

Nebraska Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) Program Handout

With funding provided by the Nebraska Corn Board and in partnership with the Natural Resources Districts (NRDs), the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) is administering the Nebraska Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage Nebraska corn producers to improve NUE in their corn fields. Participants are incentivized to achieve a **NUE of 1.0 or under**, for the 2026 crop as described below. Improving NUE can deliver meaningful economic and environmental benefits without sacrificing productivity

NUE Program details	
Incentive Payment	\$15/acre
Timeline	Applications due: May 15th, 2026 Program acceptance notification: August 15th, 2026 Data submittal by: January 15th, 2027 Payments by: May 15th, 2027
NUE Equation	$\text{NUE} = (\text{Applied N} + \text{Credited N})(\text{lbs./acres}) / \text{Grain Yield (bushel/(acre))}$
NUE Credit Standards	Irrigation Water - Water applied (inches) * Nitrogen concentration (ppm) * Conversion factor (lbs.) - Conversion factor is 0.226 Residual Nitrogen in Soil - Residual Soil N (ppm) * Conversion factor (lbs./ac/ppm) - Conversion factor is 8 Organic Matter Mineralization in Soil - Expected yield (bushels) * Organic matter (%) * Conversion Factor (lbs.) - Conversion factor is 0.14 Manure - Amount applied (gal, tons) x Nitrogen amount (lbs./gal or ton) * Availability (%) - Default availability metric: 40% available in the first year, 20% in the second year, 10% in the third year Legume 45 lbs. for soybeans and 100 lbs. for alfalfa
NUE Example Calculation	Example 1: Corn /Corn Rotation, Non-Irrigated - Yield: 200 bu/acre - Residual Soil N: 5ppm - Organic Matter: 2% - Total Nitrogen Applied: - Manure (cattle slurry): 10,000 Gallons/acre with 0.021 lbs. N/gal - Synthetic: 20 lbs. Nitrogen Credits: Residual soil nitrate-N = 5 ppm x 8 lbs./ac/ppm = 40 lbs. N/acre Organic matter mineralization = 0.14 x 200 x 2 = 56lbs. N/acre Manure = 10,000 Gallons x 0.021 lbs. N x 0.4 = 84 lbs. N/acre Total non-fertilizer credits = 40 + 56 + 84 = 180 lbs. N/acre NUE Calculation: $(180 + 20) / 200 = \sim 1.0 \text{ NUE}$

How to Enroll	 Contact your local NRD or fill out the online application using this QR Code
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NUE Program Field Eligibility	
Geography	All of Nebraska
Crop Type	Corn
Farmer Enrollment Cap	Maximum of 160 acres per application (multiple applications are allowed)
Exclusions	Producers must not have been successful in the NiRIA program
Program Funding	Funding is limited to \$1 million statewide for the 2026 program year

NUE Program Data Requirements	
Data requirements for NUE incorporate three major categories: soil samples, irrigation water samples, and manure samples. Some of these requirements vary by NRD.	
Soil Samples	Samples need to be taken prior to 2026 planting season OR fall of 2025 to determine residual soil nitrate and organic matter
Irrigation Water Sample (if applicable)	Water sample needs to be taken during irrigation season to determine residual water nitrate
Manure Sample per District Guidance (if applicable)	Sample needs to be taken prior to planting to determine manure nitrogen

How to get started:

Visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fd8a33f1a7724ab6b04ceeb316f35897> or your local NRD for more details. Scan the QR code to see the guidance document and standard application.



Not sure what NRD you're in? Scan this QR code to find out!