



**NORTH PLATTE**  
Natural Resources District

Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Date: January 4, 2016

**North Platte NRD Creates New Programs to Help with Water Management**

The North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) has created two new programs to help the District meet obligations under its Integrated Management Plan. The two new programs, Encouraging Producer Innovation through Conservation (EPIC) and the 10/30 Program, provide financial incentives for producers to help the District reduce consumptive use and reach its resource management goals. Sign-up will commence on January 25<sup>th</sup> and run through February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The EPIC Program includes two broad categories of potential funding. First, the program will provide landowners with a bonus incentive payment to renew their expiring federal conservation-program participation, in lieu of putting contract acres back into active irrigated production. The payment would be available only to those producers who re-sign a contract under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CRP), or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) programs.

Second, the EPIC Program will provide grant funds to producers who propose innovative agricultural practices to realize water savings through allocation buy-down, nitrate reduction, soil health, wildlife and habitat conservation, and other natural resources goals. The NRD wants to

tap into the innovative spirit of the District's producers to help reduce consumptive use throughout the District.

The purpose of the 10/30 Program is to temporarily retire small parcels of marginal lands (e.g, pivot corners, end guns, hard to manage fields) and is similar to the set-aside program developed by the federal government in the 1980s. The program will focus on lands located within the zones of quickest hydrologic response to the North Platte River, so as to maximize stream accretions from irrigation cessation over the life of the program. Enrollment duration for the program would be for the entire then-current allocation period. Commingled acres-acres with both surface water rights and ground water wells-are eligible as long as they are under an irrigation district without a federal storage contract.

Any resident of the District would be eligible to apply for either program, though the primary focus will be on lands located within the Pumpkin Creek Basin and the overappropriated area. The District is targeting 1,000 acres for each program, subject to the availability of funds.

For more information on these programs on any other of the North Platte NRD's water management programs, go to [www.npnrd.org](http://www.npnrd.org) or call the office at 632-2749.

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