

THE NEBRASKA SOIL CARBON PROJECT

RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT BASIC INFORMATION

Updated October 2021

THE NEBRASKA SOIL CARBON PROJECT IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:



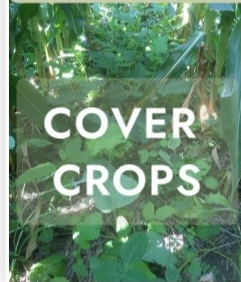
THE PROJECT GOAL IS TO TEAM UP WITH PRODUCERS TO INSTALL NEW SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES ON CENTRAL NEBRASKA CROPLAND.

100,000 ACRES

OVER

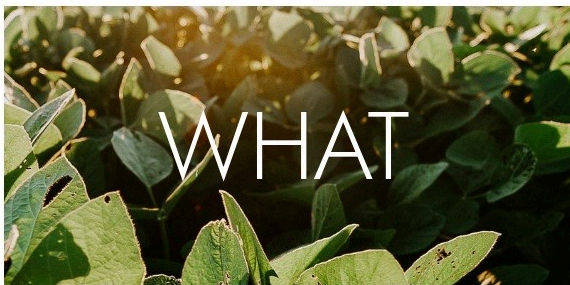
5 YEARS

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADOPTING:

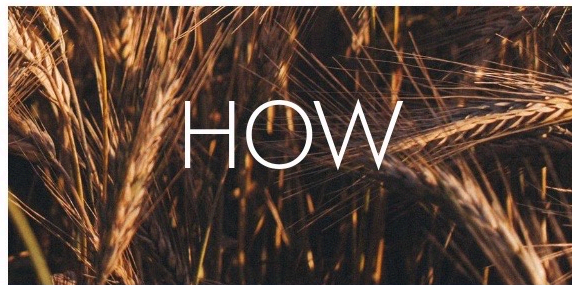




- ✓ **Soil health practices** have benefits to both the farmer and for conservation. However, adopting new soil health practices involves many short-term **uncertainties** for the producer.
- ✓ These practices can enhance a **field's resiliency and productivity**.
- ✓ They also have potential to provide ecosystem benefits like **storing carbon**.
- ✓ New **carbon markets** for soil carbon are being developed but the available information is too scattered and varied.
- ✓ **Private companies** are looking for ways to support farmers and reach their sustainability goals.



- ✓ This project provides **financial incentives** for implementing conservation practices.
- ✓ This project provides **technical assistance** to participants.
- ✓ A **carbon market pilot project** provides opportunity to better understand how the participating farmers may be able to leverage these markets on their operation.
- ✓ **Water quality** outcomes will be calculated, providing further information about the ecosystem impacts of these practices.



- ✓ **Two components of one same project:**
 - NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program
 - ESMC carbon market pilot project*Participants can participate in either or both.*
- ✓ **NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program:**

funds are available for implementing new soil health practices. Variable payments per acre depending on the chosen practice(s). Program is similar to EQIP program. Multiple practices can be stacked in the same field.
- ✓ **Environmental Services Market Consortium (ESMC):**
 - Non-profit organization developing a carbon market platform focused on farmers needs.
 - Project is paying for participation, not performance: \$3 per acre per year.
 - Annual agreement with ESMC to participate.

VALUE TO FARMERS



\$9.50 - 45.00 per acre annually of financial assistance.

Payment depends on type of soil health practice and enrollment in the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) pilot.

Practices can include reduced tillage, diverse rotations, and cover crops, according to NRCS practice codes.



On demand technical assistance.

Year round assistance from NRD, NRCS, and TNC staff to support paperwork/application process and soil health practice management.



Opportunity to share conservation stories with a larger audience.

Producers can take part in or lead field days, media spots, short project videos, etc.



Detailed report on the impact of new soil health practices.

Each producer will receive a report on the new practice's soil carbon and water quality outcomes. If they opt in to providing additional economic data, producers can also receive a detailed report on the practice's financial return on investment (ROI).



Opportunity to attend training events, post-COVID.

With local and national leaders in soil health, agronomy, and other relevant topics. Meals will be included.



Connection with emerging carbon markets.

Payments to producer will not be linked to carbon storage, but will instead be paid by acres of practice adopted. ESMC will quantify carbon and water quality outcomes.



Soil sampling and analysis for ESMC Pilot enrollees.

All farms enrolled in the ESMC Pilot will be sampled at the outset of the project and again in year 5 should the producer remain enrolled for the entire 5 years of the project.



EXPECTATIONS FROM THE FARMERS

ENROLLMENT IN THE NRCS RCPP PAYMENT PROGRAM AND/OR THE ESMC PILOT

Producers will be encouraged to enroll in both the NRCS RCPP and the ESMC Pilot programs, but will have the option of just enrolling in one of these components and not the other. The ESMC Pilot will quantify project outcomes, including carbon generation. To receive soil sampling, farmers must be enrolled in the ESMC Pilot.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT NRCS CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO RANK APPLICATIONS

Not all applications will be approved through the NRCS ranking process, but producers can apply multiple times over the project's life. Additionally, a producer could still enroll in the ESMC portion of the project without being approved by NRCS. Unlike other NRCS programs, there is no gross income or acre enrollment cap for NRCS payments in this project.

PROVIDE AGRONOMIC AND SOIL DATA TO PROJECT COORDINATORS

This information will be collected through the ESMC pilot project if the farmer decided to enroll in this component of the project.

THE PRODUCER MUST FARM IN THE UPPER BIG BLUE AND/OR CENTRAL PLATTE NRDs REGION

The NRCS funds for this project are dedicated to just this region. However, if a farmer outside of this geography wants to be involved in other aspects of the project, like the ESMC portion and training sessions, they are encouraged to reach out to a project coordinator.

PAYMENTS ARE FOR NEW SOIL HEALTH ACRES ONLY

But a measurable improvement of an existing practice could count, as long as it aligns with NRCS standards. Multiple soil health practices can be stacked on the same fields

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

FIRST STEP IS TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NRCS REPRESENTATIVE

How to find your local representative: use the last slide to find your NRCS office.

They will be able to explain the RCPP program and provide guidance through the application process.

Applications can be submitted at any time during the year.

FOR AN APPLICATION TO BE RANKED AND CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF FUNDING IN FY22, IT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY:

DECEMBER 17TH, 2021



CARBON MARKET PILOT PROJECT

FIRST STEP IS TO COMPLETE THE NEBRASKA SOIL CARBON PROJECT CONTACT FORM

The contact form can be completed on computer or mobile device using this link:
tinyurl.com/2022NSCP

If you haven't yet, complete the online contact form to provide your contact information.

A project team member will contact you (within the next 48 hours) to discuss enrollment in the ESMC pilot project.

WHAT ARE THE FARMER'S REQUIRED ACTIONS?



KEY CONTACTS - PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

Any of the below contacts are available to answer questions and assist farmers interested in enrolling in the project.



Courtney Widup

Central Platte NRD
Project representative
Email: widup@cpnrd.org
Phone: (308) 385-6282



John Bush

Upper Big Blue NRD
Project representative
Email: jbush@upperbigblue.org
Phone: (402) 366-9632



Jacob Fritton

The Nature Conservancy
Project co-director
Email: jfritton@tnc.org
Phone: (308) 529-2636



Florencia Abram

The Nature Conservancy
Project representative
Email: florencia.abram@tnc.org
Phone: (979) 922-0960



Josh Bowers

NRCS District Conservationist,
York Field Office
Email: joshua.bowers@usda.gov
Phone: (402) 641-6482



Joe Krolkowski

NRCS, District Conservationist,
Grand Island Field Office
Email: joe.krolkowski@usda.gov
Phone: (308) 392-3510

Additional project personnel: Hannah Birge (TNC), Marie Krausnick (UBBNRD), Nate Fries (Cargill), Caroline Wade (ESMC).

PROJECT AREA AND NRCS CONTACT INFORMATION

The location where you work with FSA would be the best choice for your initial contact.

