



NORTH PLATTE
Natural Resources District

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Platte NRD Opens Enrollment in EPIC Program

The North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) is opening enrollment in the Encouraging Producer Innovation through Conservation (EPIC) program, which will help the District meet obligations under its Integrated Management Plan. The EPIC Program provides financial incentives for producers to help the District reduce consumptive use and reach its resource management goals. Sign-up will start on March 6th and run through March 17th. The applications will be ranked and scored, and the awarded applications will be notified by the end of March. Sign-up will be appointment only.

The EPIC Program includes three broad categories of potential funding. First, the program will provide an allocation buy down option for producers that are interested in selling a portion or all their ground water allocation. The payment will be a flat rate of \$20 per acre inch, and a one-time payment will be made for approved applications.

Second, 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 (CSP), or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) programs.

Finally, 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.

Any resident of the District would be eligible to apply for the EPIC program, though the primary focus will be on lands located within the overappropriated area and Pumpkin Creek Basin and will be subject to the availability of funds.

To make an appointment with one of our water department employees, call our office at 632-2749. For more information on EPIC programs or any other of the North Platte NRD's water management programs, go to www.npnrd.org.
