



2025-2026 Nitrate Treatment Cost Share Guidance Document

As part of the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget the Upper Elkhorn NRD has set aside \$200,000 for a cost share program for the installation of treatment systems in residences in the Upper Elkhorn NRD where nitrate levels exceed the 10 parts per million (ppm) federal health standard drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate. The program will follow these guidelines as set by the Upper Elkhorn NRD Board of Directors:

The program funds will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.

Applicants will be notified by NRD staff on the application status. Upon approval, each approved application will have 60 days to install the nitrate treatment system from the approval date. If the system is not installed during the time specified, the funds for that unit may be withdrawn by the NRD, unless the applicant can provide reasoning for extra time.

To qualify:

- The well and use location must be within the boundaries of the Upper Elkhorn NRD.
- The well must be the sole source of drinking water for the residence.
- The application must be completed by the landowner of the property/well.
- The applicant must have an initial water sample, **collected by Upper Elkhorn NRD staff**, that exceeds the federal health standard drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per million (ppm) for nitrate.
- The well must follow the registration requirements for the state of Nebraska for domestic wells.
 - o Domestic wells drilled prior to September 9, 1993 are not required to be registered to qualify for cost share.
 - Registration paperwork will be provided for producers to register their well, but it will not affect their eligibility for the cost share. Wells drilled on or after September 9, 1993 must be registered or they are considered illegal wells.

- The application will require a quote from the applicant's licensed plumber/installer.
- No installation work can be completed at the residences for a system before a sample is collected by Upper Elkhorn NRD staff and analyzed at a NRD approved lab and the application has been completed and approved by NRD staff. If work is complete before approval, the application is automatically disqualified.
- The applicant must be in compliance with all other UENRD rules & regulations.
- The applicant must allow the Upper Elkhorn NRD to collect a water sample through the nitrate treatment system after installation to ensure the equipment is working properly.

The cost share program will be a reimbursement style program. The applicant will be required to submit a receipt of payment from the licensed plumber/installer and the Upper Elkhorn NRD will then reimburse the applicant. Any additional questions on reimbursement or financial assistance should be directed to the NRD office.

Upper Elkhorn NRD will reimburse the applicant for up to 90% of the cost of the nitrate treatment system, with a maximum cap of \$2,000 per contract.

Upper Elkhorn NRD will pay for the required initial sample and the first post system installation sample. Only samples collected by the Upper Elkhorn NRD staff will be eligible for NRD funds.

The NRD staff will take a latitude and longitude of the well when collecting the initial water sample that will be used to determine qualification.

The cost share program does not cover replacement of existing working nitrate treatment systems. It will only cover replacement of existing systems where proof is provided by a licensed plumber/installer that the existing system is no longer usable.

The applicant is responsible for maintaining the nitrate treatment system after installation.

If at the end of the fiscal year a balance remains for the program, the funds will be carried over into the subsequent fiscal year NRD budget.