

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2026 Nebraska Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) Program

Program Objective: With funding provided by the Nebraska Corn Board and in partnership with the Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) is administering the Nebraska Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage Nebraska corn producers to improve NUE in their corn fields. Participants are incentivized to achieve a **NUE of 1.0 or under**, for the 2026 crop with a payment rate of \$15/acre. Improving NUE can deliver meaningful economic and environmental benefits without sacrificing productivity.

For the 2026 cropping season, applications are due May 15th, 2026.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Producers must be located within the boundaries of the Lower Big Blue NRD.
- Producers must be in good standing with NRD.
- Field must be planted to corn for the 2026 growing season.
- Data must be submitted for nitrogen applied (2025–2026), actual 2026 yield, and all credits used, per NRD guidance.
- Maximum 160 acres of corn per application (multiple applications allowed).
- Producers that have not been previously successful in the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA) program.

Required Data:

- Soil Sample per District Guidance

Samples need to be taken prior to 2026 planting season to determine residual soil nitrate and organic matter

How to Apply:

Paper applications can be submitted to NRDs, or an online application can be submitted. Please contact the Lower Big Blue NRD with any questions regarding this program.