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For Immediate Release

Conservation Funding Available for Irrigation Improvements

Farmers in southwest Nebraska have until Nov. 18 to apply.

(Imperial, NE) The Upper Republican NRD is pleased to announce that agricultural producers have the opportunity to receive conservation funding for improving irrigation water management. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs \$2.1 million as part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Eligible producers have until November 18th to apply for funding.

Producers in the Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs in southwest Nebraska, which includes all or portions of Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Lincoln, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls counties, may apply for funding to make improvements to their irrigation systems.

In the Upper Republican NRD, improving irrigation water management by installing high intensity soil moisture sensors for a three-year period will be a high priority conservation practice. Within the Upper Republican NRD, priority will be given to areas with significant groundwater declines or impacts on stream flow, but all areas within the three NRDs are eligible. Funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is also available to producers in the Republican NRDs to improve wildlife and pollinator habitat and improve soil health through increasing cover crop and crop rotation activities. Producers in the Republican River NRDs interested in participating in these conservation efforts should contact their local NRCS office and apply for funding by November 18th. Applications can be made at the Imperial or Grant USDA Service Centers.

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