

# Cost-Share Programs for Conservation Tree Planting in Nebraska

### **Overview**

The cost-share programs briefly described below are available to help private landowners plant trees and shrubs for wind protection, wood products, soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- Administered statewide by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- Several enhancement practices;
- CSP offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land.

### **Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)**

- Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA);
- Continuous CRP can be used to plant trees on cropland and marginal pastureland acres (Field Windbreaks, Riparian Buffers, Marginal Pasture Buffers);
- 50% cost-share with a 40% Practice Incentive Payment for most tree-planting practices (after establishment results in 90% cost-share);
- Annual rental payments for up to 15 years;
- Not all CRP practices allow tree planting, some may only allow or require shrub planting;
- Additional incentives for certain buffer practices in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

### **Corners For Wildlife**

- Administered by Pheasants Forever;
- Annual rental payments on a 5-year

contract for establishing wildlife habitat on center pivot irrigation field corners;

- Provides 75% cost share for specific species of trees, shrubs and grass seed;
- Provides 50% cost share for the use of fabric weed barrier.

### **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- Administered by NRCS;
- Cost-share assistance available;
- Multiple practices from which to select;
- Competitively ranked and funded applications based on resource concern.

### **Nebraska Buffer Strip Program**

- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and NRDs;
- Annual rental payments for 5 to 10 years. Rates range from 20% of the CRP soil rental rate when used in conjunction with CCRP to \$250/acre, depending on whether acres are irrigated or non-irrigated, and whether other programs are used;
- Limited haying and grazing allowed;
- See [www.agr.ne.gov](http://www.agr.ne.gov) and type “buffer strip program” after clicking “search NE Ag.”

### **Nebraska Natural Resources Districts**

- All NRDs administer tree planting programs to provide trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and other conservation purposes;
- Each NRD varies, but possible tree services include: planting; weed barrier installation or weed control; and drip irrigation.

### ***Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP)***

- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and NRDs with technical assistance provided by NRCS;
- Each Natural Resources District (NRD) receives an NSWCP allocation which is used for various conservation practices within the NRD, including conservation tree planting. NRDs may supplement NSWCP funds with local NRD funds;
- Can be used in conjunction with other programs.

### ***Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Chapters***

- Administered by local chapters of Pheasants and Quail Forever;
- Each chapter's individual chapter program can vary slightly, but the typical program provides a 50% cost share for trees, shrubs, planting and weed control up to a maximum amount per producer.

### ***Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)***

- Administered by the NRCS;
- Provides easement payments and cost share for wetland restoration;
- Cost-share assistance available for restoration practices, including tree/shrub planting;
- Tree planting limited to appropriate wetlands and associated uplands where trees or shrubs are appropriate.

### ***WILD Nebraska***

- Administered by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NG&PC);
- Cost-share limited to tree planting activities on ecologically appropriate sites (e.g. native forests, riparian areas, native shrubs and shrublands).

### ***Contact Information***

- For more information regarding Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost-share programs visit, <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>, or contact your local NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center.
- For more information regarding Nebraska Game and Parks Commission cost-share programs visit, <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/conservation/programs.asp>, or contact Alicia Hardin at (402) 471-5448 or [Alicia.Hardin@nebraska.gov](mailto:Alicia.Hardin@nebraska.gov).
- For more information regarding Pheasants Forever cost-share programs visit, <http://www.nebraskapf.com/Corners.aspx>, or contact Mary Korth at (308) 428-3062 or [mkorth@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:mkorth@pheasantsforever.org).

For more information please visit the following web sites:

- Conservation Trees for Nebraska <http://www.nrdtrees.org/>
- Natural Resources Districts <http://www.nrdnet.org/>
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture <http://www.agr.ne.gov/>
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.state.ne.us/>
- Nebraska Forest Service <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/>
- Re-tree Nebraska <http://nfs.unl.edu/retreenebraska.asp>
- USDA Forest Service <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska/>
- USDA Farm Service Agency <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

