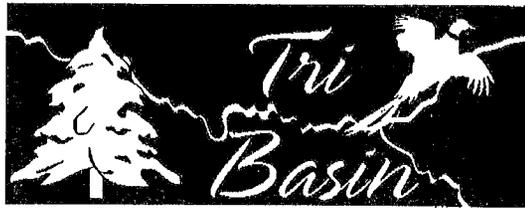


Tri-Basin NRD
1723 Burlington
Holdrege, NE 68949



Phone: (308) 995-6688
Fax: (308) 995-6992
Email: tribasin@tribasinnrd.org

Natural Resources District

February 2025 - Holdrege

Temperature: (°F)

* High: 73° (Recorded February 28)

* Low: -26° (Recorded February 20)

* Mean: 21.5° (Normal for February: 29.3°)

Mean High: 34.3° (Normal: 41.6°)

Mean Low: 8.7° (Normal: 18.1°)

NOTES:

Precipitation for February 2025: .93"

(Normal for February: .72"

Precipitation for the year through February: .98"

(Normal for the year through February: 1.19")

NOTES: Trace Precipitation noted 2 days
Snow recorded for February : 4.0
Snow season total: 4.0"

February 2024

Temperature:

High: 76°

Low: 6°

Mean: 38.°

Precipitation:

For the month: 1.33"

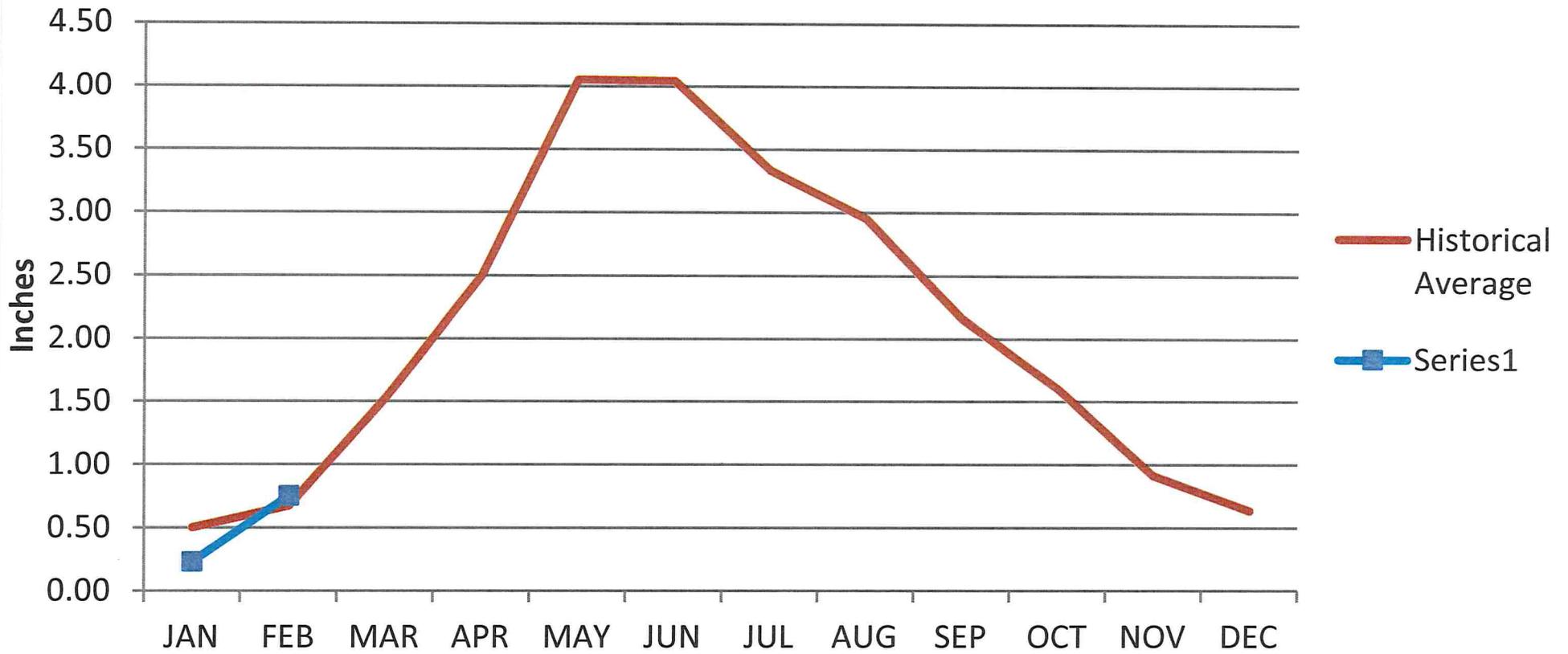
For the year: 1.95"

Snow for February: 12"

Snow total for year: 12.00"

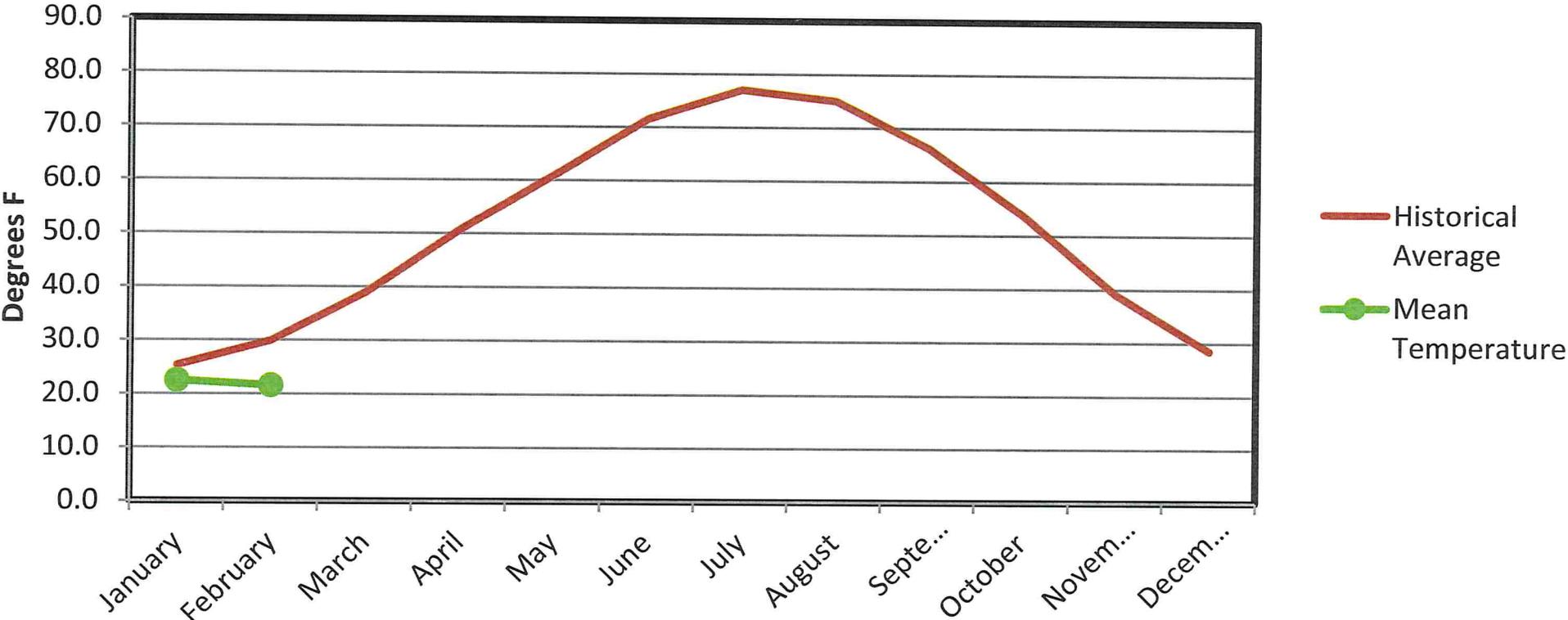
Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Precipitation - 2025



Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Mean Temperature - 2025



First Quarter 2025 Overton Stream Gauge

	Jan Act	Jan Tar	We	Feb Act	Feb Tar	Well	Mar Act	MarTar	Well Ran
1	1180	1000		M	1800		1460	2250	
2	1140	1000		M	1800		1420	2250	
3	1500	1000		M	1800		1410	2250	
4	Ice	1000		M	1800		1440	2250	
5	Ice	1000		1530	1800		493	2250	
6	Ice	1000		869	1800		984	2250	
7	Ice	1000		869	1800		670	2250	
8	Ice	1000		545	1800		674	2250	
9	Ice	1000		615	1800		727	2250	
10	Ice	1000		509	1800		705	2250	
11	Ice	1000		Ice	1800		965	2250	
12	931	1000		Ice	1800			2250	
13	1390	1000		Ice	1800			2250	
14	1210	1000		Ice	1800			2250	
15	1510	1000		Ice	3500			2250	
16	1180	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
17	1330	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
18	1290	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
19	Ice	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
20	Ice	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
21	Ice	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
22	Ice	1000		Ice	3500			1200	
23	661	1000		Ice	3500			1700	
24	757	1000		Ice	3500			1700	
25	421	1000		1640	3500			1700	
26	1180	1000		1660	3500			1700	
27	716	1000		1610	3500			1700	
28	660	1000		1510	3500			1700	
29	1040	1000						1700	
30	920	1000						1700	
31	1200	1000						1700	

Fourth Quarter 2025 Grand Island Stream Gauge Data

	Oct Act	Oct Tar	Well Rur	Nov Act	Nov Tar	Well Rur	Dec Act	Dec Tar	Well Run
1		1300			1300			1000	
2		1300			1300			1000	
3		1300			1300			1000	
4		1300			1300			1000	
5		1300			1300			1000	
6		1300			1300			1000	
7		1300			1300			1000	
8		1300			1300			1000	
9		1300			1300			1000	
10		1300			1300			1000	
11		1300			1300			1000	
12		1300			1300			1000	
13		1300			1300			1000	
14		1300			1300			1000	
15		1300			1300			1000	
16		1300			600			1000	
17		1300			600			1000	
18		1300			600			1000	
19		1300			600			1000	
20		1300			600			1000	
21		1300			600			1000	
22		1300			600			1000	
23		1300			600			1000	
24		1300			600			1000	
25		1300			600			1000	
26		1300			600			1000	
27		1300			600			1000	
28		1300			600			1000	
29		1300			600			1000	
30		1300			600			1000	
31		1300			600			1000	

**Tri-Basin NRD
Annual Kearney County IPA Meetings
Friday, March 7, 2025
Axtell Community Building**

All interested parties are welcome to attend, drop in anytime

Schedule:

9:00 AM- South Dry Creek IPA

9:30 AM- Fort Kearny-West IPA

10:00 AM- Whiskey Slough IPA

10:30 AM- Fort Kearny IPA

Call Tri-Basin NRD toll-free (877) 995-6688 if you have questions or comments.

**Phelps County IPA
Steering Committee Meetings
Friday, March 7, 2025
Tri-Basin NRD Office
1723 Burlington St.**

All interested parties are welcome to attend, drop in anytime

Sacramento IPA- 2:00 PM

North Dry Creek IPA- 2:30 PM

Odessa IPA- 3:00 PM

Call Tri-Basin NRD at (308) 995-6688 if you have questions or comments.

Agriculture Industry Symposium

Objectives:

- Build a network for collaboration on projects to address habitat, water management, and nutrient concerns.
- Explore tools and opportunities for integrated conservation solutions.
- Engagement between industry leaders and conservation professionals to identify programmatic bottlenecks and solutions.
- Roundtable discussions to address key resource concerns

Continuing Education Credits:

A sign-in sheet will be available on-site. Event organizers will complete paperwork submission for all attendees.

Soil/Water Management: 0.5 hrs | Crop Management: 0.5 hrs | Professional Development: 0.5 hrs | Sustainability: 0.5hrs.

Conservation Practitioner Symposium Agenda

8:00 – Registration/coffee social

8:30 – Welcome - Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

- Economically viable working farm and ranch operations
- Voluntary Incentive Based
- Avoid regulatory mandates
- Gain understanding of different perspectives
 - Alignment of opportunity
 - Areas of misalignment
- Where do we go from here

8:45 – Ice Breakers and Introductions

9:45 – Plenary Session 1 - Finding the Balance Between Ag Productions and Natural Resource Conservation by Dr. Andrew Little (UNL Extension)

10:20 - Plenary Session 2 - Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition by Alexa Davis (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources)

10:55 - Plenary Session 3 - Economics of Playa Wetland Conservation Programs by Dr. Ron Seymore (UNL Extension)

11:30 – Lunch

12:30 – Breakout Roundtable #1 – facilitated discussion.

1:15 – Breakout Roundtable #2 – facilitated discussion

2:05 – Breakout Roundtable #3 - facilitated discussion

3:00 - Closing: Where do we go from here? What will you take with you today?

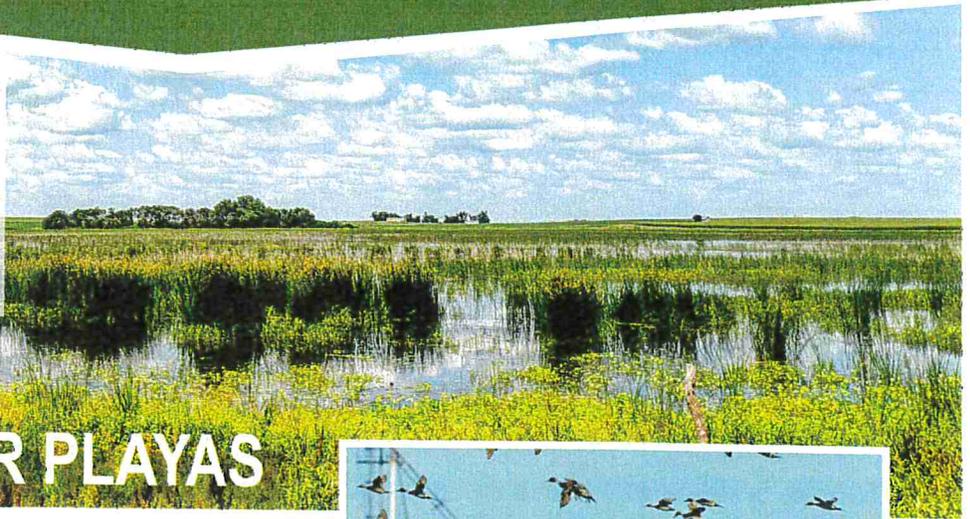
3:30 – Adjourn



We foster collaborative conservation to positively impact playa wetlands and grasslands in Nebraska's mixed-grass prairie ecoregion. Our focus is on solutions that conserve working lands for fish and wildlife, agricultural producers, and rural communities.

97% of Nebraska is privately owned

These working farm and ranch operations provide habitat for over 350 species of resident and migratory birds



PARTNERING FOR PLAYAS

Since 2010, our public-private partnership has played a key role in playa wetland conservation. To-date the partnership has delivered 4,300 acres of wetland conservation on public and private lands. These projects have impacted nearly 10% of the playa wetlands in the Rainwater Basin Wetland Complex. Over 12 million migratory birds rely on wetlands in the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture during spring migration. These projects are estimated to recharge 4.9 billion gallons of water or sufficient groundwater to irrigate 30,100 acres (250 pivot irrigation systems).

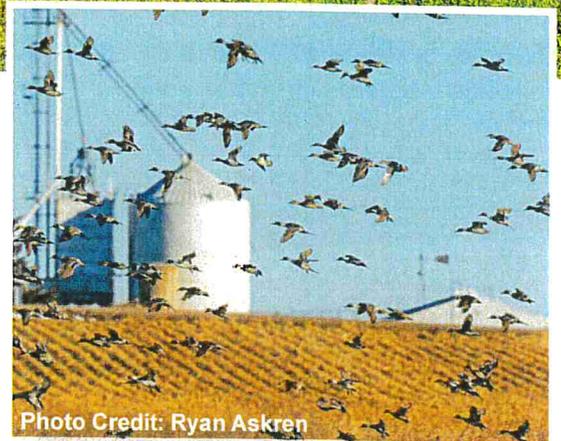


Photo Credit: Ryan Askren

Photo Credit: Chris Helzer

97% of Nebraska's grasslands are privately owned

Nebraska's Sandhills are the largest intact grassland in the world

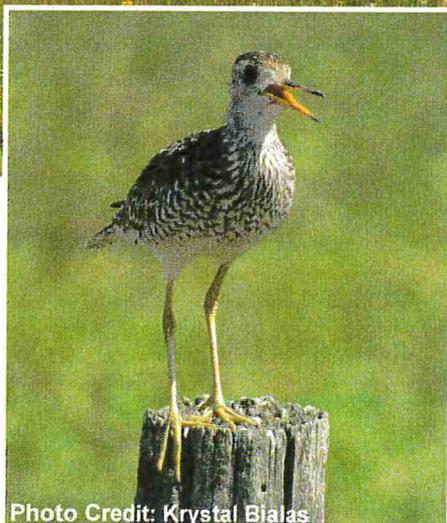


Photo Credit: Krystal Bialas

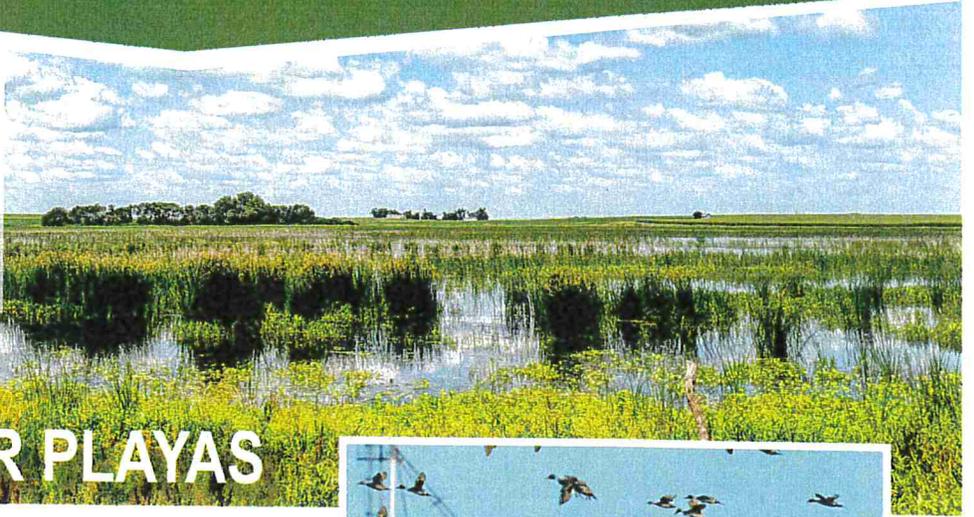
GRASSLAND CONSERVATION

19.4 million priority grassland nesting depend on Nebraska's grasslands. As a suite of species these grassland bird populations have declined by over 53%. The expansive grasslands found in Nebraska provide some of the last strongholds. In 2022, the RWBJV partners worked with landowners to impact 845,00 acres through mechanical removal of eastern red cedar, install grazing infrastructure, implement prescribed fire, and develop grazing management plans. These projects are helping provide habitat for grassland nesting birds, support profitable farm and ranch operations, and sequester significant amounts of carbon.

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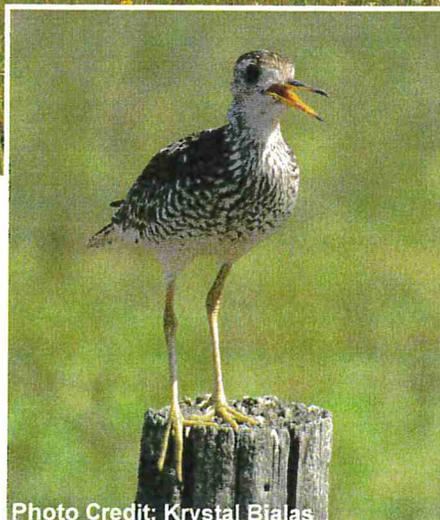
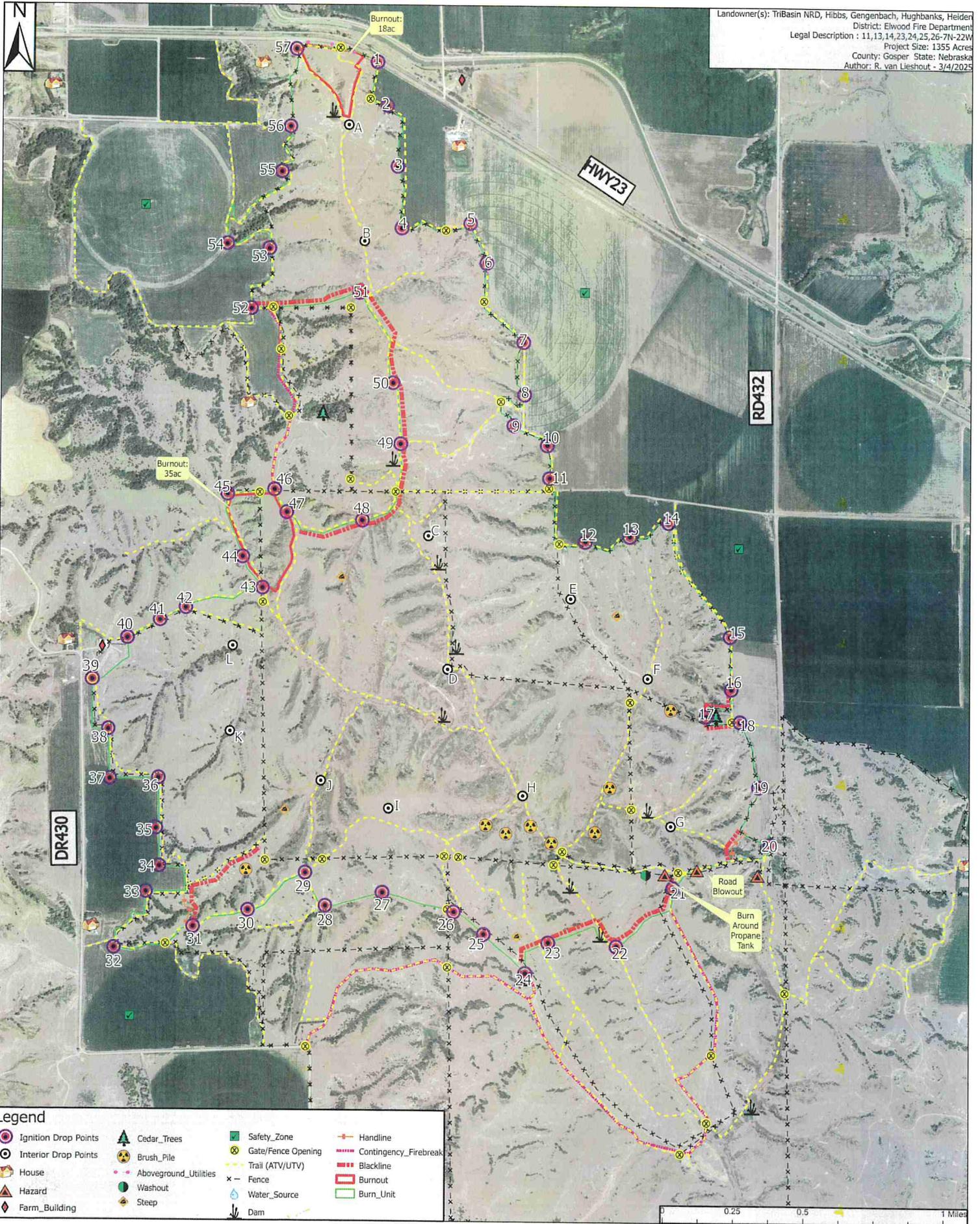


Photo Credit: Krystal Bialas

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Blacklining and Burnouts - Ignition Map: 7N-22W Burn



Dear Tri-Basin NRD

Thank you for your fiscal year 2025 Gold Level membership contribution to NACD! Due to your ongoing support, we can represent our member's priorities in federal policy, create new education initiatives and program opportunities for districts, and more.

We value your membership and voice in NACD, so please contact me at any time if you have questions about how to maximize your membership.

Thank you again for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Oval". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "F" and "O".

NE NACD Board Member

In Loving Memory Of
Ernest "Ernie" Johnson

BORN
September 5, 1938 - Holdrege, Nebraska

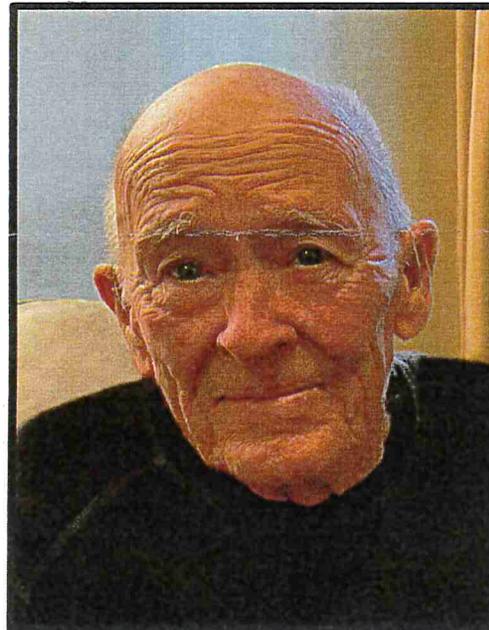
PASSED AWAY
January 10, 2025 - Holdrege, Nebraska

FUNERAL SERVICE
Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home - Holdrege, Nebraska
Pastor Sarah Fisher and
Chaplain DeWane Dow - officiating

RECORDED MUSIC
Instrumental Processional
Special Selection: "How Great Thou Art"
Instrumental Recessional

PALLBEARERS
Shane Westcott Donnie Freitag
Scott Meier Reed Wilson
Robert Mead Mark Williams

 **FINAL RESTING PLACE** 
Prairie Home Cemetery - Holdrege, Nebraska
Military Honors provided by the
Bertrand Veterans Organization in conjunction with
the United States Army Funeral Honors Team.



Thank you for your love and support through everything.

Thanks for
your kindness

Our family thanks you for the special funeral flower arrangement that you sent.



Thank you - Betty, 2 no. 11 & 12

I'M FREE

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.*

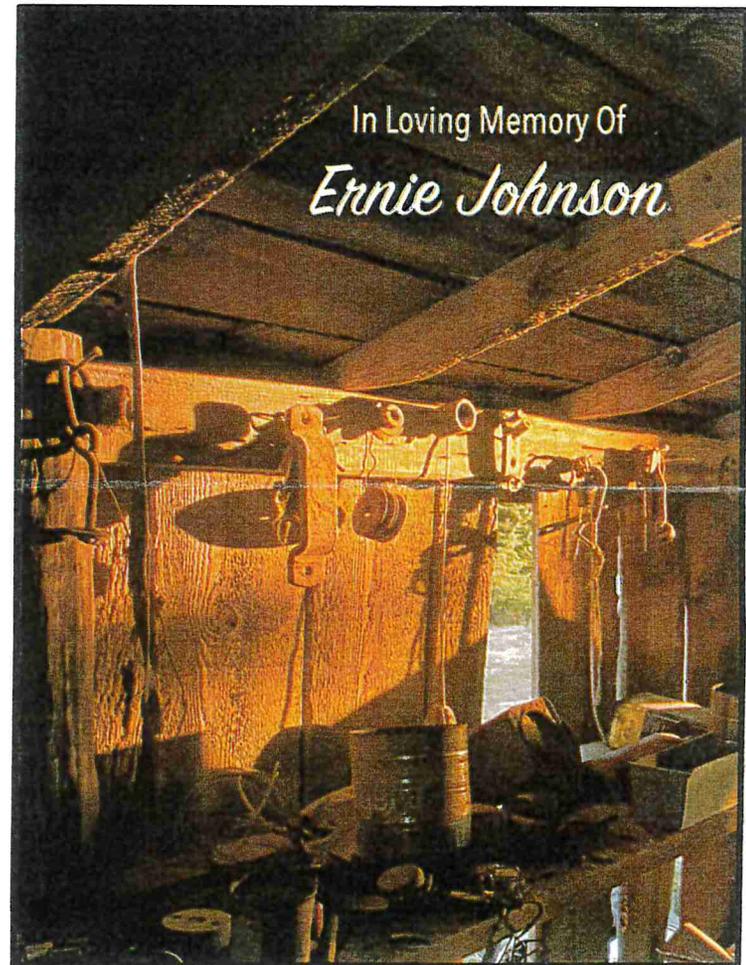
*I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things, I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with time of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

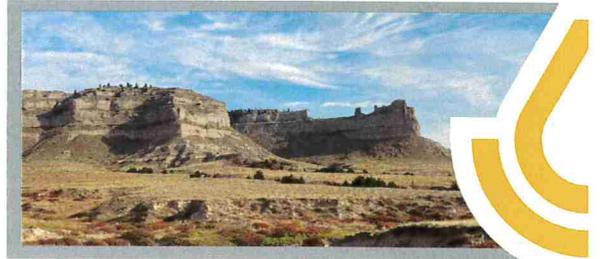
Expressions of caring and kindness can be sent to
nelsonbauerfh.com
Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home - Holdrege, Nebraska





NRCS Update

For NRD General Managers



Conservation Stewardship Program

So far FY25 in Nebraska has been busy for CSP contracting. Our field office staff have obligated \$8,368,624 on 71 CSP renewal contracts, covering 125,816 acres. IRA contracts were also obligated before the new year, totaling \$1,923,818 in 16 contracts on 80,400 acres. Currently, the IRA funding is paused for new contracts, but funds were recently made available to make payments for contracts already obligated. FY25 Application Eligibility / Rankings for General CSP ranking pools are due April 18th, 2025.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The ranking deadline for EQIP General funds was Feb. 28, 2025, but applications can still be submitted anytime for future consideration. NRCS will begin pre-approving applications in state and local fund pools as quickly as possible for applications that were submitted prior to Feb. 28.

We are currently on a pause for new obligations using EQIP-IRA funds.

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins has provided NRCS with direction that we can proceed with issuing payments and completing modifications on previously obligated contracts funded through IRA.

State Technical Committee Meeting

The upcoming meeting Thursday, March 13, at 1:00 pm will be hosted at the NRCS State Office at 1121 Lincoln Mall, Room 352a (Tundra Room).

Participants will be able to join virtually via MS Teams as well.

If you have not already received the meeting agenda and information about how to remotely access the Teams meeting, please contact Amy Miller, amy.miller2@usda.gov

****Paused** Recruiting for the Soil Health Subcommittee under the State Technical Committee**

The purpose of the State Technical Committee – Soil Health Subcommittee is to discuss, examine, and focus on specific technical and programmatic topics on soil health. This specialized committee will include volunteer members of the State Technical Committee, members of local working groups, and other subject matter experts in the fields of agronomy, rangeland management, water quality, nutrient management, and soil survey. Membership on the subcommittee should have a balance of USDA Technical and Programmatic Specialists, Nebraska State Agencies, Nebraska Natural Resource Districts, non-government organizations, University partners, and Nebraska producers. One of the goals of the committee is to recognize soil health-related resource concerns and ensure that our conservation programs are designed and available to address the resource matter and meet each producer's conservation goals and objectives.

Helping People Help the Land





**Nebraska's
Natural Resources
Districts**

www.nrdnet.org

**8100 South 15TH, Suite B
Lincoln, NE 68512**

**nard@nrdnet.org
(402) 471-7670**

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

February 26, 2025

TO: NARD Board & NRD Managers
FROM: Dean E. Edson
RE: DRAFT Preliminary Foundation Budget FY 25-26 & FY 26-27

Attached is the proposed preliminary budget for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 for the NARD Foundation. We now have three years of experience with the new building and have a good grasp of operational costs. The budget is better than the projected budget analysis done by Willnerd and Associates when we purchased the building in the fall of 2020.

The NARD Fiscal Planning Committee will review this draft at their March 10, 2025, meeting. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the board meeting later that day. The NARD Board will then approve a draft budget for consideration by the districts. Final action will occur on the budget at the June board meeting.

Changes for this year include: 1) Increased interest income due to interest rates; 2) Decreasing sprinkler maintenance; 3) Decreasing CAM expense as the payout has been completed for sprinkler maintenance in FY 23-24; 4) Maintaining the expense item for Nitrate Education to be determined by the NARD Board in consultation with the NRD Managers; and 4) Adding an income and expense for the NRD Fun Run.

Budget Summary

	<u>FY 25-26</u>	<u>FY 26-27</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$223,909	\$223,909
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$154,600</u>	<u>\$155,540</u>
Addition to Cash Reserve	\$69,309	\$68,369
 <u>Income Ratios</u>		
Percent reserve to Total Income	<u>30.95%</u>	<u>30.53%</u>
Percent change in Total Income	<u>-1.10%</u>	<u>-1.10%</u>
 <u>Expense Ratios</u>		
Additional Cash Reserve as a percent of Expenses	<u>44.83%</u>	<u>43.96%</u>
Percent increase in Expenses from the previous year	<u>-6.42%</u>	<u>-5.85%</u>

NARD Foundation

EXPENSES	Preliminary FY 25-26 Budget		Preliminary FY 26-27 Budget	
	Sub Account	Account	Sub Account	Account
	2025-26		2025-26	
Foundation Sponsorships		\$30,600		\$30,600
NE Envirothon	5,300		5,300	
NE LEAD Program	1,500		1,500	
NAYI	3,000		3,000	
NE FFA Foundation	5,000		5,000	
NE Foundation for AG	1,300		1,300	
ACE Camp	3,000		3,000	
NRD Recreation Site Promotion	4,000		4,000	
Nitrate Education	5,000		5,000	
Fun Run	1,000		1,000	
Other	1,500		1,500	
Insurance for Buildings (HHD and Office)		\$13,500		\$14,040
UBS Reinvestment of Income (Includes Management Fees)		\$1,500		\$1,500
8100 South 15th Office		\$62,000		\$62,000
Principle Payment	50,000		45,000	
Interest Payment	12,000		17,000	
Real Estate Tax	0		0	
8100 South 15th Office Maint.		\$16,000		\$16,000
Snow Removal	2,000		2,000	
Cleaning Service	3,300		3,300	
Repairs	5,000		5,000	
Pest Control	1,200		1,200	
HVAC Maintenance	2,000		2,000	
Sprinkler/Other	2,500		2,500	
8100 South 15th Office Utilities		\$10,000		\$10,400
Electricity	6,500		6,760	
Gas	2,000		2,080	
Water	1,500		1,560	
Professional Fees		\$5,500		\$5,500
Legal	1,500		1,500	
Accounting	2,000		2,000	
Audit	2,000		2,000	
Yankee Hill Business Center CAM		\$14,000		\$14,000
Misc		\$1,500		\$1,500
Total: Expenses		<u>\$154,600</u>		<u>\$155,540</u>
Addition to Cash Reserve		<u>\$69,309</u>		<u>\$68,369</u>
Percent additional reserve to expenses		44.83%		43.96%
Percent change in expenses		-6.42%		-5.85%

Expenses:

Foundation Sponsorships (Account #200)

Ag and natural resources educational program sponsorships as listed below. NRD Recreation Promotion used to be budgeted for the NGPC Great Park Pursuit. Nitrate Education and the Fun Run began in FY 23-24. Other includes any new sponsorships (\$30,600 total per FY)

<u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 24-25</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>
NE Envirothon	\$5,300	\$5,300
NE LEAD Program	\$1,500	\$1,500
NAYI	\$3,000	\$3,000
NE FFA Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000
NE Foundation for AG	\$1,300	\$1,300
ACE Camp	\$3,000	\$3,000
NRD Recreation Promotion	\$4,000	\$4,000
Nitrate Education	\$5,000	\$5,000
Fun Run	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other	\$1,500	\$1,500
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$30,600</u>	<u>\$30,600</u>

Insurance (Account #200-050)

Property/Casualty for both buildings (8100 South 15th and Husker Harvest Days), Liability, Errors & Omissions. Increased from \$11,000 to \$13,500 for FY 25-26 and \$14,040 for FY 26-27 due to premiums increases in FY 24-25

UBS Reinvestment and Fees (Account #200-015)

Reinvestment and fees for the UBS Account (\$1,500 total per FY)

8100 South 15th Payments (Account #200 & 217-006)

Principle, interest, and property tax payments for the office building. Lancaster County approved the exemption request for the entire building. Principle payments are increased, and interest is decreased as the outstanding loan amount lowers over time. The interest rate is 3.2% for the first five years. The second five years, which begins January 1, 2026, will be at the Federal Home Loan Bank five-year rate, plus 2.5%. As an example, the five-year rate as of February 16, 2024 is 4.22%, plus 2.5% would be the final rate of 6.72% (\$62,000 in each FY).

<u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>
Principle Payment	\$50,000	\$45,000
Interest Payment	\$12,000	\$17,000
Real Estate Property Tax	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$62,000</u>	<u>\$62,000</u>



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TO: NARD Board & NRD Managers
FROM: Dean E. Edson
RE: DRAFT Preliminary Budget FY 25-26 & FY 26-27

Attached is the proposed preliminary budget for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 for the NARD General Operating and NARD Foundation. The NARD Fiscal Planning Committee will review this draft at their March 10, 2025, meeting. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the board meeting later that day. The NARD Board will then approve a draft budget for consideration by the districts. Final action will take place on the budget at the June board meeting. We have included a separate budget for the NARD Foundation.

The two-year budget adopted last year asked for a 2% increase in dues each of the next two fiscal years. The proposed dues increase is 2.5% in FY 2025-26 and 3% in FY 2026-27. This has been reduced from a 4% increase from FY 2023-24. The other major changes included: 1) Increased income and expenses for the annual and legislative conferences in both fiscal years; 2) Increased margin approved last year for the tree program (increase from 3 cents to 5 cents per tree); and 3) Increased interest income to reflect interest rates.

There were no changes proposed with reimbursements from the NARD Risk Pool. Staff support stays at the level approved in 2010 and rents stay at the 2015 level. A spreadsheet with the budget follows, including an explanation for each line item. We welcome any suggestions for changes to the budget and/or position descriptions. The total budget numbers are as follows:

Budget Summary

	<u>FY 25-26</u>	<u>FY 26-27</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,492,652	\$1,527,981
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,483,666	\$1,526,983
Addition to		
CASH RESERVE	\$ 9,014	\$ 998
<u>Income Ratios</u>		
Percent reserve to Total Income	<u>0.60%</u>	<u>0.07%</u>
Percent change in Total Income	<u>3.23%</u>	<u>2.36%</u>
<u>Expense Ratios</u>		
Additional Cash Reserve as a percent of Expenses	<u>0.61%</u>	<u>0.07%</u>
Percent increase in Expenses from the previous year	<u>4.08%</u>	<u>2.92%</u>

NARD General Operating	Preliminary FY 25-26 Budget		Preliminary FY 26-27 Budget	
	Sub Account	Account	Sub Account	Account
EXPENSES	2025-26		2026-27	
Salaries		\$400,866		\$416,900
Contract Labor		\$35,000		\$35,000
NRD/NRCS Position		\$153,438		\$159,576
Employee Benefits		\$110,000		\$114,400
Foundation Programs		\$20,000		\$20,000
NARD Expenses for the Foundation	20,000		20,000	
NRD/DNR Position		\$152,372		\$158,467
Payroll Taxes		\$38,000		\$39,520
NARD Officers Expense		\$7,500		\$7,800
NACD Legislative Conf.	2,500		2,600	
NACD Reg. Meeting	2,500		2,600	
NACD Leadership Meeting	2,500		2,600	
Information & Education		\$35,850		\$35,850
Sponsorships & Special Projects	16,000		16,000	
Nebraska Envirothon	6,000		6,000	
Video & Public Relations	2,000		2,000	
Husker Harvest Days	7,350		7,350	
Awards	2,000		2,000	
Website maintenace & other	2,500		2,500	
Staff Expense		\$20,000		\$20,000
Office Furniture		\$6,000		\$6,000
Office Rent		\$29,000		\$29,000
Equipment Rent		\$8,000		\$8,000
Insurance		\$13,500		\$13,500
General Taxes		\$500		\$500
Telephone/Internet/Cable		\$11,000		\$11,000
Unicameral Fees		\$500		\$500
Repairs & Maintenance		\$500		\$500
Professional Services		\$62,500		\$62,500
Zulkowski- Weber, Lobbyist	55,000		55,000	
Other	2,500		2,500	
Legal Services	5,000		5,000	
Accounting & Audit Services		\$9,500		\$9,500
Postage		\$800		\$800
Office Supplies		\$10,000		\$10,000
Dues & Subscriptions		\$6,500		\$6,500
Grants & Agreements		\$10,000		\$10,000
Miscellaneous		\$600		\$600
Conferences		\$184,240		\$191,610
Annual Conference	79,000		82,160	
Legislative Conference	67,000		69,680	
NACD Meetings	1,500		1,560	
NCF Envirothon Expense	4,500		4,680	
Basin Tours	7,500		7,800	
NARD Board	6,240		6,490	
NRD Managers	8,000		8,320	
NRD Employee Water Conference	4,500		4,680	
NRD I&E Staff	3,000		3,120	
Other	3,000		3,120	
Washington, D.C. Mtg.		\$36,500		\$37,960
Special Projects		\$15,000		\$15,000
Public Relations		\$100,000		\$100,000
NRCS Expenses		\$6,000		\$6,000
<i>Total: Expenses</i>		<u>\$1,483,666</u>		<u>\$1,526,983</u>
Addition to Cash Reserve		\$8,986		\$998
Percent additional reserve to expenses		0.61%		0.07%
Percent change in expenses		4.08%		2.92%

including, but not limited to, the NRD calendar, NRD clothing, NRD advertising, and other NRD promotional items. Other line items include the Envirothon, NACD Poster Contest, Husker Harvest Days contributions, and other various payments and reimbursements (\$26,700 for FY 25-26 and \$27,27768 for FY 26-27).

Investment Income (Account #609)

Interest rates have increased in the past year, resulting in more income from reserves. Three sub-accounts – 1) Union Bank interest income from NARD reserves; 2) NPAIT Sponsorship Income and Non-Sponsored Income; and 3) income from UBS investments. \$62,500 for both FY).

Miscellaneous Income (Account #610)

Other refunds/contributions (\$500 total for each FY).

NRD Tree Program (Account #612)

In FY 01-02 NARD took over the tree program from UNL for the NRDs. The margin charged by UNL was 25 cents/tree. NARD will maintain a five cents/tree margin approved in 2024 to run the program and cover promotion and administrative costs. The cost for the tree giveaway at Husker Harvest Days is part of the promotion (approximately \$3,500). Executive Travel is adding \$65,000 cost-share to the NRDs for tree planting in FY 24-25. This will be distributed to the districts as a discount on their final bills based upon percentage of trees sales for each district. We will estimate orders of 600,000 trees in both FY (net \$24,175 for each FY).

Washington, D.C. Meeting (Account #613)

Income from registrations and sponsorships. This has been reduced from \$100,000 as the motel rooms will be paid directly by the attendees rather than direct billed. Registration income is for meeting room expenses, meals, bus tour, facility and equipment rental. Decreased to \$36,500 for FY 25-26 and \$37,960 for FY 26-27).

Benefit Administration (Account #616)

Payment for insurance administration of \$5,800/month which is no change from the previous fiscal year (\$69,600 total for each FY). This has been the same amount since 2010.

Special Projects (Account #619-000)

Income for special projects taken on by the NARD Board. A corresponding expense amount is also included (\$15,000 each FY).

Public Relations Projects (Account #619-005)

Income related to public relations efforts/programs. No programs will be undertaken unless approved by the board and a related income amount is determined. (Maintained at \$100,000 per FY).

Reimbursement for Part-Time Receptionist (Account 621)

This position was approved by the board in November 2010. Currently, we are hiring college students to work part-time. This position is reimbursed by the NARD Risk Pool. The expense for this position is included in Salaries. (\$19,037 for FY 25-26 and \$19,798 for FY 26-27).

disability), retirement match – Increased 4% in FY 25-26 and 4% in FY 26-27 (\$110,000 & \$114,400 totals respectively per FY). Benefits for the NARD/DNR and the NRD/NRCS positions are accounted for on separate line items (See Account #'s 814 & 817).

Foundation Programs (Account #816)

The Foundation Programs Account is used to pay bills related to the Foundation, such as credit card charges and other payments related to Foundation programs. There is a corresponding income account for the Foundation. The net profit between the two accounts is transferred to the Foundation Account prior to the end of the year so income and expenses zero out. (\$20,000 for FY 25-26 and \$20,000 for FY 26-27).

NRD/DNR Water Quantity Position (Account #817)

This is the total expenses for the position including salary, benefits and expenses. A 4% increase is proposed in FY 25-26 and a 4% increase is proposed for FY 26-27. We are reimbursed \$40,000 for the position on an annual basis. The reimbursements are done quarterly. (\$152,372 for FY 25-26 and \$158,467 in FY 26-27. See account # 603 for income).

<u>Proposed</u>	<u>FY 25-26</u>	<u>FY 26-27</u>
<u>Salary --</u>	<u>\$93,543</u>	<u>\$97,285</u>
<u>Benefits--</u>	<u>\$48,430</u>	<u>\$50,367</u>
<u>Expenses --</u>	<u>\$10,400</u>	<u>\$10,816</u>
<u>Total --</u>	<u>\$152,372</u>	<u>\$158,467</u>

Payroll Taxes (Account #819)

Unemployment and Social Security - Increased to reflect salary changes (\$38,000 and \$39,520 totals respectively per FY).

NARD Officers Expense (Account #820)

President's and/or designated officer's expenses for the NACD Legislative Conference, NACD Annual Meeting, and NACD Regional Meeting. (\$7,500 for FY 25-26 and \$7,800 in FY 26-27).

Information & Education (Account #826)

Sub-account for public relations efforts including special projects, Envirothon, Husker Harvest Days, NET Programs (Baseball & Big Red Wrap-up), awards, PSA's and I & E other. (\$35,850 for each FY).

Staff Expense (Account #840)

Staff mileage, lodging, meals, and other business-related expenses for four NARD Staff. (\$20,000 for each fiscal year). Expenses for NRD/NRCS and NRD/DNR are accounted for separately in Account #'s 814 and 817.

Office Furniture (Account #842)

Any office furniture, equipment or computers that need to be replaced (\$6,000 in each FY)

Grants (Account #886)

Other Grants – The Dam Assessment grants are completed, and nothing is projected for the next fiscal year. A placeholder takes its place with \$10,000 income and expense for both fiscal years in case a new opportunity comes up.

Miscellaneous (Account #887)

Miscellaneous expenses (\$600 total per FY).

Conferences (Account #890)

Conference registrations, vendor fees and other. Increased back to normal in FY 2022-23 due to the waning impact of COVID-19 on attendance. Other includes board and/or staff attendance/sponsorships at Ag/Natural Resources Conferences. Total for both FY's are:

	<u>FY 25-26</u>	<u>FY 26-27</u>
Annual	\$79,000	\$82,160
Legislative	\$67,000	\$69,680
NACD Meetings	\$1,500	\$1,560
NCF Envirothon	\$4,500	\$4,680
Basin Tour	\$7,500	\$7,800
NARD Board	\$6,240	\$6,490
NRD Managers	\$8,000	\$8,320
NRD Emp. Water Conf.	\$4,500	\$4,680
NRD I&E Staff Meetings	\$3,000	\$3,120
Other	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$3,120</u>
Total	<u>\$184,240</u>	<u>\$191,610</u>

Washington, D.C. Meeting (Account #893)

This has been reduced from \$100,000 as the hotel rooms will be paid for directly by the attendees rather than directly billed. Expenses are for meeting room expenses, meals, bus tour, facility and equipment rental. (Decreased to \$36,500 in FY 25-26 and \$37,960 in FY 26-27).

Special Projects (Account #895-001)

Expenses for special projects taken on by the NARD Board. A corresponding income amount is also included (\$15,000 each FY).

Public Relations Expenses (Account #895-005)

Expenses related to public relations efforts/programs. No programs will be undertaken unless approved by the board and a related income amount is determined (maintained at \$100,000 per FY).

NRCS Expenses (Account #902)

Expenses related to promotion of NRCS and NACD (maintained at \$6,000 per FY).

Central board Oks hunting at Jeffrey Habitat Area

Kearney Hub

3/8/2025

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District Area Board on Monday approved terms for permitting hunting at the Jeffrey Habitat Area.

For Deer hunting, Central will advertise in May for a lottery drawing to be held in June to select individuals for each of the five hunting areas for a three-year term with an annual lases fee of \$500 plus tax.

Also, at Monday's CNPPID Board meeting:

- Lake McConaughy's elevation was at 3237.3 feet on Monday (59% capacity), according to a report from civil Engineer Tyler Thulin to the Central Public Power and Irrigation District Board of Directors.
- Inflows a Big Mack were around 925 cubic feet per second (CFS) and outflows were about a 225 cfs. Snowpack in the upper North Platte basin currently is at 98%of median average, the lower North Platte is at 79% of median and the South Platte Basin is at 101%.
- Thulin told the board that the hydro cycling period the Johnson No.2 hydro plant is set to begin on March 18 and run through the end of April. Water elevation at Johnson Lake will fluctuate 1-2 feet during this time.
- Directors approved a modification to a concession lease agreement with Medo's (FG Enterprises) at Johnson Lake. The new lease extends the area to include the newly constructed jetties for potential installation of boat stalls.
- Irrigation and Services Manager Scott Dicke announced that the irrigations department is hosting customer appreciation lunches on March 27 in both Axtell and Bertrand. The event gives the irrigation service specialists an opportunity to visit with their customers prior to the start of the growing season.

Dawson PPD Board in first stage of considering \$9M bond

Kearney Hub

3/8/2025

Dawson Public Power District discussed current projects and future needs Wednesday with members of the Nebraska Public power District board.

NPPD directors Rusty Kemp of Tryon, Kirk Olson of North Platte and Rob Hinrichs of Axtell attended,

Kemp, Olson and Hinrichs emphasized that they see public power decisions through the lens of their agriculture background. The group agreed with Dawson Board President Dan Muhlbach about the importance of keeping the customer's best interest at the forefront in all negotiations and decisions.

Carmen Ackerman, manager of finance and administration, provide Dawson PPDs financial report. As predicted, margins were down in January, but a rebound is expected in February's report.

Dawson PPD discussed construction projects, Director Page Peterson, who serves on the finance committee, suggested the board consider the issuance of a bond to finance up to \$9 million.

Director Don Batie clarified that the bond would be for system improvements not for daily operating costs. Director Bob Kennicutt moved to authorize bond process. Details of any potential bonds will be considered at a future meeting.

The construction work plan includes substation improvements and line upgrades to improve reliability, capacity and safety. Bonding spreads the cost of projects over server years, decreasing the impact on Dawson's customer's.

Other highlights of the board meeting:

- Negotiation continue on a new whole sale power contract with NPPD. Because NPPD will seek long term-term financing for the construction of new generation resources, they need wholesale customer's commitment to purchase power for 40 years.

- Dan Muhlbach received the NRECA Director Gold Credential, which requires coursework in addition to the Credentialed Cooperative Director and board Leadership Certificate requirements/
- Dawson PPD's next board meeting will be April 2.