

LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Criteria Ranking for Adding New Irrigated Acres in the Lower Niobrara Basin
(Please Print All Information)

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

No. _____	(for office use)
Date Received: _____	(for office use)

Expansion of Acres for an: Existing Well
 New Well
 Location: Aerial Photo required and acres marked
 _____ 1/4 _____ 1/4 Sec _____ Twp _____ Rge _____

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

	For Office use only	
1. Irrigation Plan: New Acres to be Irrigated _____ (best estimate)		
a. Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation = +10, Flood, Gated = -10	—	
b. Pivot/Sprinklers: <input type="checkbox"/> No System Present = 0, <input type="checkbox"/> System Present = +10	—	
c. Test Wells: <input type="checkbox"/> Test Wells Drilled Pump Test Results Attached = +5	—	
d. Water Supply <input type="checkbox"/> registered high capacity well present = +10 new high capacity well/s to be constructed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 = 0, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 = -5, <input type="checkbox"/> 3 = -20	—	
2. NRCS Web Soil Survey-Land Capability Class:		
a. Land Class Total Points based on Percentage of each Class within Field Boundaries (Class I = +30, Class II = +20, Class III = +10, Class IV = 0, Class V and VI = -15, Class VII and VIII = -30)	—	
b. Currently in crop production	+10	
3. Section Stream Depletion Factor		
a. > 80% stream depletion	-10	
b. 60-80% stream depletion	-7	
c. 40-60% stream depletion	-2	
d. < 40% stream depletion	+5	
4. Static Water Level (SWL)/Depth to Ground Water:		
a. Area wells have consistent declining water level	-15	
b. Proposed site has SWL < 10 feet at any time of year	-8	
c. Proposed site has SWL 10 to 19 feet at any time of year	-3	
d. Proposed site has SWL > 19 feet at any time of year	0	
5. Ground Water Nitrates:		
a. Nitrates in the vicinity > 10 ppm	-8	
b. Nitrates in the vicinity < 10 ppm	+5	
c. Not Certified in Nitrogen Management by NRD = out of compliance	-3	
d. Not required to be certified in Nitrogen Management	0	
6. Proximity to other High Capacity Wells:		
a. Well construction site within 1,000 feet of another owners high capacity well	-8	
b. Well construction site outside of 1,000 feet of any registered well	+6	
7. Conservation Practices		
a. Terracing and/or watershed preservation being used or planned for use	+6	
b. Existing CCRP, Corners for Wildlife, NSWCP or similar program being used on site	+2.5/corner	
c. > 3 acres of existing shelter belt trees removed on site	-7	
d. Removal of surface conservation management programs	-10	
e. NRD tree belt being signed up for during new acre approval process	+10	
Total Points:		
Non-Refundable Application Fee must be submitted with application: Less than 25 acres = \$75.00 Greater than 25 acres (\$3.00 x _____ acres) = \$ _____		

Lower Niobrara NRD Criteria Rating for Adding New Irrigated Acres

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 the month of October 2011 for December approval; the month of December for approval in February, 2012, 2013 and 2014. An application fee of \$3/acre with a minimum application of \$75 is required in order to be considered for the expansion of irrigated acres. Applicants will be notified of their application status within 60 days of the application deadline. Upon approval of this application the expansion of all irrigated acres will have until September 1 of the application year to be completed. Applications approved in 2011 will have until September 1, 2012.

Criteria Rating:

1. Irrigation Plan will list the best estimate of the new acres to be irrigated. Once the expansion is completed the landowner will have one year to certify the actual acres irrigated. Installation of a flowmeter will be required on all newly constructed irrigation wells.
2. Land Capability Class Rating using USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey an on line program to identify the capability of land to produce a crop (will be completed at NRD. Landowner may be present when making determination)
3. Stream depletion factor is based off of the Modflow Model which gives numerical impacts of each section within the LNNRD to the Lower Platte Basin and Lower Niobrara Basin based on proximity and hydro-connectivity. The farther a section is from the stream and less connected it is, the less the impact.
4. 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, for any given period of time, of static water levels. Shallow depths to ground water are more susceptible to flooding and contamination and will be determined by comparing area wells.
5. Ground Water Nitrates will be assessed based on area contaminates of Nitrates determined by the annual irrigation season sampling conducted by the NRD. Those areas which have high contaminates will be penalized if the average nitrates in that area are over 10 ppm. Landowners will also be rated as to whether or not they are certified by the NRD in Nitrogen Management.
6. Proximity to other high capacity wells will be determined based off of the DNR well registration database. Those wells that are the only registered wells in the section will receive a higher rating than those wells within a quarter section of low capacity wells which will be rated higher than those near other high capacity wells. Only 3 wells will be permitted per irrigation system. This is done to reduce impact on neighboring wells and relieve stress during the high pumping seasons.
7. Conservation practices on the property being applied for a new application permit will receive award points. Conservation practices may include, but are not limited to; Continuous CRP, NSWCP, program, EQIP, and Corners for Wildlife. Watershed protection and terracing will also receive bonus points due to the conservation of topsoil and reduction of runoff.
8. A total of 2500 acres are allotted per year for the area previously designated as Fully Appropriated where the highest ranking applications will be approved up to those 2500 acres.
9. As a condition of the approval of the request to allow the real estate to be irrigated, the landowner, or duly authorized representative, agrees to allow the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District by and through its staff, officers and/or directors, access to the real estate approved herein to collect data from flowmeters or to otherwise ensure that all rules and regulations of the District are being followed.