



Swift SWCD Financial Assistance Policy

January 2026

I. Introduction

- a. The Swift County Soil and Water Conservation District (hereafter referred to as SWCD) administers a variety of financial assistance programs through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
- b. BWSR has established rules and guidelines for these grant programs to ensure their compliance with state statute and rules and other state policy requirements. The SWCD will abide by these rules and guidelines as they apply to the given fiscal year and associated funds.
- c. The SWCD will review this financial assistance policy prior to the signing of any grant agreements to evaluate any program specific requirements. The SWCD Board (Board) reserves the right to make changes to this policy at any time through Board action.
- d. The Board will take action to enter into all State grant agreements which will be reflected in the Board Meeting minutes.
- e. Specific programmatic policies will be included as appendices of this policy.
- f. Up to 100% of the Conservation Contracts Grant, for each fiscal year, may be utilized for technical and administrative purposes.

II. Cost Share Funds

- a. Financial assistance to landowners is dependent upon available funding and the total cost share provided through any specific grant shall not exceed grant amounts.
- b. The BWSR grant program policy, and other supporting documents (i.e. the Grants Administration Manual), shall determine the practices for which cost share shall be deemed eligible. When there is uncertainty about the eligibility of a specific practice, the SWCD shall obtain written confirmation from BWSR regarding the eligibility of a specific practice. The Board reserves the right to be more restrictive in determining eligibility of specific practices than those found within BWSR program policy.
- c. The Board reserves the final authority in making cost share allocation decisions consistent with BWSR program policies.
- d. When the SWCD is using grant funds allocated to a partnership, the cost share project will be subjected to the scoring, ranking, and eligibility process of said partnership. The SWCD will submit the project info to the respective partnership and follow their process relating to determining eligibility, contracting, payments, and inspections.

III. Landowner Contracts

- a. The SWCD will use the most recent Cost Share Workbook from BWSR for all projects utilizing BWSR financial assistance funds. For programs in which there are specific landowner contract requirements, the SWCD shall use the recommended BWSR cost share contract template.
- b. Landowner contracts for the installation of conservation practices and supporting project documents such as cost share vouchers and invoices will be submitted by the landowner and approved by the Board.
- c. Requests for financial assistance and reimbursement must be reasonable, justifiable, and supported by SWCD policy and BWSR program requirements.
- d. The Board may amend contracts, following BWSR guidelines. However, the Board shall not amend a contract relating to a change in payment type (flat rate, percentage, or incentive).
- e. SWCD Technical Standard resources include, but are not limited to, the most current: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MPCA Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual, MDA Agricultural BMP Handbook for Minnesota, BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, MDH Well Sealing Guidelines, recommendations of a licensed professional engineer, and applicable local, state and federal regulations.
- f. The SWCD will consider funding tile installation only for the following purposes:
 - i. If it is necessary to establish vegetation for an approved practice.
 - ii. If it is necessary to ensure project success for a minimum of ten years.
 - iii. If it is a support practice or part of an approved practice. (i.e. water and sediment control basins or stormwater runoff controls)
- g. Funding will not be provided for tile installation if the activity will impact a wetland or for the sole purpose of drainage.
- h. Funding will not be provided to increase tile capacity or size beyond design capacity for the purpose of agricultural drainage. The applicant is solely responsible for costs associated with increased tile capacity. All modifications or connections must have prior approval to ensure that the changes do not negatively affect the success of the approved practice.
- i. Funding will not be provided for increases in project cost for strictly aesthetic reasons.

IV. Percentage Rates

- a. Utilizing state and federal funds for a project will be considered on a case-by-case basis by SWCD staff. If a contract is approved as such, payment amounts from combined state and non-state sources shall not exceed the maximum cost share rate of 100% . Greater than 75% state-derived cost share, not to exceed 100% of the total installation cost, will

be provided as deemed appropriate by the Board through a majority vote and if allowed under grant policy and under partnership policy if utilizing partnership funds.

V. Project Development and Technical Expertise

- a. The landowner and applicant shall allow the SWCD and/or its technical representative access to the project area, including the upland contributing watershed for the purpose of, but not limited to, assessing the conservation problem, evaluating the landscape uses, and developing recommendations, including any required engineering designs.
- b. The SWCD shall inform the landowner that it is to be held harmless for any damage that was incurred to the property due to a reasonable assessment of the conservation challenge.
- c. The landowner and applicant shall allow SWCD staff access to property at reasonable times, for which the installed conservation practice is located during the life of the contract for the periodic inspection of the installed practice by SWCD staff.
- d. The SWCD will ensure that Technical Quality Assurance is achieved, and projects are installed and maintained according to standards and specifications, by utilizing existing staff. When staff lack proper Job Approval Authority, a qualified representative will be used to verify the work completed by SWCD staff is acceptable. When professional engineering is required, or specific conservation practices require expertise above current technical capacity, the SWCD will utilize professional engineers or staff from the West Central Technical Service Area, private consultants, BWSR or the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

VI. Application/Contract

- a. Applicants are responsible for submitting application forms, project plans and cost estimates as requested by the SWCD in sufficient detail for the SWCD to complete its review. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or acted upon the board.
- b. Landowner/Applicant may be requested to obtain two quotes for the proposed conservation work prior to cost share contract approval by the Board. For projects where construction will occur on adjacent properties or the project will impound water on adjacent properties not owned by the applicant, a group addendum must be signed by all affected landowners. A division of payment schedule, agreed to by all landowners, must be attached to the addendum.
- c. At the request of the landowner, or contractor, the Board at its discretion may authorize an assignment of payment or add a co-payee for approved cost share payments.
- d. The application deadlines for individual programs may be extended at the Board's discretion, according to BWSR program policies and guidelines.
- e. Applications not approved may be resubmitted for review and reconsideration in the future.

- f. SWCD staff shall provide a funding recommendation for each application submitted to the Board. The SWCD reserves the right to review projects by committee if deemed appropriate.
- g. The funding amount will not exceed the amount specified on the original cost share contract, unless the Board approves a contract amendment to increase funding amounts. Contract amendments shall not be awarded solely due to increased project costs and shall be evaluated by the Board on a case-by-case basis.
- h. Upon approval by the Board, the applicant will receive a letter with a copy of the executed cost share contract stating details of the practice that has been approved, the funding amount, and time schedule to start and complete the project, and a copy of the Operations and Maintenance Plan.

VII. Project Implementation

- a. SWCD staff shall participate in a preconstruction meeting. SWCD staff, or their designee, shall be available to the applicant during construction to answer questions, document installations and provide general construction observation to inform the Applicant of non-compliant project components or conditions.
- b. Unless otherwise approved by the Board, a portion or all of a project becomes ineligible for funding if construction begins on that portion before a cost share contract has been approved.
- c. The project must be completed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Cost Share Program Contract and maintained in compliance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- d. The applicant is responsible for the full installation of the project before the installation deadline listed on the cost share contract. If a deadline extension is required to complete the project, the applicant must make the request no less than 30 days prior to the project installation deadline.
- e. The entire practice shall be installed according to project design requirements, including seeding, mulching, erosion control blanket, or other erosion control devices. Any changes to the approved design requirements shall be agreed to in writing prior to practice certification.
- f. Unless specified otherwise by Minnesota prevailing wage statutes, the value of labor, equipment, materials and/or services that are proposed to be provided by the applicant to complete the project, shall use the average rates as shown on the most recent Farm Custom Rate Survey developed by Iowa State University Extension or by the Minnesota State University Extension for all in-kind reimbursement. In-kind reimbursement documentation must follow BWSR invoice/voucher requirements to be deemed eligible.

VIII. Reimbursement

- a. An individual with the proper Technical or Job Approval Authority shall verify if the practice is complete and meets standards and specifications before final payment is issued.
- b. The Landowner/Applicant is responsible to pay, in full, all receipts and invoices directly to the contractor or vendor. If the Board deems the Landowner/Applicant is unfit to pay the contractor or vendor for services rendered, the Board may issue payment directly to the contractor or vendor on behalf of the Landowner/Applicant, provided all project criteria are met, and necessary documentation has been provided.
- c. The applicant must submit invoices or receipts of actual costs in sufficient detail for the SWCD's review. Requests for reimbursement shall include information as directed within grant policy.
- d. A one-time cost share reimbursement payment will be made by the Board upon certification that the project has been installed and completed to specifications.
- e. Partial payments will only be considered for projects with extenuating circumstances and will be approved by the Board.

IX. Contract Noncompliance

- a. The SWCD, after learning of potential non-compliance, will:
 - i. Review applicable laws and rules.
 - ii. Review project file contents, contract and operation/maintenance plan.
 - iii. Conduct on-site investigation, include pictures and complete a site inspection form.
 - iv. Interview with the land occupier.
 - v. If determined that land occupier is complying, the SWCD staff will document this decision, and no corrective action is needed.
 - vi. If determined that the land occupier is not in compliance, the SWCD staff will present to the Board their findings and corrective action plan.
 - vii. If the Board agrees that a non-compliance condition exists, a corrective action plan will be completed and sent via registered mail to the land occupier. The corrective action plan will refer as to why the practice is not in compliance; specify what the land occupier must do to correct the situation and give deadlines for corrective action to be completed.
 - viii. If the Board doesn't agree that a non-compliance condition exists, then it will be documented, and no corrective action plan is needed.
 - ix. The SWCD staff will follow up to make sure land occupier completes corrective action in time allotted.
 - x. If the noncompliance is not rectified according to the Corrective Action Notice, the SWCD will contact the County Attorney's Office and request a civil action be commenced to remedy the noncompliance. The specific request would be for

the court to issue a declaratory judgement that a violation exists, a court order requiring the violation/noncompliant issue(s) be abated within a reasonable time and that an injunction be filed that prohibits future violations of the contract.

xi. The SWCD will work with the County Attorney and BWSR staff as necessary.

X. General Policies Applied to all Cost Share Programs

- a. All funding program contracts and requests for payment for projects under contract require the approval of the Board.
- b. All funding programs are subject to fund availability and may be discontinued or subject to program policy revisions by the Board as it deems appropriate.
- c. The number of contracts approved may be limited by the amount of funding, available staff time and targeting and prioritization efforts. The Board reserves the right to limit funding to their discretion.
- d. Other than USDA Programs, the SWCD does not provide technical or administrative assistance to other organizations that implement their own financial incentive programs unless specifically identified in a work plan or contractual agreement.
- e. At its sole discretion, the Board may consider compliance with the terms of a previous or existing SWCD or USDA Cost Share Contract as a prerequisite to entering a subsequent Cost Share Contract with an applicant.
- f. It is SWCD's goal to fund voluntary conservation projects. Projects that are completed to meet regulatory requirements, deemed to be non-voluntary, or are legally required, are not eligible for funding. However, portions of a project may be eligible for funding if that portion is voluntary and exceeds regulatory or legal requirements.
- g. Projects that are a direct result of a violation of local ordinances and state rules/laws will not be eligible for cost-share.
- h. The applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance of structural practices applied under this program to ensure the conservation objective of the practice is achieved for the duration stated on the contract. For non-structural practices (e.g. cover crops), the applicant is responsible for the operation and maintenance for the term specified in their contract.
- i. It is the SWCD's goal to support and leverage federal USDA program funding through SWCD technical assistance and funding.
- j. If USDA project funds or technical assistance are being used on a joint project, the applicant must sign a Freedom of Information Act release form that allows the SWCD access to applicable information within the applicant's project case file to be eligible for SWCD funds.
- k. If the practice has failed prior to the 10-year term (or life of the contract) due to improper maintenance as required in the Operation and Maintenance Plan, the applicant will be responsible for the necessary repairs. If the landowner decides not to

repair the practice to the original specifications, they shall be obligated to reimburse funding in accordance with the approved cost share contract.

- l. If the title to the land where the practice is installed is transferred to another party before the expiration of the life of the cost share contract, it shall be the responsibility of the landowner who signed the contract to advise the new owner that the contract is in force and to notify the SWCD of the change in ownership.
- m. Project inspections will be conducted to meet minimum State requirements, with additional inspections for projects of emphasis. The current inspection schedule includes:
 - i. Compliance inspections at years 1, 5, and 9 for typical projects with a 10-year contract.
 - ii. Compliance inspections at years 1, 5, 9 and 14 for typical projects with a 15-year contract.
 - iii. Annual compliance inspections for non-structural land management practices.
- n. For projects using state funds, additional specific requirements may apply, including but not limited to Minnesota prevailing wage, BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, and project signage requirements.
- o. Active, approved policy for financial assistance program funds in fiscal years prior, remains applicable to cost share funding utilized from those fiscal year grants.
- p. The SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider that does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, sex or gender (including pregnancy, childbirth and pregnancy-related conditions), gender identity or expression (including transgender status), sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, disability, genetic information, public assistance, local human rights commission activity, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local laws and ordinances.

APPROVED BY SWIFT COUNTY SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Representative: _____

Date: _____

Appendix A

Nonstructural Land Management Practices

I. Cover Crops

- a. Flat rates will be used as an alternative to actual costs documented by receipts or invoices. Flat rate amounts for specific practices will be identified by the Board as per this policy and in alignment with specific BWSR program policy requirements.
- b. Flat rate financial assistance will be allocated using a flat rate contract and reimbursement will be made using a flat rate voucher. For programs with specific requirements, the appropriate contract and voucher will be used for the program.
- c. When using flat rates, a land occupier cannot accept any other funding (including but not limited to state, federal, or private) for that practice, for the same field, in the same year.
- d. Applicants can reapply in the following years provided:
 - i. Available funding exists; and
 - ii. They are applying the cover crop to a field that has not previously been under contract with the SWCD; or
 - iii. They are utilizing a new application method but the same seed mix on a field that has been previously under contract with the SWCD; or
 - iv. They are using a different seed mix on a field that has been previously under contract with the SWCD.
- e. Only annual contracts will be used with applicants.
- f. The land occupier will be paid after the practice has been installed and certified as complete by the SWCD technical representative.
- g. If the land occupier fails to maintain the practice, they will be liable for up to 150% repayment of the flat-rate payment received for the practice.
- h. NRCS Practice Standard 340, Agronomy Tech Note #33, and supporting materials will be used as a guideline, unless required by program policy.
- i. An individual landowner/occupier must enroll a minimum of 10 acres, but they can be subdivided into different fields. Maps will need to be submitted to indicate where contracted cover crop acres are to be planted for the contract.
- j. If a project does not use Soil Health RCPP funding, then those projects will be funded on a first come first serve basis, depending on available funding. If utilizing Watershed Based Implementation Funding, SWCD must follow the procedures and/or policies of the corresponding watershed for which the cover crop contract is located.
- k. A ranking sheet will be used for all projects utilizing the Soil Health Regional Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP) funding. Projects that rank high will be recommended for funding at the following board meeting. Projects that rank as medium

must wait until the second board meeting following application submittal and will be funded provided enough funds remain after funding high ranking projects first. Projects that rank low must wait until the third board meeting following application submittal and will be funded provided enough funds remain after funding high and medium ranking projects first.

- l. An individual would be able to apply for SWCD cost share funds for a different project if they are already in a contract for a cover crop practice.
- m. All commercial seed purchased by the operator for cover crop seeding shall be tested and properly labeled in accordance with State of Minnesota Seed Law and Regulations. All seeds shall be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds. Seed tags must be retained by the operator and include the following information: seed type, state of origin, test date, germination, and noxious weed count and purity results. Seed tags must be provided after seeding. If an operator elects to use bin run seed, a representative sample must be submitted to a certified lab for a certified germination test. The test result documentation must be retained for possible spot check. Agronomy Tech Note #33 has guidance for using bin run seed.
- n. No fall tillage is allowed on cover crop acres after seeding the cover crop, except for strip till and/or manure application.
- o. Grazing of the cover crop will be allowed to a height of no shorter than four inches. All expenses for establishing a grazing system are not eligible for funding through this program. If grazing is set to occur, they will be encouraged to work with a qualified representative to develop a grazing management plan.
- p. If excess residue remains in the spring, the cover crop residue would be allowed to be bailed to a height of no shorter than four inches.
- q. If cost share was given by any entity in the fall, the same field/acres won't be eligible for Swift SWCD cost share to seed cover crops in the spring.
- r. If cost share was given by any entity in the spring, the same field/acres won't be eligible for Swift SWCD cost share to seed cover crops in the fall.
- s. Cost share can be utilized for cover crops seeded in the spring.
- t. For projects utilizing the Soil Health RCPP, monthly batching periods will be used. The batching period deadline requires that applications be submitted by noon of the day before the Board Meeting.
- u. There will be a maximum of 300 acres per contract/individual/entity.
- v. Single or multiple species cover crops are eligible with a contract of one year. Multiple fields can be enrolled in the same year.
- w. The flat rates for cover crops are as follows:
 - i. 1-2 species = \$40/ac
 - ii. 3+ species = \$60/ac

II. Other Applicable Information

- a. **Contract Approval and Delegation.** The Board will approve or deny the contract. The action taken will be documented in the SWCD meeting minutes. Approval of the contract is considered approval for expenditure of funds. In the case of time sensitive cost-share projects for cover crop practices the Board authorizes the SWCD Manager or their designee to approve and sign on behalf of the Board between Board meetings. These contracts will be reviewed with the Board at their next meeting, and the Board will act either to agree with the contract approval or override the contract approval. The Board designates existing staff with technical background and knowledge of conservation practices to conduct and sign off on follow-up compliance inspections for projects currently under contract. For non-compliant projects that require modifications or if additional expertise is needed to determine compliance, the SWCD will utilize appropriate technical expertise.
- b. **Contract Amendment:** Changes to an executed contract are considered an amendment to the contract and subject to review and approval by the Board. Prior to approving the amendment, technical staff must attest that the amendment has merit. Amendments shall not be considered or approved after the end of the contract or after approval to issue final payment on the original contract has been made. Amendments are limited to changes in practice specifications, installation dates, land occupier information, practice components, or cost share amounts.

Appendix B

Backyard Habitat Program Policy

I. Cost Share Contract Details

- a) Cost share is dependent upon available funding.
- b) Cost share funds will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- c) No project is guaranteed to be selected for funding.
- d) Eligible projects will be paid at a rate of \$1,000 per acre as a one-time payment. This payment will be prorated to the actual amount of acreage seeded, so someone wanting to enroll 0.5 acres would receive \$500, someone wanting to enroll 1.8 acres would receive \$1,800.
- e) The minimum acreage to enroll is 0.25 acres, and the maximum is 5.0 acres. The Board reserves the right to make exceptions to these acreage limits.
- f) Payment will be made following the entire contract acreage being seeded and certified as complete by an SWCD representative.
- g) The landowner will follow and sign a SWCD Backyard Habitat Development Plan.
- h) The cost share contract length for the backyard habitat program will be 10 years.
- i) Priority will follow the terrestrial habitat components of associated Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans.
- j) A mid-contract management activity (mow or burn) would be required sometime during years 4-6 of the contract. There is no additional cost share to complete this activity.

II. Eligibility

- a) The habitat project must be located completely within Swift County.
- b) The habitat project must address erosion or sedimentation control, improvement to water quality or water quantity, improvement to soil health, habitat enhancement, plant biodiversity, energy conservation, climate adaptation, resiliency, or mitigation resource concern. SWCD staff will determine the primary resource concern being addressed by the project.

III. Seed Mix Requirements

- a) The latest version of the Minnesota Agronomy Technical Note #31 should be used as a guide for these recommendations and follow the guidance for Conservation Practice Standard 327.
- b) Projects should also follow BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, if required by program policy.
- c) A minimum of nine species of pollinator-friendly native forbs – additional forbs are encouraged.

- d) At least three species shall be from each bloom period – early, mid, and late flowering season so that pollinators have continuous food sources.
- e) A minimum of two native bunch grasses to provide nest sites.
- f) The mixture will result in 35-40 PLS seeds/ft². Forbs will comprise 50% - 75% of the mixture based on seeds/ft².
- g) No individual forb shall comprise more than 20% of the forb mixture based on seeds/ft². At least one forb shall be a legume.
- h) Grasses will comprise 20-50% of the mixture based on seeds/ft².
- i) The seed mix cannot contain more than 10% total (by seeds/ft²) of any combination of these three grasses: Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- j) To provide food for monarch butterfly larvae, plantings shall include at least one species of milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.). Milkweed species shall comprise at least 1.5% of the total mixture (grass and forbs) based on seeds/ft².
- k) Optional blooming shrubs (1-2 rows) are an especially important source of pollen and nectar for pollinators, usually blooming well before many forb species.

IV. Establishment and Inspections

- a) Guidelines and direction are provided within the Backyard Habitat Development Plan on how to prepare the seedbed for planting and how to manage the area during the first couple years of establishment. These guidelines must be followed to provide the best chance for the planting to become established.
- b) If the site does not become established after the planting, a certified technical representative from or through the SWCD will work with the landowner to determine whether the planting failed to establish due to natural causes, or by landowner neglect. If failure was due to landowner neglect, the site will be required to be reseeded at the landowner's expense. Alternatively, the landowner can cancel their contract and pay back 150% of the cost share amount they received. If the failure was due to natural causes, the Board will decide whether additional funding should be provided to establish the site, depending upon available funding.
- c) Practice site inspections will be required to be completed at a minimum of one year after completion, then at year 5, and at year 9 of the contract.

Appendix C
Tree Program Policy

I. Cost Share Contract Details

- a) Cost share funds will be competitive and will have an application deadline.
- b) Eligible cost share components include trees (excluding trees larger than a 3-gallon pot and apple trees), tree planting, fabric installation, tree fabric squares, tree fabric, tree tubes and stakes. Site preparation is not eligible for cost share.
- c) The cost share contract must be approved before any eligible items are purchased. Tree order forms can be turned in and trees ordered prior to approval of the cost share contract as long as no payment is made until after the contract is approved.
- d) Eligible project components will be cost shared at a rate of up to 50%.
- e) Eligible tree projects (including all eligible components) must have a minimum total project cost of \$1,000.00.
- f) The maximum cost share contract will be \$2,500 per contract.
- g) Exceptions to these payment caps will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with decisions made by the SWCD Board.
- h) The cost share contract length for tree plantings will be 15 years.
- i) Practice site inspections will be required to be completed at a minimum of one year after completion, then at year 5, year 10, and year 14 of the contract.

II. Eligibility

- a) The tree planting project must be located completely within Swift County.
- b) The tree planting project must address a soil health related resource concern. SWCD staff will determine the primary resource concern being addressed by the project.
- c) Tree planting projects with the primary purpose being wildlife habitat or privacy screening will not qualify for cost share.

III. Priority

- a) The SWCD will prioritize projects based on the total project area of each individual project. The project with the largest total project area will be ranked first, the project with the second largest will be ranked second, and so on until available funds are expended or no other eligible projects remain.
- b) The total project area will be calculated by SWCD staff.
- c) The total project area is calculated independently of any existing tree practices.

Appendix D
Irrigation Program Policy

I. Cost Share Contract Details

- a. Cost share rates and limits are identified in the table below.
- b. Projects will be funded on a first come first serve basis, depending on available funding. If utilizing Watershed Based Implementation Funding, SWCD must follow the procedures and/or policies of the corresponding watershed for which the system is located.
- c. The land occupier will be paid after the practice has been installed and certified as complete by the SWCD technical representative or an individual with proper Job Approval Authority or is a certified Technical Service Provider.
- d. If the land occupier fails to maintain the practice, they will be liable for up to 150% repayment of the flat-rate payment received for the practice.
- e. NRCS Practice Standards and supporting materials will be used as guidelines.
- f. No SWCD staff currently have Job Approval Authority for irrigation practices. The SWCD will utilize a Technical Assistance Provider. The technical assistance provider(s) must have appropriate credentials for practice investigation, design, and construction. Credentials can include conservation partnerships with Technical Approval Authority (TAA) or Job Approval Authority (JAA) or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA); applicable professional licensure; reputable vendor with applicable expertise and liability coverage; or other applicable credentials, training, and/or experience.
- g. The technical assistance provider must certify that the practice or project was installed or constructed in accordance with the applicable plans and specifications, including approved modifications, prior to authorization for payment by the SWCD.
- h. The technical assistance provider must ensure an appropriate operation and maintenance plan is developed by qualified staff that identifies necessary activities and timing to ensure long-term public benefit of practices and projects. The operation and maintenance plan shall be provided to, and discussed with, the practice or project owner soon after construction or installation certification.
- i. Practice certifications, documentation of the Technical Assistance Provider and other Technical Assurances for practices utilizing NRCS Funds and/or NRCS Technical Assistance can be completed by utilizing existing NRCS forms in the cooperator case file.

II. Eligibility

- a. The project must be located completely within Swift County.
- b. A basic conservation irrigation water management plan should be developed and on record.
- c. A uniformity test is not required for cost share eligibility but is recommended.

- d. Cost share can be applied to existing irrigation systems only.
- e. Variable Rate Irrigation using speed control is not eligible for cost share.

Swift SWCD Irrigation Cost Share			
Practice	NRCS Code	SWCD Cost Share Rates	2025 Rates NRCS-EQIP
Irrigation Sprinkler System (low pressure)	442	\$5/LnFt	\$5.71/Ft
Irrigation Sprinkler System (VRI-Zone)	442	\$35/LnFt	\$37.19/LnFt
Soil Moisture Sensors	449	75% (\$3,000 max)	\$1,537.84/ea.
Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder	449	75% (\$4,000 max)	\$1,996.12/ea.
Soil Moisture Sensors with Data Recorder with Telemetry	449	75% (\$6,000 max)	\$2,941.09/ea.
Pumping Plant (Electric Powered Pump)	533	75% (\$9,000 max)	\$332.30/BHP
Pumping Plant (Variable Frequency Drive)	533	75% (\$3,500 max)	\$103.57/BHP
Basic Irrigation Water Management	449	\$500/yr, 3-year max	\$17.19/ac
Intermediate Irrigation Water Management	449	\$750/yr, 3-year max	\$23.23/ac
Advanced Irrigation Water Management	449	\$1,000/yr, 3-year max	\$37.40/ac