#### BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. C-5529
Public Service Commission, on	)	
its own motion, to implement	)	
the Precision Agriculture	)	ORDER ISSUING GRANT AWARDS
Infrastructure Grant Act.	)	
	)	
	)	Entered: April 30, 2024

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") opened this docket on its own motion on August 16, 2022, to implement the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 *et seq* (the "Act"). On January 23, 2024, following two comment periods and a hearing in this matter, the Commission issued an order setting forth the application materials and schedule for the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") in 2024 ("Jan. 23 Order").

Pursuant to the procedural schedule issued in this matter, the Commission hereby makes the following grant awards.

#### Applications Received

Applications for grant awards were due to the Commission by February 23, 2024. Pursuant to the Jan. 23 Order, the Commission considered applications filed under two subprograms. The Commission received twenty applications prior to the deadline. Six applications were submitted for awards in the Connectivity subprogram, while fourteen applications were submitted for awards in the Devices and Technology subprogram. Late filed applications were not considered.

Commission staff performed an initial review of applications for eligibility and completeness, along with consideration of the reasonableness and allowability of budgeted costs. Commission staff contacted applicants for clarification in the case of any unclear information or other minor defects in the applications. Pursuant to the Jan. 23 Order, applications missing required materials were not considered for funding. Additionally, applications filed by persons or entities ineligible for funding pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1404(1) were not considered. The remaining applications were reviewed in accordance with the weighted scoring system set forth in the Jan. 23 Order in this docket.

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Commission staff also reviewed applications to ensure all costs included in the project budget were reasonable and allowable. In cases where applications included disallowed costs, every effort was made to fund the project at the requested grant amount, with a corresponding reduction to the match commitment. However, in situations where an application lacked sufficient matching funds to cover the adjustment for disallowed costs, adjustments were made to the grant award to exclude any disallowed costs. In the event of an applicant's typographical error or miscalculation, Commission staff made modifications when warranted in consultation with the applicant.

#### Review of Applications

Following review of the applications ineligible for funding, the Commission determined that eleven applications remained for consideration for funding. The Commission then reviewed the applications as described below.

#### 1. Connectivity Subprogram

Upon review of the applications submitted in the Connectivity subprogram, the Commission determined that three applications were eligible for funding. The total dollar amount required to fund the remaining eligible applications would be \$391,280. The total funding available for this subprogram is 453,239.<sup>1</sup> A summary of the applications, including overall scores of eligible applications, is available on the Commission website.

The Commission finds that each of the three remaining Connectivity applications should be awarded funding. Attachment A represents the awards made in the Connectivity subprogram. The Commission notes that awards made in the PRO-AG Connectivity subprogram will fund fixed wireless networks for on-farm structures and devices pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1402(4) and 86-1404(2)(a). The Commission has determined that the wireless network projects listed for funding in Attachment A are sufficient to meet the needs of the projects described in the applications;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This amount represents one-half of the \$1 million available to the program in funding in fiscal year 2023-2024, less administrative costs, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1404(3). The Legislature appropriated \$906,478 towards PRO-AG for fiscal year 2023-2024 and \$901,216 for fiscal year 2024-2025, with the remainder of the \$1 million each year allocated for administrative costs. LB 814 (2023), Slip Law at 14.

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specifically, to connect remote monitoring locations.<sup>2</sup> However, as wireless projects serving on-farm structures and devices, these grant awards will not preclude from funding pending applications for funding in other Commission broadband grant programs, particularly where fiber to the premise projects are being proposed.

#### 2. Devices and Technology Subprogram

Upon review of the applications submitted in the Devices and Technology subprogram, the Commission determined that eight applications were eligible for funding. The total dollar amount required to fund the remaining eligible applications would be \$287,336.29. The total funding available for this subprogram is 453,239.<sup>3</sup> A summary of the applications, including overall scores of eligible applications, is available on the Commission website.

The Commission finds that each of the eight remaining Devices and Technology applications should be awarded funding. Attachment B represents the awards made in the Devices and Technology subprogram.

#### Issuance of Grant Awards; Project Completion

The Commission finds that, upon review of the submitted applications, each of the applications listed in Attachments A and B to this order should be awarded funding. Awardees listed in Attachments A and B must submit a completed 2024 PRO-AG Acknowledgement and Attestation Form, bearing a handwritten signature, on or before **May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time** with service to psc.broadband@nebraska.gov. A copy of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Commission notes that while residential service of 100/20 Mbps may be available in locations near those identified in these Connectivity applications, the identified farm sites are not in fact served. Additionally, the applicant has indicated that any service it offers nearby would not be adequate to support precision agriculture connectivity at the level required by statute.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Again, this amount represents one-half of the \$1 million available to the program in funding for fiscal year 2023-2024, less administrative costs, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1404(3). <sup>4</sup> PRO-AG grant payments will be distributed within the Commission's monthly telecommunications payment process upon receipt of the necessary forms. Processing time for distributions may vary, and delays may occur if the required forms have errors or missing information, or if they are not returned timely.

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Acknowledgement and Attestation Form is available on the Commission website and is attached to this Order as Attachment C.

As previously set forth in this docket, ninety percent of grant funds awarded will be processed for distribution upon award of the grant and receipt of the Acknowledgement and Attestation Form.<sup>4</sup> In order to ensure prompt distribution of funds, awardees must submit to the Commission their State of Nebraska W-9 and ACH enrollment form on or before May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Commission Time. Awardees may contact staff at psc.broadband@nebraska.gov for quidance in completing this process.

The remaining ten percent (10%) of funds will be distributed to awardees upon successful completion of the project. Awardees listed on Attachments A and B to this order must complete the listed project on or before April 30, 2025. Awardees must submit a Certification of Project Completion and successful speed testing results if applicable to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u>. All documentation of project completion is due on or before April 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. A copy of the Certification of Project Completion is available on the Commission website and is attached to this Order as Attachment D.

Awardees are hereby advised that failure to complete the approved project by April 30, 2025, may result in civil or administrative penalties, including, but not limited to, repayment of the grant award.

#### Speed Testing

Awardees in the Connectivity subprogram are required to offer broadband Internet service at minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload in the project area for at least five years following the grant award. Upon project completion, the wireless network provider must test key operational locations representing typical usage scenarios to demonstrate that adequate connectivity is being provided. Detailed information regarding speed test requirements is available in the Jan. 23 Order and in the 2024 PRO-AG Program Guide. Individual requirements for speed testing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> PRO-AG grant payments will be distributed within the Commission's monthly telecommunications payment process upon receipt of the necessary forms. Processing time for distributions may vary, and delays may occur if the required forms have errors or missing information, or if they are not returned timely.

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for each project will be issued on a case-by-case basis. Initial speed testing results are due to the Commission no later than thirty days following project completion. Connectivity subprogram awardees must also provide speed testing results on an annual basis to demonstrate the continued ability of the network to provide the required speeds.

When reporting speed test information to the Commission, awardees should use the PRO-AG Speed Test Certification form. This form is available on the Commission website and is attached hereto as Attachment E. Should the submitted speed test results show deficiencies, the applicant must provide the test results along with a written proposal to remedy the deficiencies. This proposal must include the date upon which speed testing will be conducted a second time, which must be no later than sixty (60) days following the initial speed testing. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the provider may be subject to civil or administrative penalties, including, but not limited to, repayment of the grant award.

#### Quarterly Reporting; Annual Report Requirements

During implementation and construction of the awarded project, all awardees are required to submit quarterly reports to the Commission regarding the implementation of the project. A PRO-AG Awardee Progress Report Form is available on the Commission website and is attached to this Order as Attachment F. Quarterly reports are due by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on the fifteenth day of the first month following each quarter, or the first business day thereafter, beginning on **July 15**, **2024**. Following completion of project construction or implementation, quarterly reporting may end, as awardees will then begin reporting on an annual basis.

All awardees are required to submit an annual report on the usage and maintenance of equipment funded through the 2024 PRO-AG grant. Connectivity awardees must provide adequate speed testing results as described above and in the 2024 PRO-AG Program Guide. Devices and Technology awardees must keep all equipment funded with PRO-AG grants in service for a minimum of five years after project completion, with all necessary maintenance and repairs for the funded equipment must be performed at the cost of the awardee.

Annual reports should also include a description of the benefits to Nebraska obtained by the project. The annual reports are required for a period of five years after project completion. A template for the annual report submissions will be available on

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the Commission website and is attached to this order as Attachment G. Reports should be submitted to the Commission via e-mail to psc.broadband@nebraska.gov by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter, beginning on July 1, 2025. The final report will be due to the Commission on July 2, 2029.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that each of the applications listed in Attachments A and B shall be funded. Each of the applicants awarded shall be required to complete the project by **April 30, 2025,** unless granted an extension by order of the Commission. All successful applicants listed in Attachments A and B shall be subject to annual reporting requirements as set forth above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each applicant listed on Attachments A and B shall submit, on July 1 of each year for five years following the date of this order, a report on the usage and maintenance of the on-farm connectivity network or the grantfunded devices and technology as described above. Connectivity awardees must also provide speed testing to demonstrate the continued ability of the network to provide the required speeds.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that successful applicants must immediately verify required documentation for receipt of ACH payments from the State of Nebraska is on file with the Commission. Successful applicants must also submit to the Commission a Grantee Acknowledgement and Attestation Form by **May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.** Payments shall not be disbursed to applicants until the Acknowledgement and Attestation Form and the State of Nebraska W9/ACH form is received and processed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that disbursement of the grant awards shall be conducted as described above. The amount distributed to each applicant shall not exceed the grant award set forth in Attachment E to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each successful applicant shall submit quarterly reports on the implementation of the project on the fifteenth day of the first month following each quarter, or the first business day thereafter, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time, beginning on **July 15**, **2024**, and continuing until the project is completed.

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IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that each successful applicant shall submit an annual report on the project as described above by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter, and continuing for five years, with the first report due to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1, 2025, and the final report due to the Commission on July 2, 2029.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 30th day of April, 2024.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair

ATTEST:

Deputy Director

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING: M. Mamler

### Commission Docket No. C-5529 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program (PRO-AG) – 2023-2024 Cycle Attachment A: Connectivity Subprogram Awards

Applicant name	Project name	Total Project Costs	Applicant Match Amount	Applicant Match %	Grant Award
Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC dba Vistabeam	Garden	\$100,442.04	\$24,332.04	24.22%	\$76,110.00
Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC dba Vistabeam	Morrill	\$86,061.58	\$23,581.58	27.40%	\$62,480.00
Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC dba Vistabeam	Scottsbluff	\$334,007.24	\$81,317.24	24.35%	\$252,690.00

Applicant name	Project name	Total Project Costs	Applicant Match Amount	Applicant Match %	Grant Award
Bradley Bourg - Ag Above the Line	Drone Services	\$36,500.00	\$20,000.00	54.79%	\$16,500.00
Country Partners Cooperative	Country Partners Drone Adaptation	\$49,608.90	\$0	0.00%	\$49,608.90
Ference Agronomy LLC	Application Drones	\$65,600.00	\$32,050.00	48.86%	\$33,550.00
Marcus Sandberg	Sandberg Farms Whole Farm Connectivity	\$91,324.00	\$0	0.00%	\$91,324.00
R&C Drone AgSpray	Operation Conservation	\$67,955.98	\$33,977.99	50.00%	\$33,977.99
Ruskamp Farms, Inc	Ruskamp GPS	\$15,803.00	\$7,111.35	45.00%	\$8,691.65
Tyler Janky	Spray Drone	\$32,500.00	\$14,625.00	45.00%	\$17,875.00
Walters Ag, LLC	Drone Application and Instant Soil Sampling	\$47,745.00	\$11,936.25	25.00%	\$35,808.75

# PRO-AG Grant Program Acknowledgement and Attestation Form 2023-2024 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u> on or before May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time

Grantor:	 	 
Grantee:	 	 
Subprogram:	 	 
Project Name:	 	 

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Grantor" or "Commission"), in docket C-5529, has established a grant program known as the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") to promote and support precision agriculture initiatives in Nebraska. The Grantee has submitted an application to the Grantor for funding under the above-mentioned PRO-AG Subprogram for the above-mentioned Project Name, as described in the application submitted by the Grantee.

**Grant Amount:** The Grantor agrees to provide funding to the Grantee in the amount of [Amount in Dollars] ("Grant Amount") as described below for the implementation of the project described in the application.

**Project Description:** The Grantee shall implement the project in accordance with the project description outlined in the application submitted to the Grantor. Any material changes to the project scope must be approved in writing by the Grantor.

**Term of Agreement:** This Agreement shall commence on the date of signing and shall remain in effect until the completion of the project and the fulfillment of all obligations under this Agreement, unless terminated earlier as provided herein.

I, [Legal Name], an authorized agent acting on behalf of [Grantee], hereby acknowledge receipt of the PRO-AG grant awarded to [Grantee] by the State of Nebraska for the purpose of [Brief Description of Project]. [Grantee] understands and agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and requirements outlined in the grant program guidelines, as well as any additional instructions provided by the Commission.

### **Conditions of Grant:**

 Fund Distribution: Upon full execution of this agreement, the Grantee must submit their State of Nebraska W-9 and ACH enrollment form to the Commission on or before May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Upon receipt of the W9/ACH, ninety percent (90%) of grant funds awarded will be processed for distribution. The remaining ten percent (10%) of funds will be distributed to the Grantee upon successful completion of the project and compliance with all requirements of the grant. Grantee Name:

#### Project Name:

- 2. Use of Funds: The Grantee shall use the Grant Amount solely for the allowable costs for the purposes described in the application and shall not divert funds for any other use without the prior written consent of the Grantor.
- 3. **Project Completion and Documentation:** The Grantee must complete the listed project on or before April 30, 2025. Upon completion, the Grantee must submit a Certification of Project Completion, successful speed testing results if applicable, and invoices to justify allowable expenses to psc.broadband@nebraska.gov. All documentation of project completion is due on or before April 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.
- 4. **Speed Testing Requirements:** Grantees in the Connectivity subprogram are required to offer broadband Internet service at minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload in the project area for at least five years following the grant award. Speed testing results must be submitted to the Commission no later than 90 days following project completion and annually thereafter.
- 5. Reporting Requirements: The Grantee shall provide regular progress reports to the Grantor in accordance with the reporting schedule outlined in the PRO-AG program guidelines. During implementation and construction of the awarded project, the Grantee must submit quarterly reports to the Commission regarding the construction of the project. Quarterly reports are due by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on the fifteenth day of the first month following each quarter, beginning on July 15, 2024. Following completion of project construction, quarterly reporting may end, and the Grantee will then begin reporting on an annual basis. Annual reports should include a description of usage and maintenance of equipment funded through the 2024 PRO-AG grant and the benefits to Nebraska obtained by the project. Reports are required for a period of five years after project completion and must be submitted to the Commission by July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter, beginning on July 1, 2025.
- 6. **Compliance:** The Grantee shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines governing the use of grant funds and the implementation of the project. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska.
- 7. **Audit:** The Grantee agrees to maintain accurate records of all expenditures related to the project, including the use of grant funds and any committed matching funds, and to make such records available for audit by the Grantor or its authorized representatives upon request.
- 8. **Repayment Provision**: If the Grantee fails to complete the project as specified in this Agreement or fails to fulfill any other obligations hereunder, the Grantee shall repay to the Grantor the full amount of the grant funds disbursed, plus any accrued interest, within 30 days of written demand by the Grantor.
- 9. **Termination**: The Grantor reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time upon written notice to the Grantee if the Grantee fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions herein.
- 10. **Indemnification**: The Grantee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Grantor from any claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses arising out of or related to the Grantee's use of grant funds or the implementation of the project.

#### Grantee Name:

#### Project Name:

### Grantee Signature: By signing this form, I attest that:

- 1. The information provided in the grant application, including all supporting documents, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- 2. I understand that any false statements or misrepresentations may result in termination of the grant award and/or civil, criminal, or administrative penalties.
- 3. The Grantee will use the grant funds solely for the purposes described in the approved application and in accordance with the budget submitted with the application.
- 4. The Grantee will maintain detailed records of all expenditures related to the project and will provide documentation as requested by the Commission for auditing purposes.
- 5. The Grantee will adhere to the completion deadlines specified in the grant program guidelines and will notify the Commission promptly of any delays or changes to the project timeline.
- 6. The Grantee will submit all required progress reports, certifications, and other documentation in a timely manner as specified by the Commission.
- 7. The Grantee hereby attests that the Grantee does not use and will not use during the term of this agreement any equipment prohibited for use by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 1601. Any use of prohibited equipment shall constitute a breach of this Agreement and may result in termination of the grant, repayment of grant funds, and/or other legal consequences.
- 8. The Grantee agrees that the devices, technology, and/or connectivity funded by the grant shall not be sold or transferred to another party for a period of five years following the grant award, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Grantor. Any attempted sale or transfer in violation of this provision shall be considered a breach of this Agreement.
- 9. The Grantee understands that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant program may result in the withholding or repayment of grant funds, as well as other penalties and sanctions as determined by the Commission.

Grantee Signature:	Date:	
Printed Name:		
Title (if applicable):		

Organization (if applicable):

#### <u>Attach/Include:</u>

 <u>W9/ACH form</u>: Successful applicants must provide a W9/ACH form to verify required documentation for receipt of ACH payments from the State of Nebraska is on file with the Commission. This form can be found on the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services website: https://das.nebraska.gov/accounting/forms/ACH W9 Fillable.pdf

# PRO-AG Grant Program Certification of Project Completion Form 2023-2024 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u> by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on or before April 30, 2025, unless granted an extension by order of the Commission.

rantee:	
ubprogram:	
roject Name:	
ompletion Date:	

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Grantor" or "Commission"), in docket C-5529, has established a grant program known as the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") to promote and support precision agriculture initiatives in Nebraska. The Grantee was awarded a grant for funding under the above-mentioned PRO-AG Subprogram for the above-mentioned Project Name, as described in the application submitted by the Grantee. Grantees are subject to a twelve-month completion deadline after the date on which the grant is awarded. A project will be considered complete when the project can fulfill the primary operations that it was designed to perform.

# All documentation of project completion is due on or before April 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time, unless granted an extension by order of the Commission.

I, [Legal Name], an authorized agent acting on behalf of [Grantee], hereby certify that the PRO-AG project titled [Project Title] has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the grant agreement and program guidelines. I attest that:

- 1. The project objectives and activities described in the grant application have been successfully accomplished.
- 2. All grant funds were used solely for the purposes described in the approved application and in accordance with the budget submitted with the application.
- The project has been completed within the specified timeframe as outlined in the grant agreement, or any approved extensions granted by the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC).
- 4. The on-farm connectivity infrastructure (for Connectivity Subprogram) or devices and technology (for Devices and Technology Subprogram) funded by the grant are fully operational and serving the intended purposes.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

- 5. Any required speed testing (for Connectivity Subprogram) has been conducted, and the results demonstrate that the connectivity meets or exceeds the required speeds as specified in the grant agreement.
- 6. The Grantee will maintain detailed records of all expenditures related to the project and will provide documentation as requested by the Commission for auditing purposes. All necessary documentation, including invoices, receipts, progress reports, and other supporting materials, have been maintained and will be provided to the NPSC upon request for auditing purposes.
- The Grantee does not use and will not use during the term of this agreement any equipment prohibited for use by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 1601. Any use of prohibited equipment may result in termination of the grant, repayment of grant funds, and/or other legal consequences.
- 8. The Grantee agrees that the devices, technology, and/or connectivity funded by the grant shall not be sold or transferred to another party for a period of five years following the grant award, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Grantor. Any attempted sale or transfer in violation of this provision shall be considered a breach of this Agreement.
- 9. The information provided, including all supporting documents, is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- 10. I understand that any false statements, misrepresentations, or omissions made in this certification may result in civil, criminal, or administrative penalties, including but not limited to the withholding or repayment of grant funds.

Grantee Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Title:	
Organization (if applicable):	

### PRO-AG Speed Test Certification 2023-2024 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u> within 30 days of Project Completion, and by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter, and continuing for five years after project completion.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Grantor" or "Commission"), in docket C-5529, has established a grant program known as the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") to promote and support precision agriculture initiatives in Nebraska. The Grantee was awarded a grant for funding under the PRO-AG Connectivity Subprogram for the project described below, as detailed in the Grantee's application.

Following project completion, Connectivity grantees are required to submit speed and latency testing results within 30 days of project completion and on an annual basis for a period of five years following project completion. Grantees must demonstrate the continued ability of the network to provide the required minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload in the project area.

Date of Report:		
Grantee Name:		
Project Name:		
Contact Person:		
Mailing Address:		
Email Address:		
Phone Number:		
Project Completion	Date:	
Dates performance	testing was performed:	
Number of Key Ope application:	rational Locations in	
	rational Locations in Iy served at ≥100/20 s latency:	
Number of Key Ope which speed testing	rational Locations for y was performed:	

General principles for speed testing:

- All key operational locations identified in the application must be tested.
- Speed testing must be conducted for one week (7 days) for each project.
- Speed testing must be performed during daylight hours, for at least a four-hour window each day.
- A minimum of one download test and one upload test per location, per hour should be conducted during the test window.
- Each speed test must measure a connection between a specific farm site and selected test location for at least 10 seconds.

General principles for latency testing:

- All key operational locations identified in the application must be tested.
- Speed testing must be conducted for one week (7 days) for each project.
- Speed testing must be performed during daylight hours, for at least a four-hour window each day.
- A carrier must conduct one latency test per minute at each selected test location for the duration of the testing period.

Should testing reflect deficiencies or fail to reflect that the entire project area is capable of being served at the required speeds, the grantee must submit along with speed test results a written proposal to remedy the deficiencies. This proposal must include the date upon which speed testing will be conducted a second time, which must be no later than sixty days following the initial speed testing.

#### Please select one of the following:

- □ I hereby certify that the attached speed test results reflect that the entire project area is capable of being served with a minimum of 100/20 Mbps service and less than 100 milliseconds latency.
- □ The attached speed testing <u>does not</u> reflect that the entire project area is capable of being served with a minimum of 100/20 Mbps service and less than 100 milliseconds latency. A plan for remediation is attached.

#### Attach the following:

- □ <u>NPSC Subscriber Upload Template</u>, listing all key operational locations within the project area as included in the initial application.
- □ <u>NPSC Speed Testing Template</u> to report the speed testing results.
- □ <u>NPSC Latency Testing Template</u> to report the latency testing results.
- □ Plan for remediation, if applicable.

Thank you for your participation in the Nebraska Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program. The Commission may contact you with follow-up questions as needed.

**ATTESTATION:** By signing this document, I, an authorized agent acting on behalf of the above-named Grantee, attest under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this form and all supporting documents are true and accurate, and that I have undertaken due diligence to obtain knowledge regarding these claims. I understand that the submission of false information in this document shall be considered a violation of an order of the Commission, and may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Grantee Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Title:	
Organization (if applicable):	

# PRO-AG Grant Program Quarterly Progress Report Form 2023-2024 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u> by the fifteenth day of the first month following each quarter, or the first business day thereafter, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time, beginning on July 15, 2024, and continuing until the project is completed. <u>Completion Deadline: April 30,</u> <u>2025.</u>

Grantee:	 	
Subprogram:	 	
Project Name:	 	
Reporting Period:	 	

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Grantor" or "Commission"), in docket C-5529, has established a grant program known as the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") to promote and support precision agriculture initiatives in Nebraska. The Grantee was awarded a grant for funding under the above-mentioned PRO-AG Subprogram for the above-mentioned Project Name, as described in the application submitted by the Grantee. This report is to provide an update to the Grantor regarding the implementation of the project.

Attach any supporting documents, such as photos, data reports, or additional information relevant to the progress report. Please attach additional pages if needed.

**Project Overview:** Provide a brief overview of the project, including its objectives and the technologies/devices implemented and/or the connectivity infrastructure implemented.

**Progress Summary:** Summarize the progress made during the reporting period, including key milestones achieved, challenges encountered, and any deviations from the project plan. (**If Connectivity Deployment:** Describe the deployment status of the on-farm connectivity network. Provide details on the infrastructure installed, connections made to on-farm structures/devices, and any network testing conducted.)

**Challenges and Solutions:** Identify any challenges faced during the reporting period and the strategies implemented to address them. This may include technical issues, logistical challenges, or other obstacles encountered during project implementation.

**Future Plans:** Outline the grantee's plans for the upcoming reporting period, including anticipated milestones, activities, and objectives to be achieved.

**Attestation:** By signing this document, I, an authorized agent acting on behalf of the above-named Grantee, attest under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this form and all supporting documents are true and accurate, and that I have undertaken due diligence to obtain knowledge regarding these claims. I understand that the submission of false information in this document shall be considered a violation of an order of the Commission, and may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Grantee Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Title	
Truc	
Organization (if applicable):	
Title: Organization (if applicable):	

# PRO-AG Grant Program Annual Report Form 2023-2024 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to <u>psc.broadband@nebraska.gov</u> by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter, and continuing for five years after project completion.

Grantee:	 	 
Subprogram:	 	 
Project Name:	 	 
Reporting Period:	 	 

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Grantor" or "Commission"), in docket C-5529, has established a grant program known as the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program ("PRO-AG") to promote and support precision agriculture initiatives in Nebraska. The Grantee was awarded a grant for funding under the above-mentioned PRO-AG Subprogram for the above-mentioned Project Name, as described in the application submitted by the Grantee.

PRO-AG grantees are required to submit an annual report on the usage and maintenance of the on-farm connectivity network or the grant-funded devices and technology. The annual report should include a description of the benefits to Nebraska obtained by the project. Connectivity Subprogram participants must also provide speed testing to demonstrate the continued ability of the network to provide the required speeds (see Speed Test Certification form).

Include any supporting documents such as speed tests, maintenance logs, performance reports, or other information relevant to this annual report. Please attach additional pages if needed.

**1. Project Overview:** Provide a brief overview of the project, including its objectives and the technologies/devices implemented and/or the connectivity infrastructure implemented.

2. Annual Usage Report: Discuss the usage of the grant-funded devices/technologies or connectivity infrastructure during the reporting period.

**3.** Annual Maintenance Report: Provide details on how the equipment is being maintained to ensure optimal performance and longevity. Explain any maintenance or repairs/replacement that occurred during the reporting period.

### 4. Performance Report:

<u>Device/Technology Subprogram:</u> Evaluate the performance of the devices and technology deployed as part of the project. Include information on reliability, functionality, and any issues encountered. <u>Connectivity Subprogram:</u> Provide an overview of the network performance during the reporting year, including key metrics such as speed, reliability, and coverage. Report on any upgrades or enhancements made to the network infrastructure. (NOTE: The Speed Test Certification Form must be submitted separately and include detailed reports on speed and latency testing, covering testing locations, duration, methodologies, and results.)

5. Future Plans: Outline the grantee's plans for the continued usage and maintenance of the devices and technology beyond the reporting period. Include any upgrades, expansions, or additional investments planned.

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6. Impact Report: Discuss the impact of the devices/technology or connectivity infrastructure project. Specifically, outline the benefits to Nebraska as a result of the project. This may include improvements in technological innovation, access to data, economic development, societal impacts, as well as any improvements in agricultural practices, productivity, or efficiency resulting from the project. Include any upgrades, expansions, or additional investments within the reporting period. For Connectivity projects, please include reports regarding the impact on key operational locations (i.e., access to data/information/ services, precision agriculture adoption, improved productivity, etc.).

**Attestation:** By signing this document, I, an authorized agent acting on behalf of the above-named Grantee, attest under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this form and all supporting documents are true and accurate, and that I have undertaken due diligence to obtain knowledge regarding these claims. I understand that the submission of false information in this document shall be considered a violation of an order of the Commission, and may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Grantee Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Title:	
Organization (if applicable):	