

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District 2024 Cost Share Policies

Staff Credentials

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) will ensure staff has the necessary skills and training to install and maintain projects according to standards and specifications. Building credentials and maintaining or seeking certifications to retain knowledgeable staff is a high priority of the District. Budget allocations for training purposes have been approved for the calendar year and staff time will be dedicated to building skill sets to the extent practical.

Technical expertise of the District includes:

- 1 Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control
- 1 Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality
- 2 Certified Wetland Professionals
- 1 Certified Tree Inspector
- 1 Certified Geographic Information Systems Professional
- 6 Staff with USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service Job Approval Authority under Ecological and Engineering Sciences

When professional engineering is required or specific conservation practices require expertise above current technical capacity, the District will utilize professional engineers or staff from consultants, Dakota County, municipalities, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources or the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Delegation

- Under Board action 14.035, the District Board delegated authorization to assign Job Approval Authority for staff under both engineering practices and ecological sciences to the District Manager.
- Under Board action 14.037, the District Board delegated signing of all State grant contracts or reports to the District Manager. Applicant contracts for the installation of conservation practices and supporting project documents such as cost share vouchers will be signed by the District Board of Supervisors and applicant.
- Under Board Action 20.025, the District Board delegated authority to the District Manager to amend cost share contract installation dates if the amendment is not limited by the terms of available funding sources. All other contract amendments must be made by the District Board.
- Under Board Action 20.049, the District Board delegated signature authority on landowner contracts and contract documents to Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer.
- Under Board Action 22.118, the District Board delegated multiple-year contract payments to the District Manager after the first-year payment provided there are no changes to the contract or practice installed.

Noncompliance

- Cost share contract noncompliance will be reviewed by the District Board in consultation with the Dakota County Attorney's Office. The District Board will attempt to address noncompliance issues with the current landowner and applicant on a voluntary basis. Unresolved issues that the District Board is not able to address will be forwarded to the Dakota County Attorney's Office for possible legal action as identified in Article 7 of the Joint Powers Agreement between Dakota County and the District Board and Minn. Stat. 103C.321, Subd. 4.

General Policies Applied to all Funding Programs.

- All funding program contracts and requests for payment for projects under contract require the approval of the District Board.
- All funding programs are subject to fund availability and may be discontinued or subject to program policy revisions by the District Board as it deems appropriate.
- The number of contracts approved may be limited by the amount of funding and staff time available. The District Board reserves the right to limit funding at their discretion.
- Data is collected, created, or maintained by the District during project development and implementation. The landowner and/or applicant may be required to acknowledge and sign a Tennessee Warning regarding use of that data. Failure to provide necessary data or failure to sign the Tennessee Warning may result in inability of the District to provide financial or technical assistance.
- Other than USDA Programs, the District does not provide technical or administrative assistance to other organizations that implement their own financial incentive programs unless specifically identified in a work plan or contractual agreement.
- At its sole discretion, the Board may consider compliance to the terms of a previous or existing District or USDA Cost Share Contract as a prerequisite to entering into a subsequent Cost Share Contract with an applicant.
- It is a District goal to fund voluntary conservation projects. Projects that are completed to meet regulatory requirements are not eligible for funding. However, portions of a project may be eligible for funding if that portion is voluntary and exceeds regulatory requirements. Verification that the project is voluntary may be required from the applicant or applicable regulatory agency.
- The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of structural practices applied under this program to ensure the conservation objective of the practice is achieved for a minimum of 10 years. For non-structural practices (e.g. cover crops), the applicant is responsible for the operations and maintenance for the term specified in their contract.
- It is the District's goal to support and leverage federal USDA program funding, or local funding sources, through District technical assistance and funding.
- If USDA project funds or technical assistance are being used on a joint project, the applicant must sign a Freedom of Information Act release form that allows the District access to applicable information within the applicant's project case file in order to be eligible for District funds.
- The District Board may establish "Priority Locations" through a separate Board action that are eligible for higher funding percentages or incentive payments.

- If the practice has failed prior to the 10-year term due to improper maintenance, the applicant will be responsible for the necessary repairs. If the applicant decides not to repair the practice to the original specifications, they shall be obligated to reimburse funding in accordance with the approved cost share contract.
- Repair and maintenance activities for serviceable engineered practices that have exceeded their designed lifespan are eligible for cost share funding if the activity will provide water quality or erosion control benefits. An example of an eligible activity is sediment removal from a water and sediment control basin to restore the original capacity of the basin. Funding for repair and maintenance activities may be limited to available funding sources that allow for these types of activities.
- If the title to the land where the practice is installed is transferred to another party before the expiration of the life of the cost share contract, it shall be the responsibility of the landowner who signed the contract to advise the new owner that the contract is in force.
- Projects that involve \$100,000 or more of cost share funding from the SWCD will require recording of the conservation practice with the property title. Projects that involve more than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 of cost share funding will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may require recording of the conservation practice with the property title.
- Project inspections will be conducted to meet minimum State requirements, with additional inspections for projects of emphasis. Current inspection schedule includes:
 - Compliance inspections at years 1, 3, 6, and 9 for typical projects under a 10-year contract.
 - Annual compliance inspections for non-structural land management practices. Non-structural land management practices include practices that must be re-established annually (e.g. cover crops and some harvestable covers).
- Existing staff with technical background and knowledge of conservation practices will conduct and sign follow-up compliance inspections for projects currently under contract. For non-compliant projects that require modifications or if additional expertise is needed to determine compliance, the District will utilize appropriate technical expertise.
- For projects using state funds, additional specific requirements may apply, including but not limited to Minnesota prevailing wage, BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, and project signage requirements.

Project Development

- The landowner and applicant shall allow District staff access to property for which the installed conservation practice is located during the life of the contract. The installed practice will be subject to periodic inspections by District staff.
- District Technical Standards include, but are not limited to, the most current: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MPCA Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual, Dakota County Low Impact Development Standards, BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines and applicable local, state and federal regulations.
- The District will consider funding tile installation only for the following purposes:
 - If it is necessary to establish vegetation for an approved practice.
 - If it is necessary to ensure project success for a minimum of ten years.
 - If it is a support practice or part of an approved practice. (e.g. water and sediment control basins or stormwater runoff controls).
- Funding will not be provided for tile installation if the activity will impact a wetland or for the sole purpose of drainage.

- Funding will not be provided to increase tile capacity or size beyond design capacity for the purpose of agricultural drainage. The applicant is solely responsible for costs associated with increased tile capacity. All modifications or connections must have prior approval to ensure that the changes do not negatively affect the success of the approved practice.
- At the discretion of SWCD, erosion control products with natural, wildlife-friendly netting will be required.
- District staff will work with the applicant to develop a project cost estimate prior to application for funding. If contractor quotes exceed the project cost estimate, applicant may be requested to obtain a minimum of two quotes for the proposed conservation work prior to cost share contract approval or contract amendment by the District Board.
- Unless specified otherwise by Minnesota prevailing wage statutes, the value of in-kind labor, equipment, materials and/or services that are proposed to be provided by the applicant to complete the project, shall be estimated at:
 - General Labor rate of \$30 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
 - Medium equipment (self-powered equipment under 60 hp) usage, including operator labor at \$60 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
 - Large equipment (self-powered equipment 60 hp or larger) usage, including operator labor at \$100 per hour (Date, times and activity must be documented)
 - Professional or semi-professional services, such as engineering, labor rate at \$75 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
 - Other items: Fair market value

Application/Contract

- Applicants are responsible to submit application forms, project plans, operations and maintenance plan, and cost estimates prior to Board approval and in sufficient detail for the District to complete its review.
- For projects where construction will occur on adjacent properties or the project will impound water on adjacent properties not owned by the applicant, a group addendum must be signed by all affected landowners. A division of payment schedule, agreed to by all landowners, must be attached to the addendum.
- The application deadlines for individual programs may be extended at the District Board's discretion.
- Applications not approved may be resubmitted for review in following rounds within the calendar year.
- District Staff will prioritize applications based on local, state and federal priorities and the potential to provide water quality benefits.
- With the exception of the Landscaping for Clean Water Program, District staff shall provide a funding recommendation for each application submitted to the District Board. The district reserves the right to review projects by committee if deemed appropriate.
- The funding amount will not exceed the amount specified on the original cost share contract, unless the applicant, prior to completion of the project, obtains a District Board approved contract amendment to increase funding amounts. Contract amendments shall not be awarded solely due to increased project costs and shall be evaluated by the board on a case by case basis.
- Upon approval by the District Board, the applicant and landowner will receive a letter with a copy of the executed cost share contract stating details of the practice that has been approved, the funding amount, and time schedule to start and complete the project.

Project Implementation

- District staff shall participate in a preconstruction meeting. District staff shall be available to the applicant during construction to answer questions, document installations and provide general construction observation to inform the Applicant of non-compliant project components or conditions.
- Unless otherwise approved by the District Board, a portion of a project becomes ineligible for funding if construction begins on that portion before a cost share contract has been approved.
- The project must be completed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Cost Share Program Contract and maintained in compliance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- The applicant is responsible for full installation of the project before the project installation deadline listed on the cost share contract. If a deadline extension is required to complete the project, the applicant must make the request prior to the project installation deadline.
- The entire practice shall be installed according to project design requirements, including seeding, mulching, erosion control blanket, or other erosion control devices. Any changes from the approved design requirements shall be agreed to in writing prior to practice certification.

Reimbursement

- The technician with the proper Job Approval Authority shall verify if the practice is complete and meets standards and specifications before final payment is issued.
- Unless the District Board approves joint payment to the applicant and contractor prior to reimbursement, the applicant is responsible to pay, in full, all receipts and invoices directly to the contractor or vendor.
- For percent-based contracts, the applicant must submit invoices or receipts of actual costs in sufficient detail for the District's review. Invoices or receipts must include
 - the name of the vendor;
 - the materials, labor, or equipment used to establish the practice;
 - the component unit costs (e.g., hours, feet, cubic yards, etc.); and
 - the date the work was performed.
- Requests for reimbursement shall include a Voucher and Practice Certification Summary Form submitted at least two weeks prior to the first of the month to allow for District's review and processing.
- Failure to submit invoices or receipts within 90 days of project certification or within the same calendar year as the completion may result in cancellation of the contract.
- For projects that receive a flat rate payment (for example, cover crops or harvestable filter strips), 1099 tax information must be supplied before a final payment will be issued.
- With the exception of multiple-year non-structural land management practices, a one-time cost share reimbursement payment will be made by the District Board upon certification that the project has been installed and completed to specifications.

Program-Specific Policies

- **Citizen Conservation Stewards (CCS)** (See CCS Fact Sheet)
 - CCS funds voluntary (non-agricultural) conservation projects on individual properties.
 - CCS applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis.
 - With the exception of projects in locations designated as “Priority Locations” by the District Board, CCS amounts are based on a District Board approved percentage range (up to 85%) of the total estimated project costs.
 - The final CCS reimbursement amount is determined by applying the approved percentage to the actual documented project cost and shall not exceed \$5,000 or as limited by District Board action.

- **Conservation Initiative Funding (CIF)** (See CIF Fact Sheet)
 - CIF funds voluntary (non-agricultural) conservation projects on commercial and/or properties with multiple owners represented by a single legal entity.
 - CIF applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis.
 - With the exception of projects in locations designated as “Priority Locations” by the District Board, CIF amounts are based on a District Board approved percentage range (up to 85%) of the total estimated project costs.
 - The final CIF reimbursement amount is determined by applying the approved percentage to the actual documented project cost and shall not exceed \$25,000 or as limited by District Board action.

- **Community Conservation Partnership (CCP)** (See CCP Fact Sheet)
 - CCP funds voluntary (non-agricultural) conservation projects at existing public facilities or properties.
 - CCP applications for projects requesting cost share funds are due by March 15, May 15 or July 15 of each year.
 - With the exception of projects in locations designated as “Priority Locations” by the District Board, CCP amounts are based on a District Board approved percentage range (up to 85%) of the total estimated project costs.
 - The final CCP reimbursement amount is determined by applying the approved percentage to the actual documented project cost and shall not exceed \$50,000 or as limited by District Board action.
 - For purposes of this program, public facilities can include, but are not limited to, buildings, property, recreational areas, and roadways, which are owned, leased, or otherwise operated, or funded, by a governmental body or public entity.

- Landscaping for Clean Water Grants (LCW) (See LCW Fact sheet)
 - Eligible project types are limited to raingardens, native gardens and native shoreline plantings that demonstrate compliance with Landscaping for Clean Water technical recommendations.
 - Projects must be at least 100 ft² in size to be eligible.
 - For projects that are estimated to cost less than \$250.00, grant amounts may be adjusted so that grants do not exceed the actual project costs.
 - Grant applicants must successfully complete a Landscaping for Clean Water design workshop and submit a grant application, cost estimate, project plan, plant list, and location map for District staff review and approval.
 - Applicants must receive an initial layout visit prior to beginning any work on the project area or the project. (Grant is not retroactive.)
 - Projects up to 1,000 ft² in size must be planted using live plants with mulch. Projects 1,000 ft² or larger may be seeded.
 - District staff will review applications, select grant recipients, verify completed projects, and distribute grants in accordance to program policy.
 - Applications requesting grant approval will be reviewed in three application rounds. Applications must be received by the application deadline for each respective round. Awarded grants automatically expire if the project is not completed by the completion date of the round it was awarded in. District staff will establish application and completion deadlines each year.
 - The number of grants awarded shall be limited by the amount of funding available and the amount of District staff time available to provide technical assistance. (Application window may be extended at District staff discretion.)
 - The Landscaping for Clean Water grant amount is limited to \$250.00 per application.
 - Only one grant allowed per applicant or property per year.
 - Applications not approved in a preceding round may be resubmitted for review in following rounds.
 - District Staff will prioritize grant awards based on watershed location, proximity to water resources, potential to provide water quality benefits, and whether the applicant has received previous funding from the District.
 - The Board shall determine the amount and source of District funding (if any) to be allocated each year.
 - Partnering organizations may participate by contributing funds. The District will develop an agreement with work plan and provide an annual report listing projects and funds spent.
 - Expired grants and grants not awarded (if any) will be made available to subsequent application rounds or the remaining funds may be reallocated to other cost share programs per the approved work plan.
 - Follow up visits will be performed for Landscaping for Clean Water projects at 1 year and 5 years after installation contingent on staff availability.

- Lawns Reimagined Pilot (LRI) (See LRI Fact sheet)
 - Eligible project types are limited to low-maintenance lawn conversions that demonstrate compliance with Lawns Reimagined technical recommendations.
 - Eligible projects must be at least 1000 ft² in size or 50% of existing lawn, whichever is less.
 - The Lawns Reimagined grant amount is limited to seed or plant material for a maximum size of 10,000 square feet. Projects larger than 10,000 square feet may be eligible for a different SWCD cost share program.
 - Grant applicants must successfully complete a Lawns Reimagined workshop and submit a grant application, project plan/location map, and cost estimate for District staff review and approval.
 - District staff will review applications, select grant recipients, verify completed projects, and distribute grants in accordance to program policy.
 - Applications must be received by the application deadline to be eligible. Awarded grants automatically expire if the project is not completed by the completion date of the round it was awarded in. District staff will establish application and completion deadlines each year.
 - The number of grants awarded may be limited by the amount of funding available and the amount of District staff time available to provide technical assistance.
 - Only one grant allowed per applicant or property per year.
 - Applications not approved in a preceding round may be resubmitted for review in following rounds.
 - District Staff will prioritize grant awards based on project location, proximity to water resources, potential to provide water quality benefits, reduction in water usage, and whether the applicant has received previous funding from the District. Prioritization may include, but is not limited to, Dakota SWCD Comprehensive Plan, Dakota County Groundwater Plan, and Watershed Management Plans.
 - Applicants must receive an initial layout visit prior to beginning any work on the project area or the project.
 - Partnering organizations may participate by contributing funds. The District will develop an agreement with work plan and provide an annual report listing projects and funds spent.
 - Follow up visits will be performed for Lawns Reimagined projects at 1 year and 5 years after installation, contingent on staff availability.

- Incentive Payment Practices (IPP) (See IPP Fact sheet)
 - IPP applications for projects requesting cost share funds are due by March 15, May 15, July 15, or September 15th of each year. Applications for non-structural land management practices and Native Prairie Restorations are accepted year-round.
 - IPP amounts are based on a District Board approved percentage range (up to 85%) of the total estimated project costs with the following exceptions:

- Funding shall not exceed 50% of the documented project cost for the materials and activities required to seal unused wells in accordance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 4725 (Minnesota Department of Health). Total funding award including all other state, federal, or local funding sources is limited to \$2,000 per sealed well. Well sealing costs may be eligible for low-interest AgBMP loans.
 - For projects where the applicant submits an application for and is awarded USDA-EQIP funds, the combination of state, local, and federal funds shall not exceed 95% of the total documented project cost. Cover crops, no-till/strip-till, and Harvestable Covers that receive USDA funding are not eligible for funding through the IPP program during the same year.
 - Funding percentage may be higher for qualifying projects in locations designated as “Priority Locations” by the District Board.
- Pre-Construction Cover is allowed when temporary cover is necessary for the future installation of structural conservation practices. Eligible acres are defined as the area needed to provide access to the location of the structural practice to be installed and the area to be impacted during installation, which includes the actual location of the practice as well as any surrounding areas that will have disturbance during construction. The temporary cover is to remain in place until construction begins. A flat rate payment of up to \$150 per acre is allowed as part of a contract for the installation of structural practice(s).
- Stormwater Runoff Control (Code 570) practices are not eligible for funding through the IPP program unless otherwise approved by District Board action.
- **Conventional Filter Strips:**
 - The applicant must enroll in the CCRP with the USDA - Farm Service Agency (FSA) and meet all of their site location and crop history requirements.
 - The District will provide up to \$300 per acre per year, in combination with the CCRP, for the establishment of new or existing filter strips.
 - The applicant must choose the maximum allowable CCRP contract length to be eligible for the IPP Filter Strip Program.
 - The applicant is responsible for the costs of seed, planting, and maintenance. CRP cost share may be available through the CRP program.
 - The Conventional Filter Strip Program provides the total contract payment in one lump sum when the filter strip seeding has been completed and certified. The filter strip must be established, operated, and maintained according to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-FOTG) Conservation Practice Standards. All certifications are made by District staff and all payments must be approved by the District Board.
 - Total filter strip payments are limited to \$15,000 per contract.
- **Harvestable Filter Strips:**
 - The Harvestable Filter Strip Program eligibility requirements are the same as the current FSA Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) site location and crop history standards. District staff completes all eligibility determinations.
 - The minimum filter strip width eligible for payment is 30-feet. The maximum filter strip width eligible for payment is 120-feet.

- Landowners enrolled in the District’s Conventional Filter Strip Program or the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program are not eligible for the Harvestable Filter Strip Program.
 - The District will provide up to \$150 per acre per year.
 - The Harvestable Filter Strip Program provides the total contract payment in one lump sum when the filter strip seeding has been completed and certified. All certifications are made by District staff and all payments must be approved by the District Board.
 - Total filter strip payments are limited to \$7,500 per contract.
 - The filter strip must be established, operated, and maintained according to NRCS FOTG standards. The applicant is responsible for the costs of seed, planting, and maintenance.
 - Harvesting within the filter strip is allowed only after August 1st of each year to avoid the primary nesting season unless an earlier harvest date is approved by District staff.
 - The minimum remaining vegetation height after harvest is 6-inches for cool season grasses and legumes, and 10-inches for native warm season grasses and forbs.
- **Cover Crops:**
 - Cover Crops must meet NRCS Practice Standard 340 (Cover Crop) to be eligible for incentive payments. In addition, cover crops must be planted no later than October 15th. Extensions to the October 15th planting deadline may be approved by staff based on current and forecasted conditions and ability to establish cover before winter. All extensions must be made in writing prior to the October 15th deadline.
 - Applications will be competitively ranked to prioritize project funding.
 - The District will provide up to \$35 per acre per year for cover crops under a single year contract.
 - The District will provide up to \$45 per acre per year for cover crops under a multiple-year contract. To be eligible for a multiple-year contract, cover crops must be planted on the same number of acres and on the same fields for consecutive years. Multiple-year contracts may be 2-year or 3-year contracts.
 - Payment for the first year will be made after certification of the installation and District Board approval. For multiple-year contracts, payments for additional years will be made annually after cover crop seeding has been completed for that year and has been certified by District staff.
 - Total cover crop payments under a single year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$5,600 per contract.
 - Total cover crop payments under a multiple year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$21,600 per contract.
 - Fields that receive cover crop funding through USDA-EQIP are not eligible for District funding during the same calendar year.
 - **Harvestable Covers:**
 - Harvestable covers are vegetative cover on cropland for protection from erosion and reduction of nutrient losses to groundwater. Harvestable covers are intended

to provide soil and groundwater protection throughout as much of the year as possible.

- Harvestable covers must be a new operational practice or implemented in a new location.
- Examples of harvestable covers include but are not limited to: winter camelina, intermediate wheat grass, winter wheat, or other crop that has overwinter cover. Dual crops during the same growing season (such as peas/soybeans in the same year) do not qualify as a harvestable cover.
- Harvestable covers must be seeded by October 15th and have fall establishment with overwinter cover.
- Soil disturbance can only be done after April 1st following overwinter cover.
- Harvesting of the above-ground portion of the crop can be done according to an approved Operations and Maintenance Plan.
- Harvestable covers must provide a water quality benefit based on a commonly accepted water quality model or pollution reduction estimator to be eligible for funding.
- Projects that use non-local funding must meet an established USDA/NRCS practice standard.
- Applications will be competitively ranked to prioritize project funding.
- The District will provide up to \$25 per acre per year for a winter annual harvestable cover under a single year contract.
- The District will provide up to \$35 per acre per year for a winter annual harvestable cover under a multiple-year contract. To be eligible for a multiple-year contract, cover crops must be planted on the same number of acres and on the same fields for consecutive years. Multiple-year contracts may be 2 or 3 year contracts.
- The District will provide up to \$35 per acre per year for perennial harvestable cover under a multiple-year contract. Perennial cover crops must have year-round coverage with minimal soil disturbance throughout the contract life. Multiple year contracts may be 2 or 3 year contracts.
- If nutrient application is planned during the contract period, soil testing information and fertilizer application schedule may be required prior to board approval.
- An Operations and Maintenance plan will be developed and must be followed for all harvestable covers.
- Harvestable cover payments are approved by the District board. Payment for the first year will be made after certification of the installation and District Board approval. For multiple-year contracts, payments for additional years will be made annually when seeding has been completed for that year and has been certified by District staff.
- Total harvestable cover payments under a single year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$4,000 per contract.

- Total harvestable cover payments under a multiple year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$16,800 per contract.
- Fields that receive harvestable cover funding through USDA-EQIP are not eligible for District funding during the same calendar year.
- **No-till/Strip-till:**
 - No-till/Strip-till must meet NRCS Practice Standard 329 (Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till) to be eligible for incentive payments.
 - The District will provide up to \$15 per acre per year for no-till/strip-till under a single year contract.
 - The District will provide up to \$20 per acre per year for no-till/strip-till under a multiple-year contract. To be eligible for a multiple-year contract, no-till/strip-till must be implemented on the same number of acres and on the same fields for consecutive years. Multiple-year contracts may be 2-year or 3-year contracts.
 - Payment for the first year will be made after implementation and District Board approval. For multiple-year contracts, payments for additional years will be made annually after primary crop seeding for that year and no-till/strip-till has been certified by District staff.
 - Total no-till/strip-till payments under a single year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$2,400 per contract.
 - Total no-till/strip-till payments under a multiple year contract are limited to 160 acres or \$9,600 per contract.
 - Fields that receive residue and tillage management funding through USDA-EQIP are not eligible for District funding during the same calendar year.
- **Nitrogen Inhibitors**
 - Nitrogen inhibitors must be used with applications of nitrogen during the calendar year.
 - No-till/strip-till, harvestable covers, or cover crops must be implemented to be eligible for nitrogen inhibitor incentive payments.
 - The district will provide up to \$5 per acre for use of nitrogen inhibitors.
- **Planting Green**
 - The primary crop must be planted into an actively growing cover. Terminating a cover concurrently with planting the primary crop qualifies as planting green.
 - No-till/strip-till, harvestable covers, or cover crops must be implemented to be eligible for planting green incentive payments.
 - The district will provide up to \$10 per acre for planting green.
- **Split Rate Nitrogen Application**
 - Nitrogen fertilizer application must be split across multiple applications during the growing season.
 - No-till/strip-till, harvestable covers, or cover crops must be implemented to be eligible for split rate nitrogen application incentive payments.

- Funding will not be provided if split rate nitrogen application is a required practice.
- The district will provide up to \$5 per acre for split rate nitrogen application.
- **Irrigation Management**
 - At least one of the following practices must be used to qualify for irrigation management incentives:
 - Testing of irrigation water for nitrogen content and crediting nitrogen towards necessary nitrogen application
 - Use of Irrigation Management Assistant (IMA) tool or other commonly accepted irrigation scheduling tools throughout growing season
 - No-till/strip-till, harvestable covers, or cover crops must be implemented to be eligible for irrigation management incentive payments.
 - The district will provide up to \$5 per acre for Irrigation Management.
- **Native Prairie Restoration**
 - Native Prairie Restoration (NPR) funds the establishment or enhancement of native vegetation.
 - Projects must be 1/2 acre in size or greater to qualify for the NPR incentive payments.
 - Native Prairie Restoration projects must meet NRCS Practice Standard 327 (Conservation Cover), 657 (Wetland Restoration), 643 (Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats), or 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management to be eligible for incentive payments.
 - Native Prairie Restoration applications requesting funds are accepted all year. Projects will be ranked and prioritized for funding on a monthly basis.
 - Funding shall not exceed 85% of the documented project costs and is limited to:
 - \$2,500 per acre for the establishment of native grasses.
 - \$1,500 per acre for the enhancement of existing native grass plantings through the addition of pollinator-friendly species such as forbs, sedges, and rushes.
 - Projects that establish native grasses and pollinator-friendly species(forbs) are eligible for the combined limit of \$4,000 per acre.
 - Total Native Prairie Restoration payments are limited to \$20,000 per contract.
 - All requests for funding must submit a cost estimate at the time of application.
 - Enhancement of existing CRP plantings will require coordination with USDA to ensure compliance with existing CRP contract.