



**Tri-Basin NRD will not adjust payment amounts to active contracts if CNPPID raises prices during the contract period.**

Due to limited funds enrollment will be limited to 8000 acres. If applications exceed the number of acres allowed for enrollment, applications will be subject to the ranking system listed below.

**\*The Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors have targeted applications that have a score of 5 points or more. \***

- Phelps canal east of Hwy 183 or E-67 system = **6 points**
- CNPPID water use in the past three years totals less than three inches per acre= **3 points.**
- Add 20+ newly contracted acres to existing CNPPID contract= **2 points.**
- Rescind cancellation (pre-2020) of existing CNPPID contract= **2 points.**
- Fully contracting a parcel with CNPPID= **1 point**
- Located in Phase II or III management areas= **1 point**
- Existing Flowmeter= **1 point**

### Contact Us

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**WATER  
CONSERVATION  
INCENTIVE  
PROGRAM  
“WCIP”**

*Tri-Basin Natural Resources  
District Holdrege, NE*



## What is WCIP?

**A water conservation program designed with producers in mind.**

Two different programs are available to producers in Tri-Basin NRD. A Groundwater Option and a Commingled Option.

### **Groundwater Option:**

Tri-Basin will enroll up to 8000 acres into the program. Priority in townships that are in Phase II or Phase III water quantity management areas. Landowners will be paid for one acre-inch of water credit per acre per year at a set price. The NRD and landowner will sign a 5-year contract. As part of the agreement the landowner will limit water use on parcels they select; The groundwater option allotment is as follows: Kearney County 9" per acre, Phelps County 10" per acre and Gosper 11" per acre. Union township is allocated to 9" per acre. Installation of flowmeters will be required for all parcels participating in the program.

In exchange for participation the NRD agrees to buy one acre inch per year from every acre enrolled on the contract of \$5 per acre-inch credit per year or a one-time payment for up to 5 acre-inches of credits per acre at the rate of \$4 per acre-inch. If the producer overuses their allocation, they will need to purchase credits from other landowners to eliminate the deficit. Otherwise, they are prohibited from irrigating until the deficit is eliminated.

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***Concerned about the cost of a flowmeter?  
We have cost-share for that. Call the office  
for more information.***

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Landowners can pool acre-inches between parcels under the same ownership. Pools are only allowed for multiple parcels in the same basin and with the same groundwater quantity management phase status. Water use will be deducted from the landowner's water credit "accounts". The only way a landowner can cancel a contract is to pay the NRD the full contracted amount (refund any payments that the NRD has already paid and the amount the NRD would have paid at the end of the contract). In addition to NRD purchases, landowners will have the opportunity to sell water credits on the open market at any agreed upon price (with board approval).

### **Commingled Option:**

An incentive to encourage producers who have both surface water turnouts and groundwater wells (Commingled) to use canal water rather than groundwater to the greatest extent possible. Irrigating with canal water provides the dual benefit of reducing pumping and increasing groundwater recharge. Participants will be reimbursed by Tri-Basin NRD the equivalent of the cost per acre of CNPPID water delivery. Payments will be reduced \$6 per acre-inch of groundwater use in excess of 1 acre-inch per acre per year during the contract period (5 years).

