
Establishment of the Bazile GWMA

The Board of Directors of the Lewis and Clark NRD established the Bazile Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) in October of 2004 when more than 50% of irrigation wells monitored for water quality, contained over 10 ppm nitrates in 2003.

The region is located in the recharge area for the groundwater source that supplies the city of Creighton with its primary drinking water source. Establishment of the GWMA allowed for the implementation of several rules and regulations to minimize the impact of farming practices on water quality and provide options to improve practices over time to turn around the trend of increasing nitrate levels.

Average nitrate levels peaked in 2008 at 18 ppm. By 2013 average nitrate readings across the district had leveled off at approximately 15 ppm. **However the number of wells with high nitrates continues to increase across the GWMA.**

The GWMA consists of all of Creighton township (T29N, R5W), all of Cleveland township (T29N, R4W) except sections 25-27 and 34-36, and sections 6, 7, 18, and 19 of Columbia township (T29N, R3W).

Protect Groundwater

The Lewis & Clark NRD has combined efforts with the Lower Elkhorn, Upper Elkhorn, and Lower Niobrara NRDs, working with landowners to lower groundwater nitrate concentrations. Stephanie Butler is the project coordinator for the Bazile Area, her home base is at the Upper Elkhorn NRD and she can be reached at 402-336-3867. Additional cost share programs are available through this alliance.

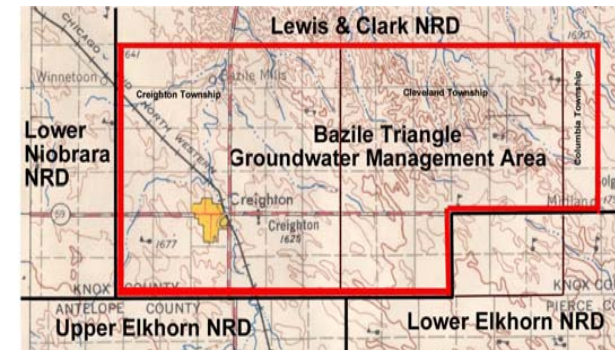
In 2014 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) made much of the GWMA eligible to receive National Water Quality Incentive Program funding which is available to producers for implementation of agricultural practices which will contribute to improved water quality. Contact NRCS at 402-373-4914 ext. 3 for more information.



Rules and Regulations Phase III Bazile Groundwater Management Area (GWMA)



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Basic Rules & Regulations of the Bazile Groundwater Management Area

- Fall and winter application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer is not allowed in the GWMA. Spring application must occur after March 1 and it is strongly recommended that applications be split throughout the growing season.
- All operators applying fertilizer containing nitrate-nitrogen must attain certification of attendance at district approved educational program once every four (4) years. Educational programs are designed to inform operators of Best Management Practices (BMP) and application technology to minimize pollution. There is no charge for the class or certification.
- Annual deep soil testing to 36" is required in the fall or spring prior to planting corn. Deep soil testing is not required if planting beans. **Cost share of 75%** is provided to producers who apply for assistance, follow a nutrient management plan and complete an annual report form.
- Most irrigation wells are tested at least every other year for nitrate content by the Lewis & Clark NRD. Test results are provided to producers and landowners of the GWMA.
- Submit annual report to the Lewis and Clark NRD by April 1 of each year.
- Well permits required prior to drilling new or replacement wells that pump more than 50 gpm. There is a \$50 filing fee (\$250 late filing fee).
- As of August 1, 2014 a permit is required to expand irrigated acres in the LC NRD.

Cost Share Programs available to Landowners and Operators of the Bazile Groundwater Management Area of LCNRD

Deep Soil Sampling Program

The LCNRD offers a 75% cost share program for deep soil sampling (0-36 inches) in the Bazile GWMA to encourage operators to use the best knowledge available when making nitrogen application decisions. The program is offered on acres that will be planted to corn or another non-legume crop in the coming crop season. Reimbursement payment is made following receipt of sampling bills, test results and annual report.

Chemigation Program

If you have land on which you will be utilizing chemigation as a means of nitrogen application and you have not used chemigation for fertilization on that property before – the land is eligible for a one-time, \$4.00/ac, payment. This program is intended to encourage landowners to implement chemigation as a means of nitrogen application. It is beneficial to the crop and the groundwater because it allows for split application of nitrogen when the crop is actively growing. Payment is made in the fall, following chemigation inspection, receipt of the annual report and N recommendations from your crop consultant.

"SNIP" Program

Siphoning Nitrates with Irrigated Pasture

Siphoning Nitrates with Irrigated Pasture is a program designed to reduce nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in soil and water by utilizing nitrogen in irrigation water on pasture. The program pays \$100/ac/year for a period of 5 years on a maximum of 160 acres. The program offers 65% cost share for grass seeding. Planned grazing components are also eligible to receive cost share. Acres must be converted from cropland to irrigated pasture to be eligible. Sign up is from August 1 to February 1 and work must be completed by May 1. Coordination with NRCS is required.

Siphoning Nitrates with Irrigated Hay is similar to the pasture program but features irrigated alfalfa or hay management. The program pays \$100/ac/year for for the first and 5th year of enrollment, on a maximum of 160 acres. Seeding of the alfalfa or hay is not a cost shareable component of this program. Eligible ground is cropland converted to irrigated alfalfa or hay. Cooperators are asked to line up conversion seeding and coordinate management or harvesting.

Additional Programs Available

There are additional cost share funds available for flow meters and stalk tissue analysis. Contact Stephanie Butler, Bazile GWMA Project Coordinator for more information, 402-336-3867.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers many conservation cost share programs, contact them at 402-373-4914.