

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. C-5600
Public Service Commission, on	)	
its own motion, to administer	)	ORDER ISSUING GRANT AWARDS
the Precision Agriculture	)	AND REOPENING APPLICATION
Infrastructure Grant Program	)	PERIOD
in the 2024-2025 program year.	)	
	)	Entered: April 15, 2025

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") opened this docket on its own motion on August 6, 2024, to implement the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq (the "Act") in the 2024-2025 program year. On November 19, 2024, following a comment period 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 ("Nov. 19 Order").

Pursuant to the procedural schedule issued in this matter, the Commission hereby makes the following grant awards. Additionally, because the grant awards set forth below will not fully utilize the funding allocated for this program year, the Commission hereby reopens the application window for the 2025 program year, as set forth below.

### **Applications Received**

Applications for grant awards were due to the Commission by January 17, 2024. Pursuant to the Nov. 19 Order, the Commission considered applications filed under two subprograms, Connectivity and Devices and Technology. The Commission received thirty-one applications prior to the deadline. Four applications were submitted for awards in the Connectivity subprogram, while twenty-seven 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. Pursuant to the Nov. 19 Order, staff contacted applicants for clarification in the case of any unclear information or other minor defects in the applications. Applicants were allowed to supplement or modify their applications until March 7, 2025. Following that date, applications containing

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substantial defects or 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 Nov. 19 Order in this docket.

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.

## **Review of Applications**

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

### Devices and Technology Subprogram

Upon review of the applications submitted in the Devices and Technology subprogram, the Commission determined that twenty-one applications were eligible for funding. The total dollar amount required to fund the remaining eligible applications would be \$1,595,408.52. The total funding available for this subprogram is \$564,538.85.<sup>1</sup> The Commission approved projects in order of priority starting with the highest scoring projects, proceeding until insufficient funds remained to completely fund any given project. If a lower ranked project could be fully funded with remaining funds, it was approved. A summary of the applications, including overall scores of eligible applications, is available on the Commission website.

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<sup>1</sup> As described in the Nov. 19 Order, this amount represents one-half of the \$1 million available to the program in funding in fiscal year 2024-2025, with the addition of unexpended funds from the 2023-2024 program year, 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. \$227,861.71 was carried over from the previous grant year and divided equally between the two subprograms.

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The Commission finds that awards should be made in the Devices and Technology subprogram as listed in Attachment A to this order. Three awards are made on a conditional basis, pending verification that expenses for the project have not been incurred prior to the award date. Assuming all awards can be made, \$12,175.33 remains available for funding in the Devices and Technology subprogram. Should any conditional awards be rescinded, the Commission will revise the amount available in this subprogram.

### Connectivity Subprogram

Four applications were submitted in the Connectivity subprogram this year, each filed by the same applicant. The total dollar amount required to fund these applications would be \$260,000. The total funding available for this subprogram is \$564,538.85.

Upon review of the applications submitted, the Commission has determined that none of the Connectivity applications can be funded, as they do not meet program requirements. Specifically, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1404(2) provides that "[g]rants shall only be used to provide . . . [a]dequate precision agriculture connectivity to on-farm structures and devices, including, but not limited to, tractors, combines, irrigation systems, livestock facilities, and farm offices." Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1403 further provides that "[t]he purposes of the program are to . . . [p]rovide high-speed Internet service to farm sites as defined in section 77-1359 in unserved areas of the state as defined in section 86-1302."

Each of the applications submitted fails to meet the criteria set forth in statute for funding. The applications state that they will provide "high capacity fixed wireless connectivity . . . to serviceable locations in [the] County." The applications further describe a tower for each application which "will be able to reach a substantial portion of the county with service. Service will be available to locations in an approximately 12 mile radius around the tower location." This description does not meet the standard of providing precision agriculture connectivity to on-farm structures and devices; rather, it describes a general-purpose connectivity project.<sup>2</sup> The Commission therefore is unable to award

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<sup>2</sup> Additionally, when asked to provide information about on-farm structures and devices to be served by the project, the applicant provided a single location for each application. However, upon review of these locations, three of the

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precision agriculture connectivity grants based on these applications.

In order to utilize the available Connectivity subprogram funding in the 2024-2025 program year, the Commission finds that the application period for this program year should be reopened, as set forth below.

### **Issuance of Grant Awards; Project Completion**

The Commission finds that, upon review of the submitted applications, each of the applications listed in Attachment A to this order should be awarded funding. Awardees listed in Attachment A must submit a completed 2025 PRO-AG Acknowledgement and Attestation Form, bearing a handwritten signature, on or before **April 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time** with service to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov). A copy of the Acknowledgement and Attestation Form is available on the Commission website and is attached to this Order as Attachment B.

As previously set forth in this program, 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>3</sup> All grant awards are subject to verification that expenses incurred are reimbursable, and conditionally awarded grants may be rescinded if adequate documentation cannot be provided. 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 **April 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**. Awardees may contact Commission staff at [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) for guidance in completing this process.

The remaining ten percent (10%) of funds will be distributed to awardees upon successful completion of the project and compliance with all requirements of the grant. Awardees listed on Attachment A to this order must complete the listed project on or before April 15, 2026. Awardees must submit a Certification of

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four locations provided appear to be receiving service or are within project areas for other funding awards.

<sup>3</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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Project Completion to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov). **All documentation of project completion is due on or before April 15, 2026, 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 C.

Awardees are hereby advised that failure to complete the approved project by April 15, 2026, may result in civil or administrative penalties, including, but not limited to, repayment of the grant award. Awardees are further advised that should any equipment sought to be purchased with grant funds be added to the federal Covered List, the grant may become ineligible for funding or be subject to further requirements, including the replacement of prohibited equipment or the return of grant funds.<sup>4</sup>

### **Quarterly Reporting; Annual Report Requirements**

During implementation and construction of the awarded projects, all awardees are required to submit quarterly reports to the Commission regarding the implementation of the project. A Progress Report Form is available on the Commission website and is attached to this Order as Attachment D. 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, 2025**. 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 2025 PRO-AG grant. Devices and Technology awardees must keep all equipment funded with PRO-AG grants in service for a minimum of five years after project completion. 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 the Commission website and is attached to this order as Attachment E. Reports should be submitted to the Commission via e-mail to

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<sup>4</sup> See Nov. 19 Order, Attachment E, Attestation for DJI Drone Applicants.

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[psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto: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, 2026. The final report will be due to the Commission on July 1, 2030.

### **Re-opening of Application Period**

The Commission finds that in order to utilize the funds allocated for the 2024-2025 PRO-AG program, the application period should be re-opened. Applications will be accepted in both the Connectivity and Devices and Technology subprograms. \$564,538.85 will be available in the Connectivity subprogram. \$12,175.33 will be available in the Devices and Technology subprogram. All program rules and requirements, as set forth in the Nov. 19 Order in this docket, shall remain in place, except as set forth below.

The Commission hereby re-opens the application period for the second round of 2024-2025 PRO-AG grant applications. Applications must be submitted on or before **May 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**. Applicants may supplement or modify their applications, at the request of Commission staff, until **June 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time**. Applications received will be scored based upon the information provided in the original application and revision process. Applications containing defects following the June 10 deadline will not be scored. Grant awards will be released on June 24, 2025. A detailed Procedural Schedule is attached hereto as Attachment F.

The application form and Program Guide are reissued with updated deadlines and information regarding available funding. These documents are attached hereto as Attachments G and H, respectively. No other substantive changes to these forms have been made. All other program materials remain in force without change. In the event of a conflict between a date listed in the program materials and the procedural schedule attached hereto as Attachment F, the procedural schedule will control.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Commission staff at [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) with questions regarding the application process or requirements. By setting an extended deadline for applicants to supplement or modify their applications, the Commission seeks to encourage a collaborative process between applicants and the Commission in order to ensure the allocated grant funding can be used.

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## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that each of the applications listed in Attachment A shall be funded. Each of the applicants awarded shall be required to complete the project by **April 15, 2026**, unless granted an extension by order of the Commission. All successful applicants listed in Attachment A shall be subject to annual reporting requirements as set forth above.

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 **April 22, 2025, 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 A 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, 2025**, and continuing until the project is completed.

IT IS FURTHER 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, 2026**, and the final report due to the Commission on July 1, 2030.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that that application window shall be re-opened as described above, and the procedural schedule and filing deadlines described above and attached hereto as Attachment F shall be adopted. All deadlines shall be at 5:00 p.m. Central Time unless otherwise noted, and will be strictly enforced.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that that the application form and program guide attached hereto as Attachments G and H shall be released and shall be adopted for this re-opened application window. All other program requirements and materials previously issued in this docket shall remain in place.

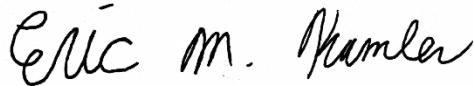
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as described above, applications may be modified or supplemented at the request of Commission staff until June 10, 2025. After that date, no further modifications will be accepted or reviewed.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that applications for grants awarded during the 2024 Nebraska Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program may be filed with the Commission by email to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) no later than **5:00 p.m. Central Time on May 6, 2025.**

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 15th day of April, 2025.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
Eric M. Hamler



Chair



ATTEST:

  
Thomas W. Golden

Executive Director

COMMISSIONERS DISSENTING:



Commissioner Christian Mirch



Commission Docket No. C-5600  
Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program (PRO-AG) – 2024-2025 Cycle  
**Attachment A: Devices and Technology Subprogram Awards**

Applicant Name	Project Name	Total Project Costs	Applicant Match Amount	Applicant Match %	Grant Award
Knopik Farms	Drone Tests	\$ 67,563.00	\$ 33,781.50	50%	\$ 33,781.50
Ference Agronomy, LLC	Application Drones	\$ 67,986.00	\$ 13,598.00	20%	\$ 54,388.00
Lyle Jakub	MixMate Integration Project	\$ 54,114.00	\$ 13,528.50	25%	\$ 40,585.50
Taylor Farmers General Partnership	Water Efficiency	\$ 94,276.80	\$ -	0%	\$ 94,276.80
Lincoln Creek Drone Services	XAG P150 Drone Procurement	\$ 78,113.00	\$ 19,528.03	25%	\$ 58,584.97
Nick Herbig	Precision Drone Application	\$ 52,615.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 52,615.00
Walters Ag LLC	Phytech Crop Water Optimization Sensors	\$ 28,502.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 28,502.00*
Walters Ag, LLC	Project Zero Entry- Grain Weevil Robot	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 500.00	3%	\$ 15,000.00*
A-1 Drone Services LLC	Precision Drone Technology	\$ 59,574.00	\$ 21,000.00	35%	\$ 38,574.00*
Taylor Farmers General Partnership	Drone Adaptation	\$ 63,986.00	\$ -	0%	\$ 63,986.00
Adam Knapp	Application Drones	\$ 35,993.00	\$ 10,798.00	30%	\$ 25,195.00
Kozeal Farms	Drone Application	\$ 35,092.00	\$ 10,528.00	30%	\$ 24,564.00
Frontier Cooperative	Precision Drone Spraying	\$ 23,749.00	\$ 5,937.25	25%	\$ 17,811.75
Meister Land and Cattle, LLC	DRONE SCOUTING FOR ANIMAL AND CROP PRODUCTION	\$ 5,999.00	\$ 1,500.00	25%	\$ 4,499.00

\*Award is conditional pending confirmation of payment documentation to verify that costs were not incurred prior to the grant award date. If clarification is not received or the costs are found to be ineligible, the award may be revoked.

## **PRO-AG Grant Program Acknowledgement and Attestation Form 2024-2025 Program Year**

*Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov).*

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-5600, 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:**

- 1. 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 by the deadline set forth in docket C-5600. 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.
- 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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

3. **Project Completion and Documentation:** The Grantee must complete the listed project by the required deadline. 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](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov). All documentation of project completion is due prior to the completion deadline.
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, 2025. 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, 2026.
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):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Attach/Include:**

- ☐ **W9/ACH form:** 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](https://das.nebraska.gov/accounting/forms/ACH_W9_Fillable.pdf)

## PRO-AG Grant Program Certification of Project Completion Form 2024-2025 Program Year

Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov).

Grantee: \_\_\_\_\_

Subprogram: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 et seq., the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Grantor” or “Commission”), in docket C-5600, 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 must be submitted within twelve months after the date of award, 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.
3. 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.
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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

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.
7. 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 Grant Program Quarterly Progress Report Form 2024-2025 Program Year**

*Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) 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, 2025, and continuing until the project is completed.*

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-5600, 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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

**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.



Grantee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

## PRO-AG Grant Program Annual Report Form 2024-2025 Program Year

*Submit this form and any attachments via e-mail to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) 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-5600, 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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

- 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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

**4. Performance Report:**

Device/Technology Subprogram: Evaluate the performance of the devices and technology deployed as part of the project. Include information on reliability, functionality, and any issues encountered.

Connectivity Subprogram: 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.

Grantee Name:

Project Name:

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Application No. C-5600

## **Attachment F: Procedural Schedule Second Application Period**

### Precision Agriculture Grant Program

Procedural Schedule  
2024 - 2025 Program Year  
Second Application Period

<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Application period begins	April 15, 2025
Deadline to submit applications	May 6, 2025
Deadline to supplement or modify applications	June 10, 2025
Grant awards released	June 24, 2025
State of Nebraska W-9 and ACH enrollment form due from successful applicants	One week following grant awards
Project completion deadline	June 24, 2026
Annual Report #1 due	July 1, 2026
Annual Report #2 due	July 1, 2027
Annual Report #3 due	July 3, 2028
Annual Report #4 due	July 2, 2029
Annual Report #5 due	July 1, 2030



# 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application (Docket C-5600) Second Application Window

Submit signed PDF applications with all attachments via email to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) by **May 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Central Time.**

**IMPORTANT:** Applicants must carefully review the PRO-AG Program Guide and PRO-AG Scoring Reference Sheet for details on application requirements and scoring. This includes but is not limited to application field descriptions, attachment content, and other necessary documentation and requirements. These resources, along with examples of allowed and disallowed costs are available on our website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/2024-2025-precision-agriculture-infrastructure-grant-program-c-5600>.

*If additional space is needed for any section of the application, you may include extra pages if needed, noting the application Section, Subsection, and Field Number on the attachment.*

NOTE: This application is a fillable PDF and should be submitted in its original format, rather than as a printed or scanned copy. If technical difficulties or other challenges prevent you from submitting the form in this format, please contact us to discuss alternative solutions.

## Subprogram Descriptions:

**Connectivity Subprogram:** Grants within the Connectivity Subprogram shall be used to provide adequate precision agriculture connectivity to on-farm structures and devices, including, but not limited to, tractors, combines, irrigation systems, livestock facilities, and farm offices. Adequate precision agriculture connectivity means at least 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second download speeds (100/20 Mbps).

**Note:** Applications for the Connectivity Subprogram are permitted from Providers. Agricultural Cooperatives, Agronomists, and Agricultural Producers may apply only if partnered with a Provider.

**Devices and Technology Subprogram:** Grants within the Devices and Technology Subprogram shall be used to provide: (1) On-farm traceability solutions that satisfy food supply stakeholder demand, including blockchain. (2) Products that improve soil health, water management tools and sensors that facilitate judicious use of water resources, and products that promote the use of water efficiency seed technologies that lower agriculture's water, carbon, and nitrate footprint. (3) Products that use autonomous solutions in agricultural machinery, including but not limited to, grain carts, spreaders, precision drone scouting, and scouting robots.

NOTE: Each subprogram is designed to fulfill a specific purpose, and applicants can submit multiple project proposals in separate submissions. However, applicants must apply separately for each subprogram. It is important to note that each application will be assessed individually, and there will be no priority given to applicants who choose to apply for grants in both subprograms. Each application will be considered on its own merits within the subprogram in which it was filed.

## Eligible Applicant Types:

- **Provider:** A wireless network provider that provides adequate precision agriculture connectivity. Proof needed: Proof of business registration and service authorization in Nebraska.
- **Agricultural Cooperatives:** A business entity that is cooperatively owned and controlled by agricultural producers, in which members' resources are pooled, and which operates for its members' benefit rather than the benefit of outside investors. Proof needed: Articles of incorporation, membership information, and proof of registration as a cooperative in Nebraska.
- **Agronomist:** A scientist who specialized in the science of farming, including but not limited to crop production, soil control, or soil management. Proof needed: Professional certifications, degrees in relevant fields, and portfolio of agriculture-related projects.
- **Agricultural Producer:** An individual or entity directly engaged in the production of agricultural products, including the cultivating, growing, and harvesting of plants and crops, including farming; breeding, raising, feeding, or housing of livestock, including ranching; forestry products; hydroponics; nursery stock; or aquaculture, and whereby 50 percent or greater of their gross income is derived from these products. Proof needed: See "Agricultural Producer Affidavit" on our website.

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

### Section I: Applicant Details *(Applies to all applicants)*

1. Subprogram Type: <i>(See Descriptions Above)</i>	[Drop-down: Connectivity Subprogram; Devices and Technology Subprogram]
2. Applicant name (Legal name of the farm/business applying for the grant):	
3. Applicant type: <i>(See Definitions Above)</i> Proof of applicant type should be included with application as Attachment B.	[Drop-down: Provider; Agricultural Cooperative; Agronomist; Agricultural Producer]
4. Applicant street address:	
4a. Applicant city:	
4b. Applicant state:	
4c. Applicant zip code:	
5. Applicant contact (first and last name):	
6. Applicant e-mail:	
7. Applicant phone number:	
8. Executive Summary: Provide an overview of the applicant, detailing the history, mission, and goals of the farm or business. Include specific objectives related to precision agriculture connectivity or technology adoption.	



## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

### Section II: Project Details *(Applies to all applicants)*

1. Project name:

2. Precision agriculture production type:

[Drop-down list: Animal Production, Crop Production, or Both Animal and Crop Production.]

3. Project location description: (This should include a detailed description of the project area and location(s) to be served.)

4. Project Proposal: (a) Description of the precision agriculture project you plan to implement. -AND- (b) Explanation of how the on-farm connectivity or devices and technology will be utilized to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. *Please include information showing that the applicant is prepared to move forward immediately upon award of grant.*

5. Total Project Cost *(include allowable costs only):*  
*See project budget instructions and examples on our website.*

\$

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

6. Total Match Commitment Amount (in dollars), <i>if applicable</i> : NOTE: The project budget (attachment A) must detail any matching funds committed by source. Additionally, documentation of match commitment must be submitted as Attachment E. See "Contribution Certification Form" on our website.	\$
7. PRO-AG Grant Amount Requested:	<b>\$ (Insert Formula: Total cost – match)</b>
8. Estimated number of locations served in project area:	
9. Technology type(s) used in proposed project:	
10. Expected Start Date ( <i>Should <u>not</u> be prior to 6/24/25</i> ):	
11. Expected completion date ( <i>Should <u>not</u> be after 6/24/26</i> ):	
12. Timeline: Please outline the timeline for your project deployment, including clear milestones and indicators of readiness for immediate action upon grant award. Provide an explanation of any measures you have in place to address potential challenges during the implementation process.	

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

13. Sustainability: Provide an explanation of how the project will be sustainable for a minimum of five years; include strategies and considerations for long-term success. Attach any evidence of sustainability to the application as Attachment F.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

<b>Section II Project Details – Subsection A: Applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY</b>	
1. Farm Site Size (acres):	
2. Number of Key Operational Locations:	
3. Number of Connected On-Farm Entities:	
4. Current maximum connection speed bandwidth in project area in Mbps: (Must be < 25/3 Mbps)	
5. Speeds upon completion: (Must be ≥ 100/20 Mbps)	
6. Do you certify that the farm site(s) to be served are currently unserved or lacking broadband Internet service at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps download/upload?	Yes/No
7. Do you certify that upon completion of the project, the farm site(s) served by the project will have access to minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps for precision agriculture connectivity to on-farm structures and devices, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1404(2)(a)? NOTE: If the FCC National Broadband Map indicates that the location is already receiving speeds of 25/3Mbps or higher, applicants are required to submit evidence refuting the data on the broadband map. (Include as Attachment F)	Yes/No
<b>Section III: Technical Summary (Applicants must complete the relevant subsection)</b>	
<b>Section III: Technical Summary – Subsection A: Applies to Devices and Technology subprogram ONLY</b>	
<p>1. Applicant's Experience: Overview of the applicant's experience and expertise in precision agriculture devices and technology solutions, specifically as related to the devices/technology included in the application. In cases where the applicant lacks direct experience, an explanation is required on how they plan to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to operate the equipment effectively. Provide details of past successful projects or initiatives related to precision agriculture or similar technologies.</p>	

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

2. Program Details: Provide details about the proposed program involving precision agriculture devices and technology, including specifications and technical requirements. Include an explanation of how the chosen technologies align with the goals of the project.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

3. Expected Useful Life: The expected useful life of devices/technology included in the request for funding. Please identify any components which may require more frequent repair or replacement.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

4. Maintenance Plan: Applicants should explain how the devices/technology funded with PRO-AG grant funds will be maintained for at least five years following project completion.

SAMPLE

**Section III: Technical Summary – Subsection B: *Applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY***

1. Applicant's Experience: Describe the applicant's experience providing precision agriculture on-farm connectivity solutions including their technical capability to meet the requirement to provide a minimum 100/20 Mbps. Include details of past successful projects or initiatives related to precision agriculture connectivity or similar technologies. Specifically, whether they currently provide broadband at the minimum 100Mbps/20Mbps speeds, and if so, where.

SAMPLE



## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

2. Innovation and Technology: Provide a detailed description of the proposed network architecture including the specific technologies and strategies to provide service, a list of the on-farm structures and devices to be connected by project, placement of access points, data collection devices, and other key elements.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

3. Scalability Evaluation: Explain how the solution ensures reliable and scalable connectivity. This could include a plan for network expansion along with a description of strategies for preserving performance with increased device density.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

4. Maintenance Plan: Include details regarding the expected useful life of the facilities to be built. Include a statement as to the technological components used, and, if applicable, which components may require more frequent repair or replacement. Applicants should explain how the project will be maintained throughout the useful life of the facilities along with the applicant's plans to meet the minimum speed requirements in place for the PRO-AG grant for a minimum of five years following completion.

5. Latency: Include the expected latency of the network (in ms) upon completion. Explain how the expected latency aligns with the needs of your application. How does this latency impact the ability to perform real-time operations or data transfers in the context of precision agriculture?

**Section IV: Legal** *(Applicants must complete the relevant subsection)*

**Section IV: Legal – Subsection A: Applies to Devices and Technology subprogram ONLY**

1. Provide a detailed outline of the pertinent qualifications and certifications essential for the proposed devices/technology. Explain whether the applicant currently holds the necessary qualifications and certifications, including any expiration dates. If not currently secured, define the planned steps and timelines for acquiring any essential qualifications and certifications.

SAMPLE

2. Detail the applicant's strategies and commitments for sustaining the qualifications and certifications over the five-year post-deployment period.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

### Section IV: Legal – Subsection B: *Applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY*

1. Applicant's Nebraska ETC Status:	[Drop-down: Not applicable; Currently certified as Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC), in good standing; Application for Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC) certification has been filed with the Commission; Applicant attests they will submit application to the Commission for NETC certification at least six months prior to project completion.]
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2. Legal Representative Name (Must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in Nebraska or admitted pro hac vice)	
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3. Legal Representative Email:	
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4. Legal Representative Phone:	
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5. A description of any risk factors or legal challenges that must be addressed prior to or during the project in question (examples include local zoning, permitting, access to rights-of-way, etc.), as well as a plan for mitigation. Additionally, explain any engagement measures with proposed project location(s) or impacted communities.	
---	--

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

6. Has the applicant received letter(s) of support or approval from the owner of each farm site included in the grant application? Yes/No.  
NOTE: Letters of support must be attached to the application as attachment G and should clearly express the owner's consent for the connectivity project and their understanding of the proposed on-farm connectivity services and rates charged for service.

### Section V: Project Impact *(Applies to all applicants)*

1. Demonstrated Substantial Economic Benefit: Describe the significant economic impact your project will have on rural Nebraska. What tangible benefits can you quantify, such as job creation and income generation? Please provide illustrative examples.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

2. Continuing or Increasing Economic and Technological Impacts: How will your project provide ongoing economic and technological benefits over time? Outline the strategies you will implement to ensure sustained growth and progress beyond the initial implementation phase.

SAMPLE



## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

3. Water Conservation Focus: If applicable, please explain in what ways does your project prioritize water conservation? Explain the innovative strategies, technologies, or practices you plan to implement to promote sustainable water management and mitigate water usage.

SAMPLE

**Section VI: Financial Projections** *(Applies to all applicants)*

1. Provide comprehensive financial projections for the project. This should include both short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (4+ years) forecasts, detailing anticipated costs, revenues, and key financial health indicators such as net cash flow and profitability ratios. The projections should demonstrate a realistic estimate of income and expenses and the overall financial impact of the project.

SAMPLE

**Section VII: Cost Benefit Analysis** (*Applies to all applicants*)

1. Provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis for the project. This analysis should quantify the expected return on investment (ROI), outlining the financial impact of the project in both the short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (4+ years). The analysis should clearly demonstrate the financial returns of the investment.

SAMPLE

**Section VIII: Monitoring and Evaluation** *(Applies to all applicants)*

1. Clearly list the major milestones that will be used to track the progress of your project. This should include a timeline for deployment of connectivity OR devices and technology. Each milestone should include an expected completion date. Examples: (1) Installation of connectivity infrastructure by [insert date]. (2) Deployment of smart sensors by [insert date]. (3) Full project implementation by [insert date].

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

2. Identify the specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will be used to measure the success of the project following implementation. Each KPI should be measurable and aligned with the project's objectives. Examples: (1) [X]% increase in crop yield by [insert date]. (2) [X]% reduction in water usage within [insert time frame]. (3) [X] number of devices connected to the system by [insert date]. (4) [X]% improvement in farm operational efficiency by [insert date].

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

3. Please explain the plan for monitoring and evaluating the success of the precision agriculture project. Include a detailed explanation of how Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in Section VII, field 2 above will be tracked and monitored throughout the project. Include specific metrics, tools, and timelines that will be used to track progress and measure outcomes.

SAMPLE

## 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Grant Application

### ***Attach/Include (see Program Guide for details):***

#### **ALL Applicants Must Include:**

- ☒ Attachment A. Project Budget/Documentation
- ☐ Attachment B. Eligible Entity Documentation
- ☐ Attachment C. Cybersecurity
- ☐ Attachment D. DJI Attestation
- ☐ Attachment E. Match Documentation
- ☐ Attachment F. Other Supporting documentation  
(if applicable)

#### **Connectivity Subprogram Applicants Must Also Include:**

- ☐ Attachment G. Legal
- ☐ Attachment H. Technical
- ☐ Attachment I. Financial Statements
- ☐ Attachment J. Rate Comparability
- ☐ Attachment K. Shapefiles
- ☐ Attachment L. Project Diagram
- ☐ Attachment M. List of Key Operational Locations

#### **APPLICANT CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_, representing \_\_\_\_\_, hereby  
[Legal Name] [Farm/Business Name]  
certify the eligibility of our entity/project for the Precision Agriculture Grant (PRO-AG). By signing this statement, I confirm the legal name, contact details, size, and location of the farm site(s), along with our eligibility type as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
[Provider/Agricultural Cooperative/Agronomist/Agricultural Producer]  
Attached are supporting documents validating our eligibility, and I declare adherence to all requirements outlined in Precision Agriculture Connectivity Infrastructure Grant Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1401 et seq.) & Commission Order C-5600. I certify that all information we have submitted on this application and its supporting documents is true and correct. I certify that we are not currently using, nor will we use, prohibited communications equipment and services developed by organizations on the Federal Communications Commission's Covered List pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 1601. I understand that the submission of any false information or failure to comply with Commission requirements may result in penalties towards me and/or my organization.

Your signature confirms the accuracy and authenticity of the provided information. It will be considered binding for all purposes related to this application and any subsequent agreements or certifications.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Authorized Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Authorized Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Person



# Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) Program Guide Program Year 2024-2025 – Second Application Window

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## 1 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant: General Information

### 1.1 Program Overview

The Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) is a State-funded program created pursuant to the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1401 – 1406, to propel Nebraska agricultural producers to lead the nation in precision agriculture connectivity, sustainability, traceability, and autonomy to accelerate rural economic development, and to provide high-speed Internet service to farm site in unserved areas of the state. The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) has the authority to grant awards to assist applicants with eligible costs for qualifying projects.

### 1.2 Program Components

The program is divided into two distinct subprograms: (1) Connectivity Subprogram and (2) Devices and Technology Subprogram. Each subprogram is designed to fulfill a specific purpose, and applicants can submit multiple project proposals. However, applicants must apply separately for each subprogram. It is important to note that each application will be assessed individually, and there will be no priority given to applicants who choose to apply for grants in both subprograms. Each application will be considered on its own merits within the subprogram in which it was filed.

### 1.3 Funding Availability

The Nebraska Legislature has allocated approximately \$1 million of State General Funds to be used for PRO-AG grants for each fiscal year in the current biennium. Funds not spent in the previous fiscal year will be available for this year's grant awards. The available funding for the 2024-2025 program year of \$1,129,077.71 will be divided into two categories:

1. Connectivity Subprogram: The Commission shall award up to 50 percent of the available grant funds, or \$564,538.85 for projects within the Connectivity Subprogram. No awards were made in the Connectivity subprogram following the first application window; all funding remains available.
2. Devices and Technology Subprogram: The Commission shall award up to 50 percent of available funds, or \$564,538.85 for projects within the Devices and Technology Subprogram. Following the awards in the C-5600 order entered April 15, 2025, \$12,175.33 remains available for funding in the second application window.

### 1.4 Connectivity Subprogram

Grants within the Connectivity Subprogram shall be used to provide adequate precision agriculture connectivity to on-farm structures and devices, including, but not limited to, tractors, combines, irrigation systems, livestock facilities, and farm offices.

NOTE: Adequate precision agriculture connectivity means a download speed of at least one hundred megabits per second and an upload speed of at least twenty megabits per second (100/20 Mbps), or greater.

### 1.5 Devices and Technology Subprogram

Grants within the Devices and Technology Subprogram shall be used to provide:

1. On-farm traceability solutions that satisfy food supply stakeholder demand, including blockchain.
2. Products that improve soil health, water management tools and sensors that facilitate judicious use of water resources, and products that promote the use of water efficiency seed technologies that lower agriculture's water, carbon, and nitrate footprint.
3. Products that use autonomous solutions in agricultural machinery, including but not limited to, grain carts, spreaders, precision drone scouting, and scouting robots.

### 1.6 Definitions

For the purpose of this program:

1. Adequate precision agriculture connectivity means high-speed Internet service to farm sites supporting various on-farm precision agriculture applications, with a download speed of at least one hundred megabits per second and an upload speed of at least twenty megabits per second (100/20 Mbps).

2. Farm site means the portion of land contiguous to land actively devoted to agriculture which includes improvements that are agricultural or horticultural in nature, including any uninhabitable or unimproved farm home site.
3. Farm home site means land contiguous to a farm site which includes an inhabitable residence and improvements used for residential purposes and which is located outside of urban areas or outside a platted and zoned subdivision.
4. Unserved area means a geographical area of the state which lacks broadband Internet service providing access to the Internet at speeds of at least twenty-five megabits per second for downloading and three megabits per second for uploading (25/3 Mbps).
5. Commission means the Nebraska Public Service Commission.
6. Program means the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program created in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1401 to 86-1406 and Commission Docket No. C-5600.
7. Provider, means a wireless network provider that provides adequate precision agriculture connectivity.
8. Agricultural Cooperatives means a business entity that is cooperatively owned and controlled by agricultural producers, in which members' resources are pooled, and which operates for its members' benefit rather than the benefit of outside investors.
9. Agronomist means a scientist who specialized in the science of farming, including but not limited to crop production, soil control, or soil management.
10. Agricultural Producer means an individual or entity directly engaged in the production of agricultural products, including the cultivating, growing, and harvesting of plants and crops, including farming; breeding, raising, feeding, or housing of livestock, including ranching; forestry products; hydroponics; nursery stock; or aquaculture, and whereby 50 percent or greater of their gross income is derived from these products.
11. Eligible Land means cropland, grassland, rangeland, pastureland, farm sites, and other agricultural land used for active production in the state of Nebraska.

## 1.7 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this program include:

1. Providers
2. Agricultural Cooperatives
3. Agronomist
4. Agricultural Producer

Please note that applications under the Connectivity Subprogram are permissible from Agricultural Cooperatives, Agronomists, or Agricultural Producers only if submitted in partnership with a Provider as defined in section [1.6](#).

## 1.8 Eligible Project Areas

The Act stipulates that funding should support connectivity sufficient for precision agriculture activities to farm sites in unserved areas of the state. For the purpose of the grant program, farm sites mean the portion of land contiguous to land actively devoted to agriculture which includes improvements that are agricultural or horticultural in nature, including any uninhabitable or unimproved farm home site (Nebraska Rev. Statute §77-1359). Unserved area means a geographical area of the state which lacks broadband Internet service providing access to the Internet at speeds of at least twenty-five megabits per second for downloading and three megabits per second for uploading (25/3 Mbps).

Grant funding must contribute to the advancement of precision agriculture initiatives within the state of Nebraska.

## 1.9 Eligible Program Costs

Examples of allowed and disallowed costs can be found on our website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>. These examples may be periodically updated by Commission staff.

Please note that direct costs associated with providing internet service to the customer premises to support on-farm connectivity as part of a Connectivity Subprogram grant application, will be considered but should not exceed 25% of the total project costs.

The PRO-AG grant funding period begins after the grant application is received, reviewed, and officially approved with an award notification. Eligible program costs are those that are incurred after the program year grant award notice and end at the conclusion of deployment, or at the established deadline for deployment for the PRO-AG grant project, based on whichever is earlier. In-kind contributions will not be allowable expenses in this program.

## 1.10 Matching Fund Requirement

There is no matching funds requirement for PRO-AG grants. However, applications which provide at least a 25% percent match will receive additional scoring, with higher scores available to applicants providing a higher match percentage.

Applications that demonstrate a minimum 25% match will be eligible for additional scoring points based on their match percentage commitment. Refer to [Section 3](#), Selection Criteria, for details.

## 2 Application Process

### 2.1 Program Schedule

The PRO-AG grant cycles will run on an annual basis, with awards to be made on or before June 30 of each year. For the second grant round in the 2024-2025 program year, grant awards are expected to be announced on June 24, 2025. Please see the 2024-2025 program year second application period procedural schedule on our website for additional important dates.

### 2.2 Filing Window

The second grant application window for program year 2024-2025 will open on April 15, 2025, and close at 5:00 p.m. Central Time on May 6, 2025. While the Commission will consider any applications received before the end of the filing window, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications as soon as they are ready.

***Applications must be received by the Nebraska Public Service Commission on or before the application deadline of May 6, 2025, no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Late filed applications will not be considered.***

### 2.3 Preparing an Application

To be considered for funding, the application and all required information and attachments must be submitted as part of a complete application package.

The application form is located on the Commission website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>, on the page for the respective program year. For the best experience, we recommend that you download the file and complete the application in Acrobat Reader or Professional, rather than through the browser. You may submit additional pages to expand on application form fields if additional room is needed. The completed application and supporting documentation for the second round of funding should be emailed to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) no later than May 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

The application form is a fillable PDF and applications should be submitted in its original format, rather than as a printed or scanned copy. This ensures that we can efficiently export your data into our system and helps to streamline the review process. If technical difficulties or other challenges prevent you from submitting the form in this format, please contact us to discuss alternative solutions.

Ensure that your application and all attachments are clear, concise, and address all the specific requirements. Tailor the information to demonstrate how your project aligns with the goals of the grant program and how it will contribute to the advancement of precision agriculture.

The items that make up an application are further outlined below:

#### 2.3.1 Section I: Applicant Details (*applies to all applicants*)

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Field 1. | Subprogram type: This field should include the Subprogram for which the application pertains. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Connectivity Subprogram</li><li>b. Devices and Technology Subprogram</li></ul> |
| Field 2. | Applicant name: This field should include the legal name of the entity applying for the grant.   |
| Field 3. | Applicant type: This field should identify the applicant type. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider</li></ul>   |

- Agricultural Cooperative
- Agronomist
- Agricultural Producer

- Field 4. Applicant street address: This field should include the street address of the applicant.
- Field 4a. Applicant city: This field should include the city for the address of the applicant.
- Field 4b. Applicant state: This field should include the state for the address of the applicant.
- Field 4c. Applicant zip code: This field should include the zip code of the applicant.
- Field 5. Applicant contact (first and last name): This field should include the name of the contact person for questions related to the application and the overall project.
- Field 6. Applicant e-mail: This field should include the e-mail address of contact person identified in field 4.
- Field 7. Applicant phone number: This field should include the phone number of contact person identified in field 4.
- Field 8. Executive Summary: Provide an overview of the applicant, detailing the history, mission, and goals of the farm or business. Include specific objectives related to precision agriculture connectivity or technology adoption.

### 2.3.2 Section II: Project Details (*applies to all applicants*)

- Field 1. Project name: Provide a concise and descriptive name for the project in this field.
- Field 2. Precision agriculture production type: This field should include the type of agriculture production benefiting from the project. Options include: Animal Production, Crop Production, or Both Animal and Crop Production.
- Field 3. Project location description: This field should include a brief description of the project location(s) where the project will take place. Please specify the geographical details, such as address, city/town/village, county, etc. that would be impacted by the project. Connectivity applications must include a contiguous project area to be considered for funding and must provide on-farm connectivity.
- Field 4. Project Proposal: This field should include: (a) Description of the precision agriculture project you plan to implement. -AND- (b) Explanation of how the on-farm connectivity or devices and technology will be utilized to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. Include any indication of readiness to show that the applicant is prepared to move forward immediately upon award of grant.
- Field 5. Total project cost: This field should indicate the total estimated cost of the project based on costs deemed eligible within the PRO-AG grant program. See our website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture> for a list of examples of allowed and disallowed costs.
- Field 6. Total match amount: This field should include the sum of all matching funds committed in dollars, including those committed by outside sources and those committed by the applicant.  
NOTE: The project budget (attachment A) must also detail any matching funds committed by source. Additionally, documentation of match commitment must be submitted as Attachment E. See *"Contribution Certification Form"* on our website.
- Field 7. PRO-AG grant amount requested: This field should indicate how much grant money is being requested for this application.
- Field 8. Estimated number of locations that will be directly served by the project. For connectivity projects involving a farm site, this input should be "1".
- Field 9. Technology type(s) used in proposed project: The input in this field should describe the technology type(s) to be used in the proposed project.
- Field 10. Expected Start Date: Enter the proposed start date of the project in mm/dd/yyyy format.
- Field 11. Expected completion date in mm/dd/yyyy format.
- Field 12. Timeline: Please outline the timeline for your project deployment, including clear milestones and indicators of readiness for immediate action upon grant award. Provide an explanation of any measures you have in place to address potential challenges during the implementation process.
- Field 13. Sustainability: This field should include an explanation of how the project will be sustainable for a minimum of five years; include strategies and considerations for long-term success. Attach any evidence of sustainability to the application as Attachment F.

### 2.3.3 Section II: Project Details – Subsection A *(applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY)*

- Field 1. Farm Site(s) Size (acres): Enter the total acreage of the farm site (or sites) where the proposed connectivity project will be implemented.
- Field 2. Number of Key Operational Locations: This should include the total number of key operational locations at the on-farm infrastructure site, such as the farm office, livestock facility, a combine, equipment shed, field operation center, center pivot system, and remote monitoring points. This should match what is included in the project diagram provided as Attachment J.
- Field 3. Number of Connected On-Farm Entities: The total estimated number of on-farm structures and devices to be connected by project at completion. This represents the overall count of structures and devices on the farm that will be integrated into the proposed connectivity project. It encompasses all on-farm entities, including but not limited to tractors, combines, irrigation systems, livestock facilities, and farm offices.
- Field 4. Current maximum connection speed bandwidth in project area in Mbps: This field should include the current maximum download and upload speeds available within the project area. To be eligible for funding, the current speeds must be less than 25/3 Mbps.
- Field 5. Speeds upon completion: The speeds the connectivity project will provide upon completion. To qualify, the project must provide adequate precision agriculture connectivity with speeds of 100Mbps/20Mbps, or greater.
- Field 6. Monthly customer rate for proposed 100Mbps/20Mbps service: This field should include the monthly customer rate to be billed for 100Mbps/20Mbps service provided within the project area. This should not include promotional rates such as new customer discounts, upgraded service discounts, or customer retention discounts.

### 2.3.4 Section III: Technical Summary *(applicants must complete the relevant subsection)*

#### 2.3.5 Section III: Technical Summary – Subsection A *(applies to Devices and Technology subprogram ONLY)*

- Field 1. Applicant's Experience: Overview of the applicant's experience and expertise in precision agriculture devices and technology solutions, specifically as related to the devices/technology included in the application. In cases where the applicant lacks direct experience, an explanation is required on how they plan to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to operate the equipment effectively. Provide details of past successful projects or initiatives related to precision agriculture or similar technologies.
- Field 2. Program Details: Details about the proposed program involving precision agriculture devices and technology, including specifications and technical requirements. Include an explanation of how the chosen technologies align with the goals of the project.
- Field 3. Expected Useful Life: The expected useful life of devices/technology included in the request for funding including a statement related to which components may require more frequent repair or replacement.
- Field 4. Maintenance Plan: Applicants should explain how the devices/technology funded with PRO-AG grant funds will be maintained throughout the useful life or for a minimum of five years following project completion.

#### 2.3.6 Section III: Technical Summary – Subsection B *(applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY)*

- Field 1. Applicant's Experience: Provide a description of the applicant's experience providing precision agriculture on-farm connectivity solutions including their technical capability to meet the requirement to provide a minimum 100/20 Mbps. Include details of past successful projects or initiatives related to precision agriculture connectivity or similar technologies. Specifically, whether they currently provide broadband at the minimum 100Mbps/20Mbps speeds.
- Field 2. Innovation and Technology: Provide a detailed description of the proposed network architecture including the specific technologies and strategies to provide service, a list of the on-farm structures and devices to be connected by project, placement of access points, data collection devices, and other key elements.
- Field 3. Scalability Evaluation: Explain how the solution ensures reliable and scalable connectivity. This could include a plan for network expansion along with a description of strategies for preserving performance with increased device density.
- Field 4. Maintenance Plan: Include details regarding the expected useful life of the facilities to be built including a statement as to the technological components used, and, if applicable, which components may require more frequent repair or replacement. Applicants should explain how the project will be maintained throughout the useful life of the facilities along with the applicants plans to meet the minimum speed requirements in place for the PRO-AG grant for a minimum of five years following completion.

- Field 5. Latency: Include the expected latency of the network (in ms) upon completion. Explain how the expected latency aligns with the needs of your application. How does this latency impact the ability to perform real-time operations or data transfers in the context of precision agriculture?

### 2.3.7 Section IV: Legal (*applicants must complete the relevant subsection*)

#### 2.3.8 Section IV: Legal – Subsection A (*applies to Devices and Technology subprogram ONLY*)

- Field 1. Provide a detailed outline of the pertinent qualifications and certifications essential for the proposed devices/technology. Explain whether the applicant currently holds the necessary qualifications and certifications, including any expiration dates. If not currently secured, define the planned steps and timelines for acquiring any essential qualifications and certifications.
- Field 2. Detail the applicant's strategies and commitments for sustaining the qualifications and certifications over the five-year post-deployment period.

#### 2.3.9 Section IV: Legal – Subsection B (*applies to Connectivity subprogram ONLY*)

- Field 1. Applicant's Nebraska ETC Status: This field should include the Connectivity applicant's current ETC status in Nebraska. Options are: Not applicable; Currently certified as Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC), in good standing; Application for Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC) certification has been filed with the Commission; Applicant attests they will submit application to the Commission for NETC certification at least six months prior to project completion.
- Field 2. Legal Representative Name (Must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in Nebraska or admitted pro hac vice)
- Field 3. Legal Representative Email:
- Field 4. Legal Representative Phone:
- Field 5. A description of any risk factors or legal challenges that must be addressed prior to or during the project in question (examples include local zoning, permitting, access to rights-of-way, etc.), as well as a plan for mitigation. Additionally, explain any engagement measures with proposed project location(s) or impacted communities.
- Field 6. Has the applicant received letter(s) of support or approval from the owner of each farm site included in the grant application? Yes/No. NOTE: Letters of support must be attached to the application as attachment G and should clearly express the owner's consent for the connectivity project and their understanding of the proposed on-farm connectivity services and rates charged for service.

#### 2.3.10 Section V: Project Impact (*applies to all applicants*)

- Field 1. Demonstrated Substantial Economic Benefit: Describe the significant economic impact your project will have on rural Nebraska. What tangible benefits can you quantify, such as job creation and income generation? Please provide illustrative examples.
- Field 2. Continuing or Increasing Economic and Technological Impacts: How will your project provide ongoing economic and technological benefits over time? Outline the strategies you will implement to ensure sustained growth and progress beyond the initial implementation phase.
- Field 3. Water Conservation Focus: If applicable, please explain in what ways does your project prioritize water conservation? Explain the innovative strategies, technologies, or practices you plan to implement to promote sustainable water management and mitigate water usage.

#### 2.3.11 Section VI: Financial Projections (*applies to all applicants*)

- Field 1. Provide comprehensive financial projections for the project. This should include both short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (4+ years) forecasts, detailing anticipated costs, revenues, and key financial health indicators such as net cash flow and profitability ratios. The projections should demonstrate a realistic estimate of income and expenses and the overall financial impact of the project.

#### 2.3.12 Section VII: Cost Benefit Analysis (*applies to all applicants*)

- Field 1. Provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis for the project. This analysis should quantify the expected return on investment (ROI), outlining the financial impact of the project in both the short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (4+ years). The analysis should clearly demonstrate the financial returns of the investment.



### 2.3.13 Section VIII: Monitoring and Evaluation (*applies to all applicants*)

- Field 1. Clearly list the major milestones that will be used to track the progress of your project. This should include a timeline for deployment of connectivity OR devices and technology. Each milestone should include an expected completion date. Examples: (1) Installation of connectivity infrastructure by [insert date]. (2) Deployment of smart sensors by [insert date]. (3) Full project implementation by [insert date].
- Field 2. Identify the specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will be used to measure the success of the project following implementation. Each KPI should be measurable and aligned with the project's objectives. Examples: (1) [X]% increase in crop yield by [insert date]. (2) [X]% reduction in water usage within [insert time frame]. (3) [X] number of devices connected to the system by [insert date]. (4) [X]% improvement in farm operational efficiency by [insert date].
- Field 3. Please explain the plan for monitoring and evaluating the success of the precision agriculture project. Include a detailed explanation of how Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in Section VII, field 2 above will be tracked and monitored throughout the project. Include specific metrics, tools, and timelines that will be used to track progress and measure outcomes.

## 2.4 Preparing Application Attachments

Preparing Grant Application Attachments: All attachments to your grant application must comply with the formatting requirements in this section and should be in .pdf (portable document format), to preserve the layout and appearance of submitted documents, unless otherwise noted.

Naming Convention: Please label attachments as follows: "Applicant\_Name\_Project\_Name\_Attachment\_Letter" (Example: FarmTech\_NEWaterConservation\_AttachmentA). If it is necessary to submit multiple attachments under one attachment letter category, label the attachments to identify the separate attachments, such as the following: "ApplicantName\_ProjectName\_AttachmentLetter\_1", "ApplicantName\_ProjectName\_AttachmentLetter\_2", etc. (Example: FarmTech\_NEWaterConservation\_AttachmentA\_1, FarmTech\_NEWaterConservation\_AttachmentA\_2, etc.).

#### File Name Restrictions

- File names of .pdf attachments should be limited to 50 characters whenever possible.
- Names may not include special characters (e.g., &, -, \*, %, /, #), periods (.), blank spaces or accent marks.
- An underscore (example: Attached\_File.pdf) may be used to separate a filename.
- File names must be unique. No other attachment in the application package may have the same file name.

### 2.4.1 Attachment Requirements

**Attachment A. Project Budget/Documentation:** A project budget must be attached reflecting a clear and detailed breakdown of cost elements based on total allowable project costs. Any disallowed expenses must be adjusted from the total project costs to determine total allowable costs for calculating the grant amount requested and required match percentage. This should include the total costs, the total grant amount requested, and detail any matching funds committed by source. Documentation to justify project costs claimed in budget is required. See project budget instructions and examples for each subprogram on our website.

**Attachment B. Eligible Entity Documentation:** Applicants must include supporting documentation to validate their eligibility status:

- Provider - proof of business registration and service authorization in Nebraska.
- Agricultural Cooperatives - articles of incorporation, membership information, and proof of registration as a cooperative in Nebraska.
- Agronomists - professional certifications, degrees, and portfolio of agriculture projects.
- Agricultural Producer: See "Agricultural Producer Affidavit" on our website.

**Attachment C. Cybersecurity:** Applicants must attach a cybersecurity plan that includes their security measures, identification of risks, approach to safeguarding sensitive data, and strategy for responding to security incidents. NOTE: Remember to avoid sharing sensitive details that could compromise your security posture.

The cybersecurity plan is in addition to the certification on the application that the applicant does not use any equipment prohibited by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 1601.

**Attachment D. DJI Attestation (if applicable):** Applicants proposing to use DJI drones must also include an attestation acknowledging the potential risks associated with DJI drones and confirm understanding that any federal

legislative action could jeopardize grant awards. The [DJI Drone Applicant Attestation](#) can be accessed on our website.

**Attachment E. Match documentation:** Applicants indicating match commitments must attach documentation from each listed match source for the application. This could include but is not limited to a signed “Contribution Certification Form,” or a “Certification of Commitment Letter” from a contributing partner. Please see the [2024-2025 PRO-AG Contribution Certification](#) document on our website for additional information about the requirements and to access the Contribution Certification Form.

**Attachment F. Other supporting documentation (if applicable):** Other supporting documentation could include documentation such as supplemental speed test data, letters of support from members of the community, evidence of sustainability, and/or supplemental financial information such as the most recent year’s federal tax return, etc.

#### [2.4.1.1 Additional Required Attachments for \*\*Connectivity Subprogram ONLY\*\*](#)

**Attachment G. Legal:** Applicants must submit a letter of support or approval from the owner of each farm site included in the grant application. This letter(s) should clearly express the owner's consent for the connectivity project and their understanding of the proposed on-farm connectivity services and rates charged for service.

**Attachment H. Technical:** Applicants may include an attestation from a qualified engineer describing whether the speed requirements can be fulfilled using the proposed technology and design.

**Attachment I. Financial Statements:** Non-ETC applicants must include their most recent year's financial statements. Additionally, if an ETC applicant has not submitted financial statements to the Commission since January 2025, they are required to provide financial statements along with their application.

**Attachment J. Rate Comparability:** Applicants must demonstrate that the rates they offer in the project area will be comparable to those offered elsewhere for the same type of service. The rates offered are not required to be static over the five-year period described in the business plan. However, applicants must commit to the rates listed in the business plan for the five-year reporting period.

**Attachment K. Shapefiles:**

1. Polygon shapefiles reflecting the project area must be included. Any supporting files necessary to open the shapefile must also be attached.
2. Point shapefiles identifying serviceable locations in the project area must be included. Any supporting files necessary to open the shapefile must also be attached. (Attachment Letter: B). The points in the shapefile should match the number of locations reported to be served on the application in Field 3c.
3. Applicants must include tower location shapefiles for existing and planned towers. They must also provide a shapefile polygon demonstrating coverage for the planned and/or existing networks, including where the upload and download speeds will meet or exceed the required speeds (100/20 Mbps), and showing that coverage encompasses the locations included in the application.

**Attachment L. Project Diagram:**

1. Connectivity applicants must provide a detailed diagram of the project design. The diagram should include the entire project layout, including key infrastructure components and connectivity pathways. Highlight the central hub, distribution points, and connectivity routes. Differentiate between wired and wireless components. Clearly depict the connection of on-farm structures, devices, and key operational locations. The diagram should provide a description of the size of the project location and should be appropriately scaled.

**Attachment M. List of Key Operational Locations:**

1. Connectivity applicants must submit a list of key operational locations for proposed post-completion speed testing. Examples include the farm office, livestock facilities, equipment sheds, field operation centers, irrigation control points, critical pathways, and remote monitoring points. Each location should be briefly explained, highlighting its significance, and specifying how speed testing will confirm compliance with required performance standards.

## [2.5 Submitting an Application:](#)

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation must be received electronically via e-mail to the Commission at [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on May 6, 2025. The application form should be submitted in .pdf format using the provided application form, all required attachments should be submitted with the



application. If all documents CANNOT be attached within a single e-mail due to size limitations, the submission may be sent in more than one e-mail. If it is necessary to submit in separate transmissions, the subject of the e-mails should clearly indicate the applicant and project name, and how many e-mails are being sent (e.g., Email 1 of 4, etc.). Files should be attached to the e-mails; links to websites are not acceptable. Alternatively, you may utilize programs such as zip files, Dropbox, Sharefile, etc., if they contain individual files. Each attachment should be clearly labeled to indicate the contents (Refer to [2.3 Preparing Application Attachments](#) for details). Late filed applications will not be considered.

## 2.6 Protecting Confidential Information in an Application:

A Protective Order governing the 2024-2025 grant application cycle will include specific information that can be submitted confidentially. A copy of the Protective Order will be available on the Commission website once entered. Applicants are required to closely follow the terms of the Protective Order. All confidential materials must be clearly marked as such both in the filename and as a stamp or watermark on each page of the document itself. Commission Staff will contact applicants who submit information incorrectly marked as Confidential to provide an opportunity to remove the marking. The Commission does not guarantee that information submitted that is not marked in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order will be protected.

## 2.7 Administrative Review

The Commission seeks to avoid unnecessary delay in PRO-AG. Therefore, the Commission will use an administrative review process for PRO-AG connectivity applications. The Commission will verify that the project exclusively serves unserved locations, as required by the Act. Applications will either qualify for scoring based on whether it serves exclusively unserved locations based on review of all applicable data sources, or it will be removed from further consideration.

## 3 Selection Criteria

The Act specifies certain purposes and conditions for use of grant funding. The Commission intends to evaluate applications to ensure statutory requirements are met and to award grants to the projects that provide the highest return in public benefit for the public costs incurred. The PRO-AG applications will be reviewed by a team composed of Commission staff who will use the following criteria to prioritize, score, and award grants:

### 3.1 Priority for Grant Distribution

Projects will be prioritized if they meet the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrated Substantial Economic Benefit:** Projects that showcase a significant economic impact on rural Nebraska. The evaluation will consider the tangible and quantifiable benefits the project brings to the local economy, emphasizing job creation, income generation, and overall economic development.
2. **Continuing or Increasing Economic and Technological Impacts:** Projects that would provide continuing or increasing economic and technological benefits over time will be prioritized. This approach aims to support initiatives that not only yield immediate benefits but also contribute to sustained growth and progress over time, fostering long-term economic and technological advantages in the state.
3. **Water Conservation Focus:** Priority will be provided to projects dedicated to water conservation. Proposals that explicitly address and implement innovative strategies, technologies, or practices aimed at conserving water resources will be prioritized. The assessment will focus on the project's potential to mitigate water usage, promote sustainable water management, and contribute to environmental conservation efforts.

### 3.2 Grant Program Areas

Grant applications will first be sorted into two different subprograms: Connectivity OR Devices and Technology

Once applications are sorted into the two sub-program areas, applications will be further reviewed and scored. The following criteria and associated point values will be used to score and award grants within each respective subprogram.

### 3.2.1 Connectivity Subprogram Scoring:

Applications are eligible for a maximum 100 scoring points. The scoring will assess grant applications, evaluating both gating criteria for eligibility and scoring criteria for project merit and impact. The scoring rubric can be found on our website at: <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>

### 3.2.2 Devices and Technology Subprogram Scoring:

Applications are eligible for a maximum 95 scoring points. The scoring will assess grant applications, evaluating both gating criteria for eligibility and scoring criteria for project merit and impact. The scoring rubric can be found on our website at: <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>

### 3.2.3 Scoring and Tiebreaker

Applications will be prioritized based on overall scores, with higher scores indicating a higher priority project.

If applications receive the same score requiring a tiebreaker, the application with the lower amount of PRO-AG grant dollars requested, would be given preference.

## 4 Grant Award Notification

For the second grant round of program year 2024-2025, grant awards will be released on or before June 24, 2025. ACH documentation requirement: Successful applicants will need to submit required documentation for receipt of ACH payments from the State of Nebraska immediately upon the award of a grant to ensure that the first payment is not delayed. Additional instructions will be provided when grant awards are released.

## 5 Distribution of Support Details

Successful applicants must submit a State of Nebraska W-9 and ACH enrollment form one week following grant awards. The PRO-AG grant funds awarded will be distributed to individual grant recipients as follows:

- 90% of the funds awarded will be distributed upon award of the grant, receipt of Acknowledgement and Attestation Form, and the W9/ACH form.
- 10% of the funds awarded will be distributed upon successful completion of the project, submission of the Certification of Project Completion, successful speed testing results if applicable, and receipt of invoice submittals to justify allowable expenses.

Upon project completion, grant recipients must submit the Certification of Project Completion Form certifying that the project described in the application has been completed. Within 90 days of project completion, Connectivity Grant Recipients must submit speed test results verifying that the connectivity can provide the required speeds (100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload). The required forms are available on the PRO-AG website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>.

## 6 Post-Award Requirements

Quarterly progress reports regarding the construction of service in the project area must be submitted to the Commission by the fifteenth day of the first month following each quarter. A PRO-AG Awardee Progress Report form can be found on the PRO-AG website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>.

### 6.1 Completion Deadlines

#### 1. Connectivity Subprogram

- a. Deadline: Grants awarded in this subprogram are subject to a twelve-month completion deadline after the date on which the grant is awarded.
- b. Extensions: The Commission may permit one extension of up to six months upon request and for good cause shown.
- c. Completion: Project completion signifies the fulfillment of all defined objectives and activities related to establishing or enhancing on-farm connectivity. This includes the successful construction of planned connectivity infrastructure, adequate connectivity of 100/20 Mbps is met, and connections have been made to on-farm structures and devices such as tractors, combines, irrigation systems, livestock facilities, and farm offices.

#### 2. Devices and Technology Subprogram

- a. Deadline: Grants awarded in this subprogram are subject to a twelve-month completion deadline after the date on which the grant is awarded.

- b. Extensions: The Commission may consider allowing one six-month extension upon a showing of good cause.
- c. Completion: The project would be considered complete when the project can fulfill the primary operations that it was designed to perform.

## 7 Post-Deployment Requirements

### 7.1 Speed and Latency Testing – *Connectivity Subprogram only*

Connectivity Subprogram grants are required to submit speed and latency testing information to the Commission following deployment of the completed network as outlined in the application.

To confirm required speeds and latency are being met by the grant-funded on-farm connectivity network, performance testing will focus on key operational locations that would represent typical usage scenarios. Examples of locations for testing could include farm office, livestock facilities, equipment sheds, field operation centers, critical pathways, remote monitoring points, etc.

Upon project completion, the provider must test those locations and demonstrate that adequate connectivity is being provided. Specific requirements for speed and latency testing for each project will be issued on a case-by-case basis.

The PRO-AG Speed Test Certification form should be used when reporting speed and latency test information to the Commission. The form can be accessed on the PRO-AG website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture> and includes additional detail pertaining to this requirement. Performance testing must be performed for the on-farm network.

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.

Testing Deficiencies:

- Should an applicant's testing fail to reflect that the entire project area is capable of being served at the required speeds as approved in the grant application, the applicant will be allowed a reasonable time to correct the deficiencies.
- The applicant must submit the speed test results along with a written proposal to remedy the deficiencies within the next sixty (60) days, including the date upon which speed testing will be conducted a second time.
- If the deficiencies are not corrected and the provider fails to provide adequate precision agriculture connectivity after the second set of speed tests, the applicant shall be subject to penalties as outlined within the C-5600 order.

NOTE: In some instances, the Commission may also accept performance testing data or reports submitted by the customer being served to determine whether adequate connectivity has been provided.

### 7.2 Annual Report Requirement

The awardee will be 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 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. The annual reports would be required for a period of five years after project completion. Reports should be submitted to the Commission via e-mail to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov) by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on July 1 of each year, or the first business day thereafter.

## 8 Other Conditions and Requirements

In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute § 86-1401 et seq. and Commission Docket No. C-5600, the applicant and its successors and affiliates are obligated to adhere to the following terms if receiving a grant:

**1. Connectivity Subprogram:**

- a. Grant recipients must offer broadband Internet service in the project area for at least five years post deployment; and
- b. Grant recipients must maintain minimum speed capability of 100Mbps for downloading and 20Mbps for uploading in the project area for five years post deployment.
- c. Prohibition: Grant recipients are prohibited from transferring deployment costs, initially supported by grant funds, to their customers through any form of charges. This includes direct charges, fees, or any other means of passing on costs associated with the deployment phase covered by grant funds. While end-users benefiting from the improved connectivity may provide matching funds, they shall not be required to bear the portion funded by the grant.

**2. Devices and Technology Subprogram:**

- a. Awardees must keep all equipment funded with PRO-AG grants in service for a minimum of five years after project completion.
- b. All necessary maintenance and repairs for the funded equipment must be performed at the cost of the awardee.

Any applicant that declines to accept these conditions shall not be eligible to receive a grant.

## 9 Failure to Complete an Awarded Project

### 9.1 Post-Award Repayment

Any grant recipient which fails to complete an awarded project must repay ten percent (10%) of the grant for each month that the project is not complete after the project deadline, including any extended deadlines.

## 10 Contact Information

For more information including the application and template forms, consult our website at <https://psc.nebraska.gov/precision-agriculture>. The Commission staff can be contacted via e-mail at [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov).