

Conservation Tree Programs



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 USDA 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 and shrubs on cropland and marginal pastureland acres (field windbreaks, riparian buffers, marginal pasture buffers);
- 50% cost-share with a 40% Practice Incentive Payment for most 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 are available for certain other buffer practices.

Corners for Wildlife

- Administered by Pheasants Forever;
- Annual rental payments on a five-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.

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 local natural resource concern benefits.

Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)

- All NRDs administer planting programs to provide trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and other conservation purposes;
- Each NRD varies, but available services most often include: Seedling sales; site preparation; machine and/or hand planting; weed barrier installation or other weed control; and drip irrigation.

Nebraska Buffer Strip Program

- Administered by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and NRDs, with NRCS technical assistance;
- Annual rental payments for five to ten years. Rates range from 20% of the CRP soil rental rate to \$250/acre, depending on whether acres are irrigated or non-irrigated, and whether or not other programs are used;
- Limited haying and grazing is allowed;
- Can be used in conjunction with CCRP.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

ne.nrcs.usda.gov/



Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Chapters

- Administered by local chapters of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever;
- Each chapter's individual programs 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.

Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP)

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

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

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

WILD Nebraska

- Administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission;
- Incentives are limited to tree and shrub planting activities on ecologically appropriate sites (e.g. native forests, riparian areas, native shrubs, and shrub lands).
- Can be used in conjunction with other cost-share programs.

Contact Information

For more information regarding cost-share programs for conservation tree and shrub planting, contact the following:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – <http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> or contact your local NRCS office (<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>).
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/> or contact your local FSA office.
- Nebraska Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) – contact your local NRD office. For detailed tree and shrub species information visit <https://www.nrdnet.org/tree-program>
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – <http://outdoornebraska.gov/> or contact Alicia Hardin at (402) 471-5448 or Alicia.Hardin@nebraska.gov.
- Pheasants Forever's Corners for Wildlife – <http://nebraskapf.com/habitat-programs/> or contact Mary Noble at (308) 428-3062 or mnoble@pheasantsforever.org.
- Nebraska Buffer Strip Program – <http://bit.ly/NDABuffer> or contact Craig Romary at (402) 471-6883 or craig.romary@nebraska.gov.

For additional information please visit the following web sites:

- Conservation Trees for Nebraska <https://www.nrdnet.org/programs/trees-wildlife>
- Natural Resources Districts: <http://www.nrdnet.org>
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture: <http://www.agr.ne.gov>
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources: <http://dnr.ne.gov/>
- Nebraska Forest Service: <http://www.nfs.unl.edu>
- USDA Forest Service: <https://www.fs.fed.us/>
- USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>



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