

# Upper Elkhorn NRD Criteria Rating for Adding New Groundwater Irrigated Acres – 2017 Growing Season

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Must be landowner or Power of Attorney)  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
|---|
| Form No. _____ I.D. #. _____ (for office use) |
| Date Received: _____ (for office use)         |

Expansion of Acres (Flowmeter Required) for an:  
 Existing Well      Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Well  
 Location of acre expansion map  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_ Tshp \_\_\_\_\_ Rge

## Criteria and Point Rating (All points are associated with legal on application)

|   | Potential Scoring                           | For Office Use Only |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1. Section Stream Depletion Factor _____<br>a. < 40% stream depletion<br>b. 40.01% to <50% stream depletion<br>c. 50.01% - <60% stream depletion<br>d. 60.01% - <70% stream depletion<br>e. 70.01 % - <80% stream depletion<br>f. >80.01% - 90% stream depletion<br>g. >90.01 and above   | +40<br>+35<br>+20<br>+15<br>+10<br>+5<br>+0 |                     |
| 2. Ground Water Nitrate Area Contamination (see township map):<br>a. Nitrates in the township < 7.5 ppm<br>b. Nitrates in the township 7.51 – 9.5 ppm<br>c. Nitrates in the township 9.51 – 15.0 ppm<br>d. Nitrates in the township > 15.0 ppm  | +20<br>+10<br>+5<br>+0                      |                     |
| 3. Static Water Level (SWL)/Depth to Ground Water for the Sub-district (Basin):<br>a. 20 year Trendline for Hydrologic Unit Code is increasing<br>b. 20 year Trendline for Hydrologic Unit Code is declining 0-12”<br>c. 20 year Trendline for Hydrologic Unit Code is declining > 12”  | +20<br>+5<br>+0                             |                     |
| 4. Irrigation Plan: Irrigation method<br>a. Drip Irrigation<br>b. Pivot/Sprinklers<br>c. Flood, Gated or Other  | +10<br>+5<br>+0                             |                     |
| 5. Irrigation Plan: New Acres to be Irrigated _____ (best estimate)<br>a. New acres total ≤ 15 acres<br>b. New acres total 15.1 – 20.0 acres<br>c. New acres total 20.1 – 30.0 acres<br>d. New acres total > 30 acres   | +40<br>+15<br>+5<br>+0                      |                     |
| 6. Do you make the fertilizer decision, purchase fertilizer, or apply more than 50 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer per acre within the Upper Elkhorn NRD? If so any are true, are you... (If you are out of compliance these acres are automatically <b>disqualified</b> .)<br>a. Certified in Nitrogen Management by NRD – in compliance<br>b. Not Certified in Nitrogen Management by NRD – out of compliance<br>c. Not required to be certified in Nitrogen Management | Y / N<br>+0<br>DQ<br>+0                     |                     |
| 7. Phase II Management Area: If you have irrigated acres within the Phase II management area you are required to fill out Phase II reports annually. If you have not submitted Phase II reports these acres are automatically <b>disqualified</b> .<br>a. Acres fall outside Phase II area – not required to report<br>b. Acres fall within Phase II area, reports filled – in compliance<br>c. Acres fall within Phase II area, reports not filled – out of compliance | +0<br>+0<br>DQ                              |                     |
| 8. Conservation Practices proposed/existing for the developed acres (max. 10 points)<br>a. New and/or Existing CCRP, SAFE, Corners for Wildlife, NSWCP contract or similar program being used on application site (Documentation must be provided by applicant)<br>b. Removal of conservation management programs<br>c. No addition or removal of conservation practices  | +2.5/<br>Contract<br>-10<br>+0              |                     |
| <b>Total Points Page 1:</b>   |   |                     |

(Please continue to next page.)



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The addition of irrigated acres will be rated by the following criteria, which is an overall assessment of the conditions on the proposed site for development. Following a review by NRD staff and the Board of Directors, points will be assigned and the highest ranked applications will be approved for the expansion of irrigated acres as long as it meets all District and State rules and regulations. Application time period runs during the month of October. An application fee of \$5/acre with a minimum application of \$125 is required in order to be considered for the expansion of irrigated acres. Applicants will be notified of their application status within 60 days after the application deadline. Upon approval of this application the expansion of all irrigated acres will have until October 1, 2017 to be completed.

## Criteria Ranking Guidelines:

1. Stream depletion factor is based off of the Elkhorn-Loup and CENEB Modeling studies which gives numerical impacts of each section within the UENRD to the Elkhorn River based on proximity and hydroconnectivity. Normally, the farther a section is from the stream and less connected it is, the less the impact.
2. Ground Water Nitrate Area Contamination will be assessed based on area contaminates of Nitrates determined by the NRD sampling conducted annually during the irrigation season. Those areas which have high contaminates will be penalized if the 2016 average nitrates in that area are over 10 ppm (see 2016 nitrate township map).
3. Static Water Level (SWL)/Depth to Ground Water review will be conducted by NRD personnel to determine the overall characteristics of the ground water levels in the area. Area static water levels will be assessed to determine if there is a decline, of spring static water levels, over 20 years with spring of 2016 being the most recent measurement year. Shallow depths to ground water are more susceptible to flooding and contamination and will be determined by comparing area wells.
4. Irrigation Plan will list the best estimate of the new acres to be irrigated. Once the expansion is completed the landowner will have until October 1, 2017 to certify the actual acres irrigated not to exceed estimated acres. Installation of a flowmeter will be required on all new expansion of irrigated acres. If a flowmeter is not already present, the new flowmeter must be installed by May 20, 2017.
5. Proximity to other high capacity wells will be determined based off of the well registration database. This is done to reduce impact on neighboring wells and relieve stress during the high pumping seasons.
6. Landowners will also be rated as to whether or not they are certified by the NRD in Nitrogen Management.
7. Landowners will also be rated as to whether or not they are meeting the Phase II reporting requirements.
8. Conservation practices under contract on the property applying for a new application permit will receive award points. Conservation practices may include, but are not limited to; Continuous CRP, NSWCP, SAFE program, EQIP, and Corners for Wildlife. Landowners may also receive additional points if they agree to plant a minimum of 150 trees associated with a conservation contract on the site which they would like to develop; and, if they plant additional trees anywhere on their property.
9. Best management practices on the property will be awarded points. Proof of practices must be provided through contracts with EQIP, contracts with independent crop consultants, or receipts with proof of use of BMP on parcel. BMPs may include, but are not limited to; use of cover crops, nitrogen inhibitors, grass waterways, no-till, and soil moisture probes. For a full list and descriptions of approved practices please see "Approved BMPs for 2016 Acre Expansion".
  - a. Using BMPs to gain qualifying points requires the submission of an annual report for 5 years after the acres are developed. Failure to submit reports will result in the forfeiture of expanded acres approved under this contract.
10. The USDA-NRCS Web Soil Survey program will be used to determine the irrigation capability class and the stream/drainage.
11. Up to 2500 acres will be allotted annually throughout the entire Upper Elkhorn NRD as long as they have not been determined "fully appropriated" by the Department of Natural Resources and meet the minimum required score on this application.
  - a. If the new irrigated acres fall within the 10/50 line of the Niobrara River Basin and the Niobrara River Basin is labelled "fully appropriated" they will be automatically disqualified, even if they meet the minimum score requirement. The "fully appropriated" decision will not be made until after the deadline for acre expansion application, any applications with acres in this area apply with the risk of being disqualified after the fact. If land falls within the 10/50 line apply at your own risk.
12. Upon the NDNR labeling the District as fully-appropriated where the development is to occur, the landowner may be required to offset those acres if acres have not been irrigated by that designation date.
13. A minimum score of 140 is required to qualify for this acre expansion.
14. Applications and Approval are non-transferable.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all information submitted on this form is accurate and truthful; and, that I have read the full application. Falsification of information will cause the application to be revoked.

Signature of Landowner or Power of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NRD Employee Compiling Rating: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_