/Ac)
- Decrease payment rate for Intermediate scenario

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Eliminate “Basic” scenario for FY17. Review and consider increased payment rate for scenario #3.

Practice 587 – Structure For Water Control

- Combine scenarios number 7 “Flow meter with Mechanical Index” and scenario number 8 “Flow Meter with Electronic Index”. Remove references to Index type.
- Revise scenario #9, remove reference to electronic index.
- Add scenario to retrofit existing flowmeters with electronic indexing/telemetry

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Update EQIP guidance document

Practice 533 – Pumping Plant

- Revise scenario 4 “Irrigation Surface Water”. Unit should be “Each” w/30 HP pump. (currently the unit is “Brake Horsepower”)
- Remove scenarios 6, 9, 11, and 13: scenario 6 “Livestock, with Pressure Tank, Equal to 0.5 HP”, scenario 9 “Livestock Without Pressure Tank HP”, scenario 11 “Solar –Powered Pump, 0.5 HP”, scenario 13 “Solar Powered Pump, 2 HP”
- Maintain all pumping plant options

Practice 533 – Pumping Plant

- Increase payment rate for scenario 7 “Livestock, With Pressure Tank, greater than 0.5 HP and less than 2 HP” (EQIP General PR = \$1,678.14)
- Decrease payment rates on all scenarios

Practice 533 – Pumping Plant

- Revise policy to allow new solar system pumping plants to be installed on existing livestock wells only when a well test confirms the well is viable and would be feasible when converting to a solar system.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No change to current Nebraska policy regarding new pumping plants (including solar) on existing wells. Request to change scenario unit 4 from “Brake Horsepower” to “Each” was approved by Regional PS team and now needs National level approval. Scenario deletion and payment rate recommendations are under review and adjustment pending the finalization of the PPS.

Practice 642 – Water Well

- Delete scenario 3 “Shallow Well, 100 ft. Deep or Less” (EQIP General PR = \$34.63/LF)
- Decrease payment rate for scenarios 3 and 4. Scenario 3 “Shallow Well, 100 ft. Deep or Less” (EQIP General PR = \$34.63/LF), Scenario 4 “Single PVC Casing, Greater than 100 ft. Deep” (EQIP General PR = \$19.52/Lf)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Maintain current scenarios and adjust rates lower as recommended.

Practice 340 – Cover Crop

- Reduce payment rate, all scenarios
- Increase payment rate for Multiple Species, scenario #2
- Combine scenario 1 “Single Species” and scenario 2 “Multiple Species”
- Reduce payment Cap to \$5,000/Yr. from \$15,000/Yr.

Practice 340 – Cover Crop

- Decrease payment rates. Recommended \$30/Ac for single species. (EQIP General: Single Species = \$41.01/Ac, Multi Species = \$43.91/Ac)
- Increase payment rate, scenario 2 “Multiple Species” should be increased to \$45/Ac

Practice 340 – Cover Crop

- Allow multiple payments for a producer.
(resource concern based instead of producer)
- Limit payments to a maximum of 2 years

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Reduce payment rates when finalizing FY17 PPS. Reduce payment cap from \$15,000 to \$7,000. No changes to scenarios, or number of payments to producers in FY17.

Practice 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation

- Add scenario which adds small grains to cropping sequence

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action for FY17

Practice 382 – Fence

- Eliminate Portable Fence, scenario #11. (NOTE: Doesn't meet NE Practice Standard)
- Add scenario for portable fence when establishing intensive grazing systems. Historically approved when using an H-brace at end of system.

Practice 382 – Fence

- Add scenario to allow maxi shock cable to establish several interior pasture systems with permanent wood post at end of each segment. (NOTE: Pending practice standard review)
- Combine all barbed wire and all permanent electric scenarios.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Delete portable fence scenario #11. No action in FY17 to add “intensive grazing/H-brace” portable fence scenario.

Practice 472 – Access Control

- Add scenario to exclude animals for a partial year prior to prescribed burn (Currently March 1st until after burn is completed in following year).
Recommend scenario for early Spring grazing of cool season grass with Livestock removed by June 1st

Practice 472 – Access Control

- Reduce payment rate (EQIP General = \$26.46/Ac)
- Increase payment rate (EQIP General = \$26.46/Ac)
- Add scenarios to reflect rental rate variances across the State. (Current Statewide rate is low for Eastern Nebraska)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No changes to scenarios in FY17. Reduce payment rate.

Practice 314 – Brush Management

- Eliminate scenarios 2 “Mechanical and Chemical, Medium Infestation” and 3 “Mechanical and Chemical, Heavy Infestation”
- Increase payment rate scenario 1 “Mechanical and Chemical, Low infestation” (EQIP general PR = \$36.40/Ac)
- Establish annual payment cap (concern with high cost when in WIN contract)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Maintain all 3 scenarios for FY17. Consider recommendation to increase payment rate

Practice 327 – Conservation Cover

- Decrease payment rate scenario 3 “Native Mix with Foregone Income, Crop” (EQIP General PR = \$339.20/Ac)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider recommendation to decrease payment rate

Practice 500 – Obstruction Removal

- Eliminate from EQIP eligible practice list

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Continue to offer practice 500 in FY17

Practice 650 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation

- Change unit to “Acres” (Currently “Foot”)
- **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Change unit to “Acres” if approved by Regional PPS team

Practice 380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

- Change unit to “Each” instead of “Feet” on scenario 5 “Trees, Machine Planted” and scenario 6 “Tree, Machine Planted, Wildlife Protection”
- Allow red cedar as option in windbreaks

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Change unit to “Each” if approved by Regional PPS team

Practice 620 – Underground Outlet

- Decrease payment rates
- Reduce number of scenarios
- Delete scenarios 1, 2, 3, and 5: scenario 1 “PVC or DW 2 to 3 Inlets”, scenario 2 “PVC or DW 4 to 5 Inlets”, scenario 3 “PVC or DW 6+ Inlets”, scenario 5 “Corrugated Wall 1 – 4 Inlets”.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No change to scenarios for FY17. Adjust payment rates lower.

Practice 338 – Prescribed Burning

- Increase payment rate. (EQIP general “steep terrain” = \$12.22/Ac : “level terrain” = \$8.41/Ac)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Increase payment rate in FY17. **NOTE:** FY16 payment rate is at maximum 75% of full cost.

Practice 614 – Watering Facility

- Combine scenarios 2 “Steel Tank”(PR = \$0.82/gallon) and 8 “Steel Rim Tank – Concrete Base” (PR = \$0.89/gallon) and use scenario #2
- Decrease payment rates (Steel Bottom Tanks)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adjust payment rates lower.

Practice 378 – Pond

- Decrease payment rates. (Embankment)
(EQIP General PR \$2.50/CuYd)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider recommendation to decrease payment rates. Pending additional data review.

Practice 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure

- Decrease payment rates

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider recommendation to decrease payment rates. Pending additional data review.

Practice 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

- Implement payment cap of \$5,000/Yr. on scenario 4 “Wildlife Habitat Enhancement – Former Cropland – Foregone Income”

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action for FY17

Practice 484 – Mulching

- Decrease payment rate for fabric mulch – tree rows

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consider recommendation to decrease payment rate.

Recommended EQIP Fund Pools for 2017



2017 Local Fund Pools

- Cropland – 23 Total
- Grassland – 23 Total

2017 Area Fund Pools

West (2 areas, 1 North {UNW, MN, UL, NP} and 1 South {SP, TP, UR, MR})

- Cropland – BFR/SD
- Grassland – BFR/SD

Central (2 areas, 1 North {LN, UE, LL, CP} and 1 South {UBB, TB, LB, LR})

- Cropland – BFR/SD
- Grassland – BFR/SD

East (2 areas, 1 North {L&C, LE, LPN, Papio} and 1 South {LPS, LBB, Nemaha})

- Cropland – BFR/SD
- Grassland – BFR/SD

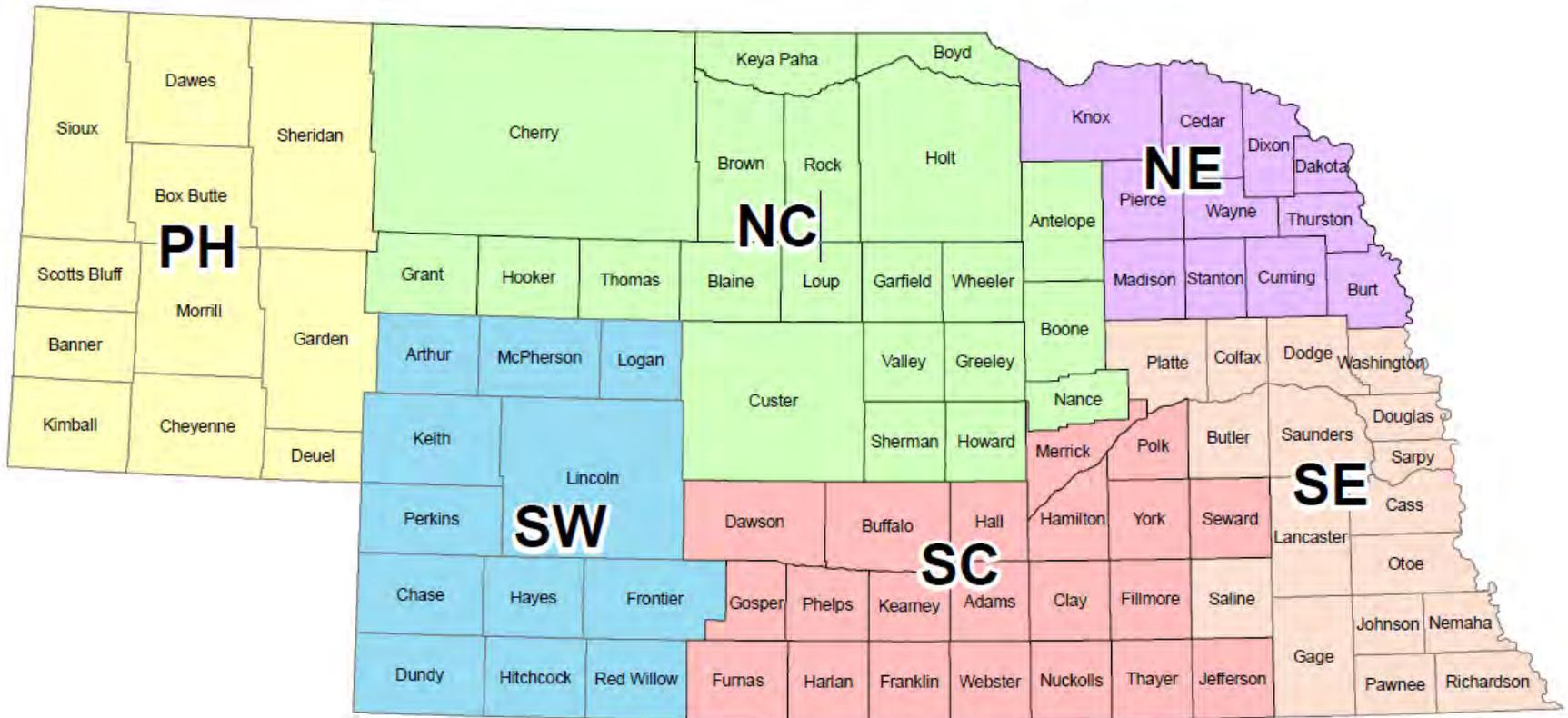
2017 STATE FUND POOLS

- **Special Initiatives - Nebraska**
 - Wildlife
 - Forestry
 - Seasonal High Tunnel
 - Animal Feeding Operations
 - Organic
 - Energy

2017 STATE FUND POOLS

- **Special Initiatives – Nebraska (cont.)**
 - Tribal
 - Conservation Activity Plans
 - Monarch Butterfly
 - Nebraska Water Quality Initiative
 - Climate Change (3 fund pools)
 - Soil Health – Demo Farm (6 fund pools)
 - WLFW

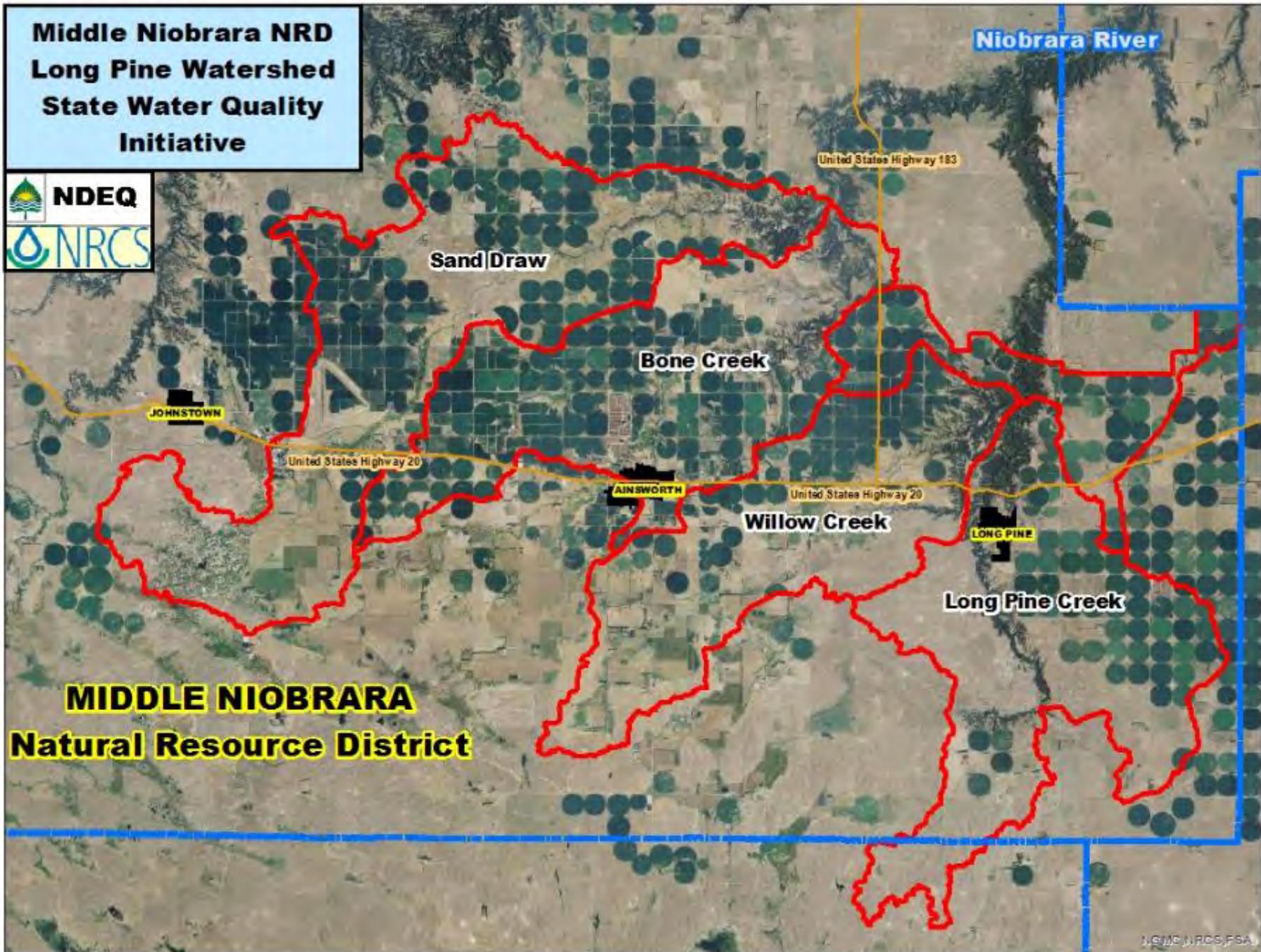
Areas for Soil Health Demonstration Farms



Nebraska Water Quality Initiative



**Middle Niobrara NRD
Long Pine Watershed
State Water Quality
Initiative**

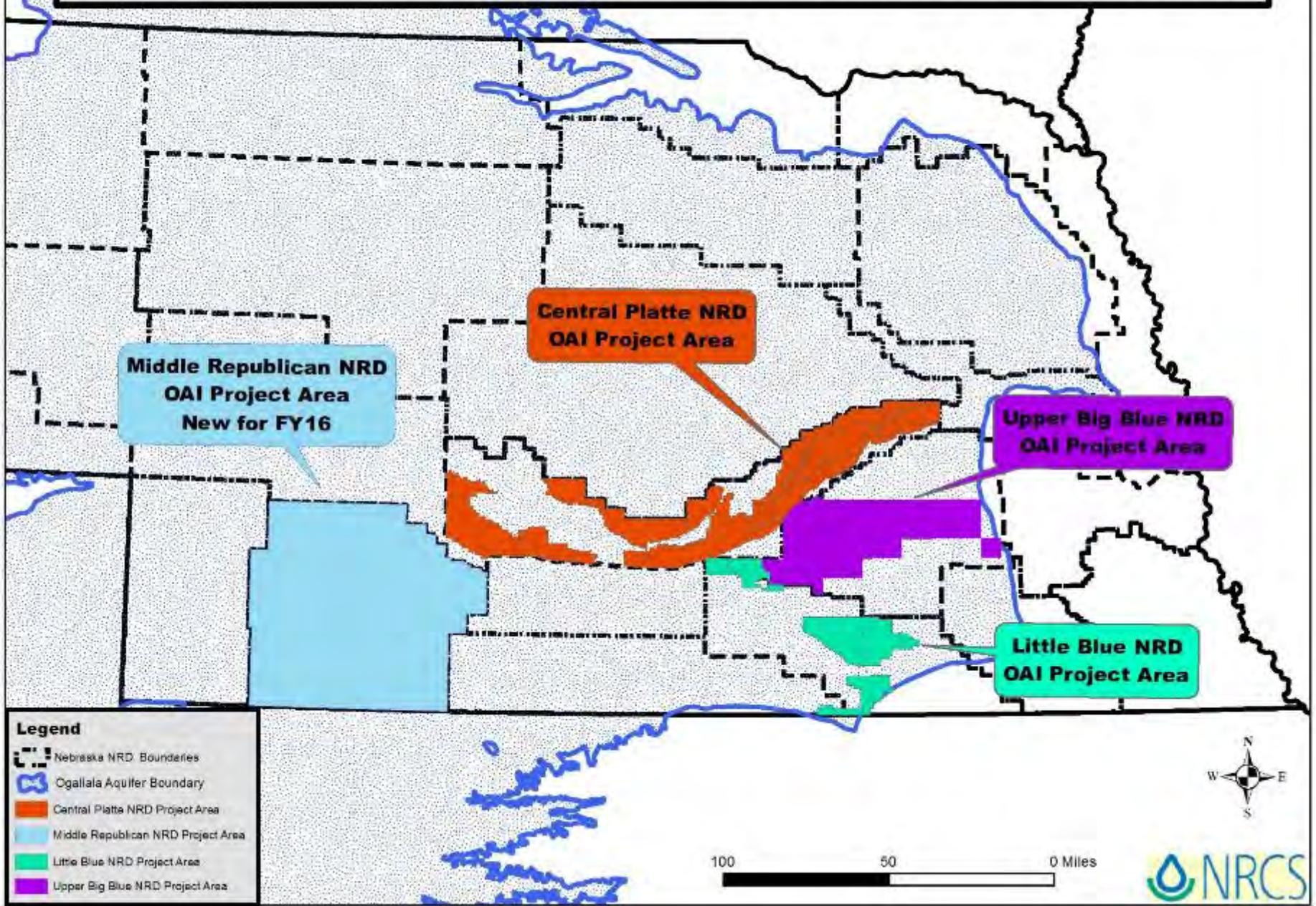


**MIDDLE NIOBRARA
Natural Resource District**

Ogallala Aquifer Initiative



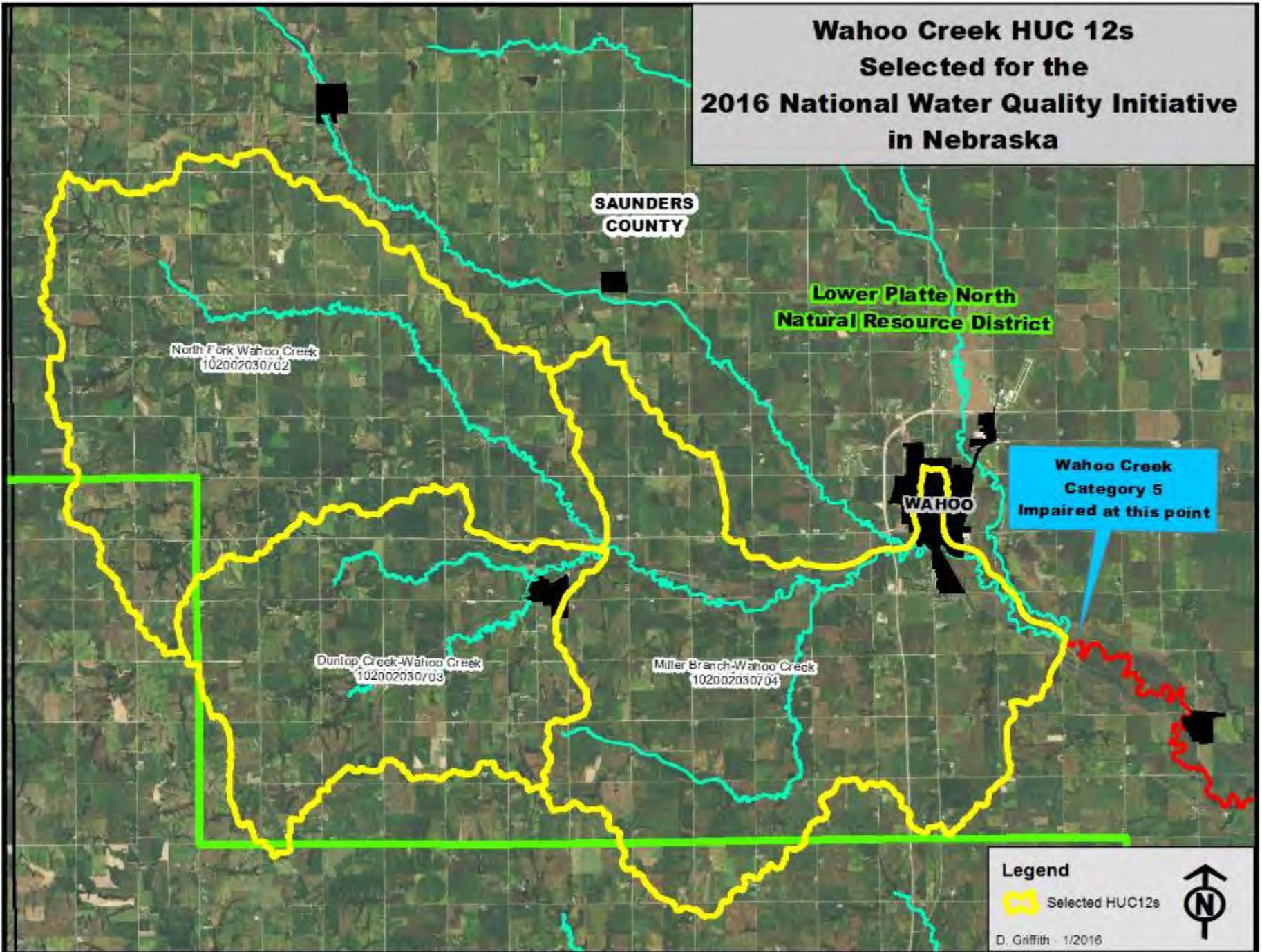
NEBRASKA 2016 OGALLALA INITIATIVE AREAS



2017 State Fund Pools

- **Special Initiatives – National**
 - **National Water Quality Initiative**
 - Wahoo Creek - Saunders
 - Bazile Creek – Antelope, Pierce, Knox

**Wahoo Creek HUC 12s
Selected for the
2016 National Water Quality Initiative
in Nebraska**



**SAUNDERS
COUNTY**

**Lower Platte North
Natural Resource District**

North Fork Wahoo Creek
102002030702

Dunlap Creek-Wahoo Creek
102002030703

Miller Branch-Wahoo Creek
102002030704

WAHOO

**Wahoo Creek
Category 5
Impaired at this point**

Legend

 Selected HUC12s

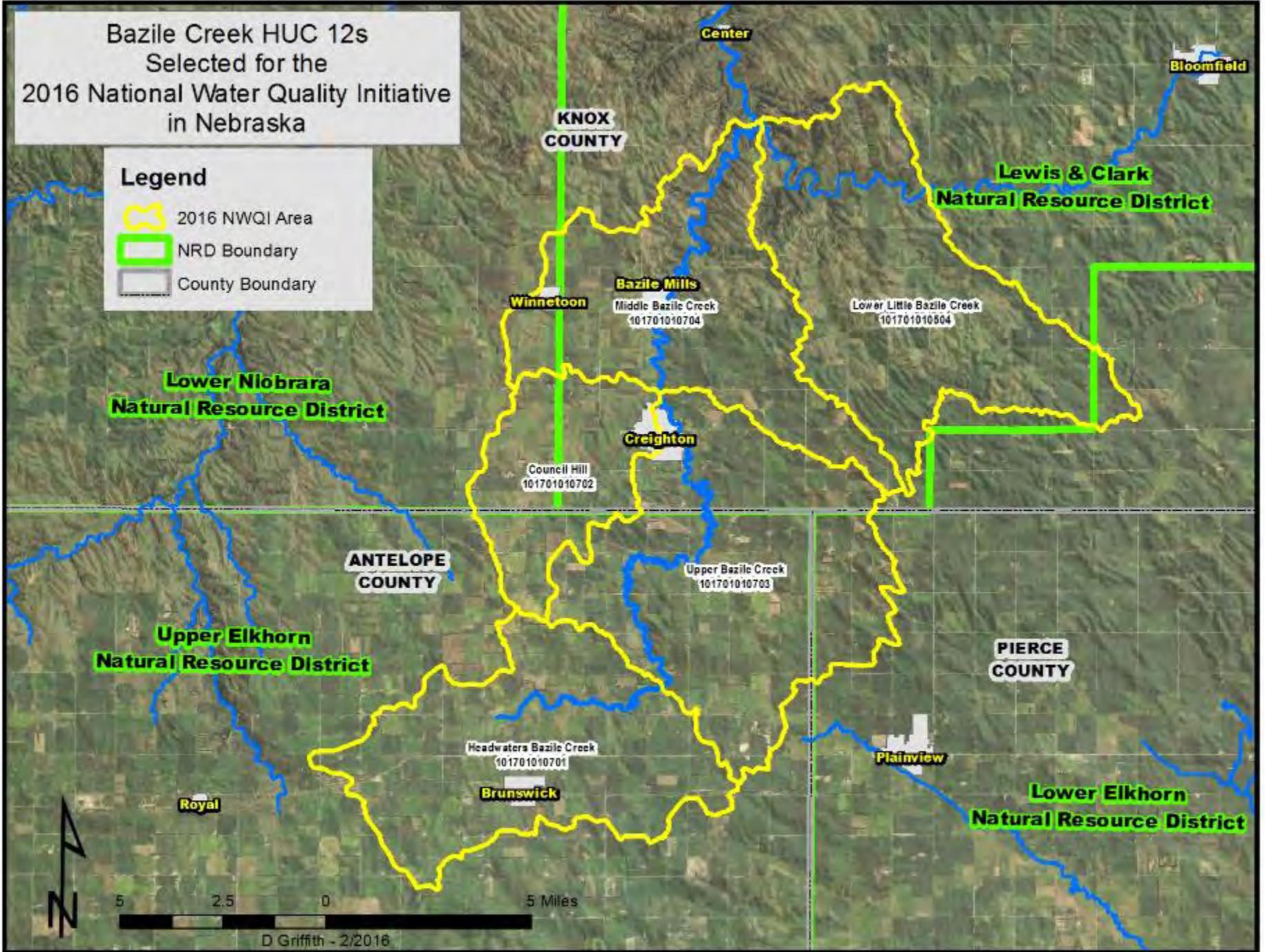
D. Griffith 1/2016



Bazile Creek HUC 12s
Selected for the
2016 National Water Quality Initiative
in Nebraska

Legend

- 2016 NWQI Area
- NRD Boundary
- County Boundary



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

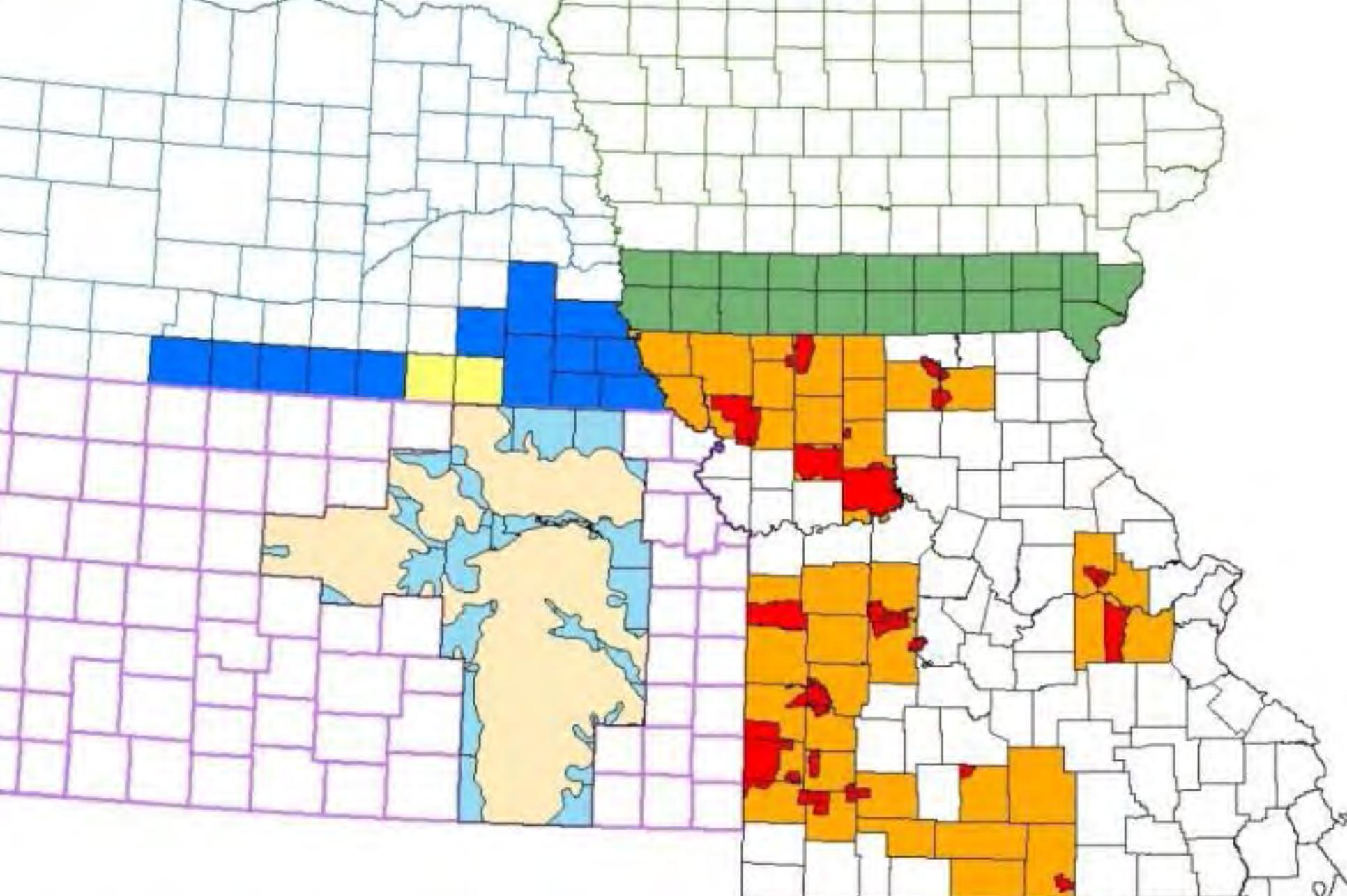


FY15 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- **State Fund Pool**
 - **Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (5 Years, 2015 – 2019)**
 - CPNRD, TPNRD, TMID, SCC, CDC
 - \$ 1.7 million
 - Application cutoff date = October 16, 2015

FY15 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- **National Fund Pool**
 - **Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative (5 years, 2015 – 2019)**
 - Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
 - \$ 885,000 (Nebraska allocation)
 - Application cutoff date = February 19, 2016



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Kansas Focus Area |  Missouri Focus Area |  NE Quail Focus Areas |  Iowa Eligible Counties |
|  Kansas Eligible Counties |  Missouri Eligible Counties |  Nebraska Eligible Counties | |

FY16 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- **State Fund Pool**
 - **3 Proposals Approved**
 - **Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife – NGPC**
 - \$700,000
 - **Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project**
 - \$400,000
 - **Republican Basin Conservation Partnership – LRNRD**
 - \$2.1 million

FY16 RCPP Approvals - Nebraska

- **National Fund Pool**
 - **2 Proposals Approved**
 - **Midwest Ag Water Quality Ptnshp – Iowa Dept of Ag**
 - IA, IL, NE
 - \$9.5 million
 - **Innovative Tribal Conservation and GHG Mgt**
 - SD, NE, OK, NM, AK
 - \$1.8 million

RCPP APF Timeline – FY17

- **March 14, 2016:** Announcement of Program Funding (APF) through grants.gov.
- **May 10, 2016:** Pre-proposal applications due
- **Week of July 18, 2016:** Announcement of selected pre-proposals.
- **September 19, 2016:** Full proposal applications due.
- **December 2016:** Announcement of projects selected for funding.
- Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.



United States Department of Agriculture

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Building Better Outcomes



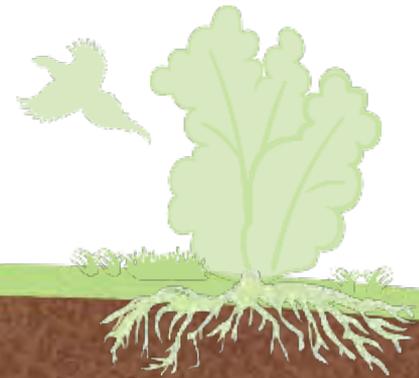


The CSP Footprint

70 million acres
of productive ag
and forest land

Active
conservation
on working
lands

An array of resource
benefits for the
American people



Uniquely CSP



Stewardship on working lands



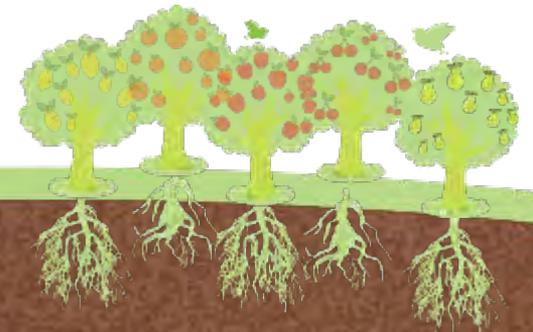
Conservation enhancements



Enhancement and “bundles”



Advances producers' business goals





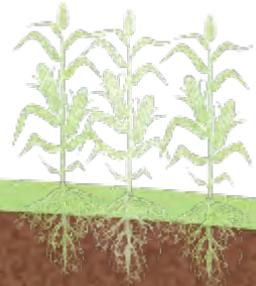
United States Department of Agriculture

CSP *at work*



Elsbernd Farm Allamakee & Winnesshiek Counties IOWA

- Improved Soil Health
- Increased Productivity
- Reduced Erosion
- Improved Wildlife Habitat





United States Department of Agriculture

CSP *at work*



Birdwell Clark Ranch Clay County TEXAS

- Improved Forage Production & Quality
- Optimized Animal Health
- Improved Wildlife Habitat
- Self-sustaining Operation



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



United States Department of Agriculture

CSP *at work*

Crown Point Ecology Center Summit County OHIO



- Improved Crop Productivity
- Improved Plant Health
- Improved Wildlife Habitat
- Increased Pollinator Habitat





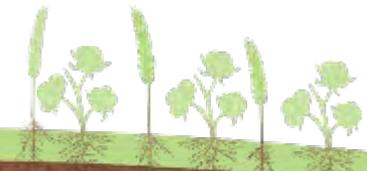
The Next Steps for a Successful Program

Providing greater flexibility

Responding to customer and partner feedback

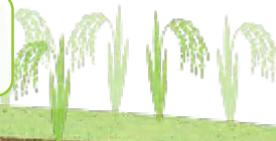
Advancing precision conservation

Demonstrating outcomes better



Straightforward Conservation

- 
- A vertical list of six items, each preceded by a downward-pointing arrowhead. The arrowheads are colored from top to bottom: light green, dark blue, teal, brown, yellow, and light green. Each item is contained within a rounded rectangular box with a matching border color.
- Redesign program tools for clearer, more logical process
 - Engage stronger conservation planning
 - Foster collaboration between applicants and NRCS planners
 - Provide more options for producers
 - Improve connection with enhancements and resource concerns
 - Support farm and ranch business planning and goals





Coordination with Other NRCS Programs

**Connect
with
conservation
planning and
CTA**

**Better
incorporate
practice
standards
and quality
criteria**

**Improve
coordination
with
practices
and EQIP**

**Integrate
with other
NRCS field
business
tools**





United States Department of Agriculture

Better Connection to our Conservation Standards



**Enhancements
linked to
conservation
practices**

**More
enhancements
and
conservation
practices offered**

**Better reporting
tools get a
improved picture
of results**



Greater Flexibility



More flexibility for state and local offices to set resource priorities

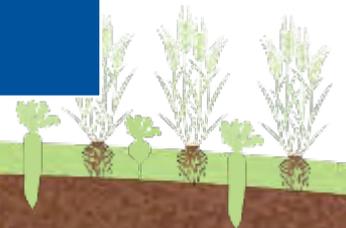


Easier for farmers and ranchers to make changes to their CSP contracts



Promotion of Local Priorities

- Provides a more locally-led process
- Offers greater ability to address region-specific natural resource concerns
- Contracts will be ranked according to how they address local resource concerns
- States have options to request additional enhancements in future years



The Role of Partners & Stakeholders



Partners & stakeholders provide valuable input



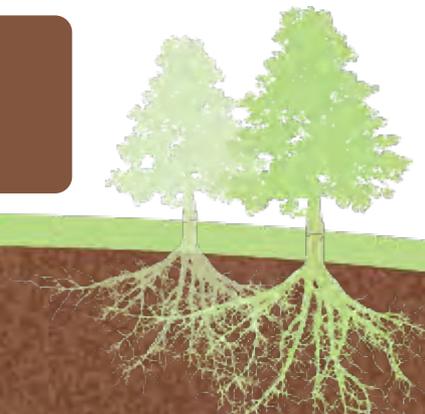
Input is essential for effective program delivery & results



New ideas are welcomed



Feedback important for future improvements



Determining Targeted Priority Resource Concerns

States have 10 priority resource concerns to choose from

Each State identifies five

Used to prioritize applications

Used to determine eligibility



Developing the Ranking Questions

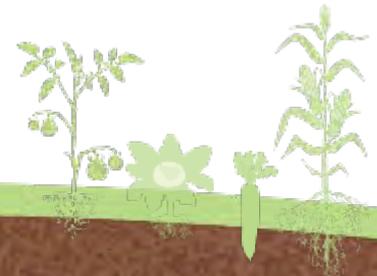
State Technical Committee and local work groups have input

Ranking process evaluates applications and prioritizes them for funding

NRCS will develop local issue questions based on state, local input

National and state questions developed for FY17 from partner and stakeholder input at national level

Questions are based on resource concerns and do not consider the size of an operation





Providing Information & Outreach





For additional information:

Partners and stakeholders who are interested in providing input can do so through the State Technical Committee meetings as well as the Local Working Group meetings.

- CSP National Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp/>

- State Website

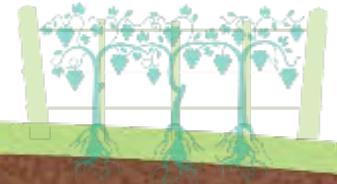
www.ne.usda.gov

- Point of Contact

John Mayberger, CSP Program Manager

John.Mayberger@ne.usda.gov

(402) 437-4129



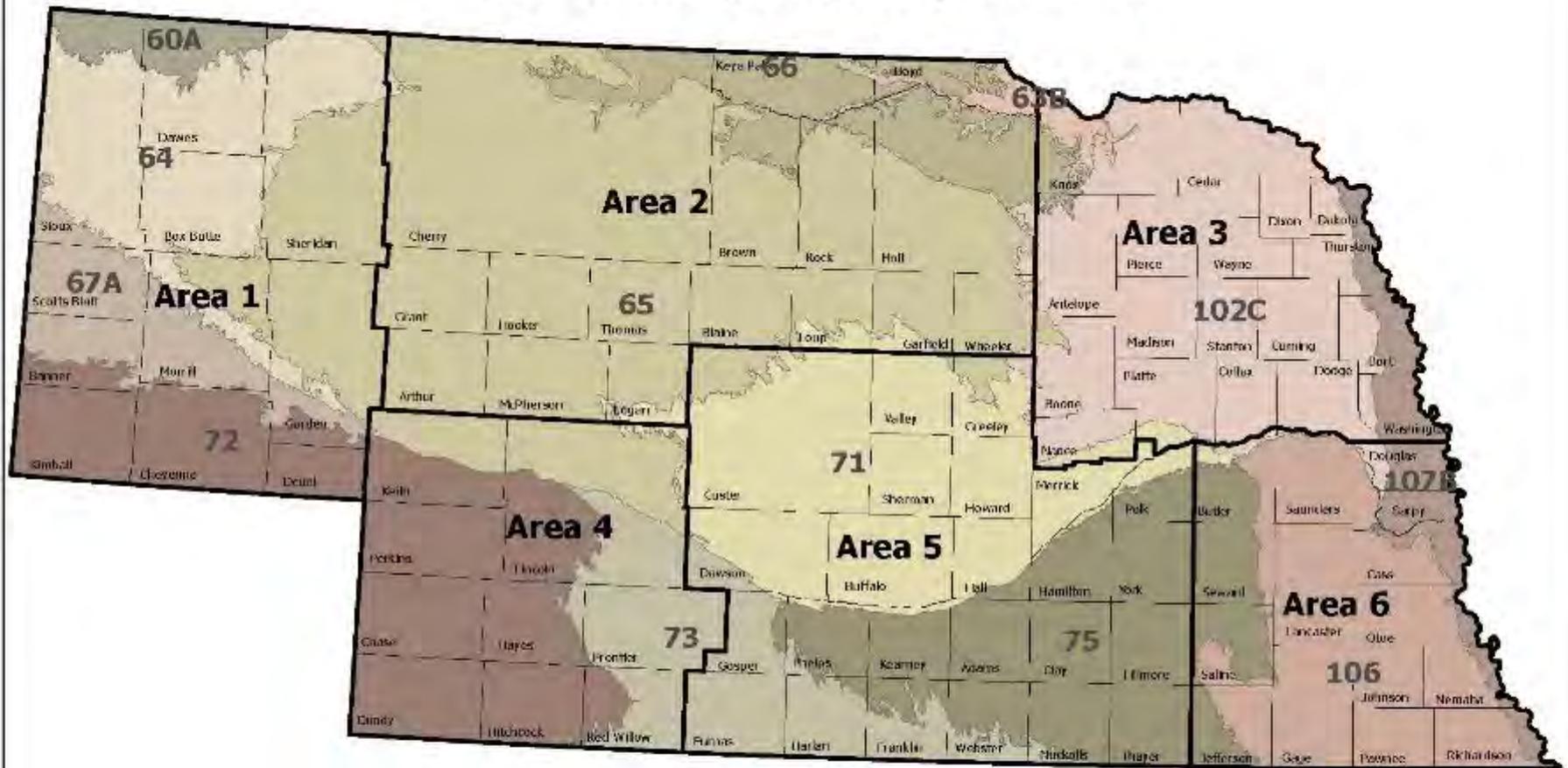


Nebraska Ranking Tool Development

- Determine Ranking Pool Areas
 - DRAFT map on MLRA boundaries (Handout)
- Determine Targeted Priority Resource Concerns
- Develop Ranking Questions and Assign Points
 - Sample National, State, and Local (Handouts)
- Update Member List for CSP Committee
 - CSP committee meeting October 12, Lincoln



CSP Ranking Pool Proposal 2017



CSP 2017 Proposed Pools

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Central High Plains, Northern Part | Dakota-Nebraska Eroded Tableland | Nebraska and Kansas Loess-Drift Hills |
| Central High Tableland | Iowa and Missouri Deep Loess Hills | Pierre Shale Plains and Badlands |
| Central Loess Plains | Loess Uplands | Rolling Plains and Breaks |
| Central Nebraska Loess Hills | Mixed Sandy and Silty Tableland | Southern Black Glaciated Plains |
| | Nebraska Sand Hills | Southern Rolling Pierre Shale Plains |

Questions?



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