

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1368

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 13, 2024
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Ibach
One Liner: Adopt the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Brewer, Halloran, Hansen, Holdcroft, Ibach, Hughes, Riepe
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Raybould
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Teresa Ibach
Hank Robinson
Claudia Stevenson
Katie Torpy
Al Davis
Lyndon Vogt
Ken Winston
John Hansen
Craig Derickson

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Aksarben Full Value Agriculture
League of Women Voters Nebraska
The Nature Conservancy
Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
Self
Nebraska Farmers Union
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Edison McDonald

Representing:

GC Resolve

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 1368 creates a program to provide incentive payments to encourage producers to reduce nitrogen use

Section-by-section summary:

Sec 1: Names sections 1-6 of the bill the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act

Sec 2: Declares legislative findings and intent



Sec 3: Defines the term "commercial fertilizer" by external reference to the term as defined in §81-262.02 of the Nebraska Fertilizer and Soil Conditioners Act.

Sec 4: Creates a nitrogen reduction incentive program to encourage reductions in fertilizer use and adoption of innovative technologies. The program would provide incentive payments to producers providing verifying documentation of achieving a 25 lb / acre reduction in nitrogen application rate or 15% reduction by incorporating qualifying products, from a historic baseline fertilizer rate .

Assigns a duty to the Department of Natural Resources to every two years review the target rate reductions to determine whether such targets should be adjusted.

Assigns additional duties to the Department to implement the program including collaboration with NRD's to identify qualifying technologies, identifying geographic priority areas, determine a payment rate to encourage participation, but not less than \$10 / acre, and to continuously evaluate the per acre rate in light of inflation and emerging technologies.

Total incentive payments are limited to \$5 million annually and the program sunsets December 31, 2029.

Sec 5: Delegates general rule and regulation authority as needed to implement the program and directs that the Department shall adopt regulations setting standards for products whose use would qualify for the incentive payments when used.

Sec 6: States legislative intent to appropriate \$5 million to the Dept. of Natural Resources for FY 2024-25.

Steve Halloran, Chairperson

