

Rules & Regulations

Rev.12-18-14

Commodity Crop Growers in the Central Platte NRD must adhere to the following regulations

Phase I - between 0 & 7.5 ppm; Phase II - between 7.6 & 15 ppm; Phase III - 15.1 ppm or higher

Phase IV - Areas where nitrate levels are not declining at an acceptable rate

Because NRDs do not have the authority to regulate surface water, surface water irrigators
are not required to take water samples or monitor water applications

| | Phase I | Phase II | Phase III | Phase IV |
|--|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Fall applications of N fertilizer on sandy soils are prohibited. | X | X | X | X |
| 2. Fall N applications on heavy soils are permitted after November 1. | X | | | |
| 3. Application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer is prohibited on all soils until after March 1st. | | X | X | X |
| 4. Commercial nitrogen fertilizer can be applied on sandy soils after March 1 . | X | X | | |
| 5. Farm operators using nitrogen fertilizer must be certified . Certification good for 4 years. | | X | X | X |
| 6. Spring application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer will require a split application [pre-plant/pre-emergent, or pre-emergent/post-emergent) with less than 50% applied as pre-emergent. If more than 50% is applied as pre-emergent, the operator is required to furnish certification from the dealer than an inhibitor was used at the recommended rate. Up to 80 pounds total of pre-plantand/pre-emergent nitrogen can be applied as pre-emergent without an inhibitor. | | | X | X |
| 7. All crops must be reported (including corn, sorghum, potatoes, beans, alfalfa, small grains and any other commodity crop), on District approved report forms. Reports will be due each crop year by March 31st and include the legal description of well(s) irrigating the crop, acres of each crop and the crop planted. Crops other than corn, sorghum and potatoes <u>do not</u> have to take soil and water tests. | | X | X | X |
| 8. In addition to the above, the report for corn, sorghum, and potatoes must list the following for the upcoming crop year : expected yields, water and soil test results, credits for past legume crop and manure or sludge, and the UNL's recommended nitrogen application rate. The report will also include the following for the previous crop year : actual yields, fertilizer applied as pre-emergent or sidedress, and irrigation water applied. Laboratory reports for soil, water and manure analysis, and an inhibitor receipt if used, must be submitted with the annual report. | | X | X | X |
| 9. An annual deep soils analysis for residual nitrogen (NO ₃ -N) on each field or 80 acre tract growing corn, sorghum or potatoes, whichever is smaller, with the analysis to be conducted by a laboratory participating in the University of Nebraska Soil Testing Program. A composite sample tested must consist of a mixture from no less than one three-foot probe every five acres. The report from the lab must be attached to the annual report. | | X | X | X |
| 10. A groundwater analysis for nitrogen (NO ₃ -N) content on each field growing corn, grain sorghum or potatoes must be made annually . The report from the lab must be attached to the annual report. | | X | X | X |
| 11. If manure or sludge is used, a credit for the nitrogen in the manure or sludge must be used in the calculation for the nitrogen recommendation. A laboratory analysis must be conducted for each source of manure or sludge and attached to the report form. | | X | X | X |
| 12. A credit for previous year's crop if the previous year was in beans, alfalfa, etc., must be used in the calculation for the nitrogen recommendation on corn and sorghum. | | X | X | X |
| 13. The expected yield to be set by the District (last 5 year average of regulated crop + 5%) | | | | X |
| 14. Nitrogen applications must not exceed District Recommendations with a copy of a fertilizer receipt attached to the annual report. | | | | X |
| 15. NRD Staff work with individuals on best management practices | | | | X |
| 16. Operators must monitor groundwater applications to allow for the better management of fertilizer applications and control leaching of nitrates. | | X | X | X |
| 17. Phase II, III and IV areas can be established in the future based on N levels in Vadose Zone or based upon nitrate levels not declining at an acceptable rate as determined by the Board of Directors. | | X | X | X |