

30 years of property tax relief

Nebraska property owners received their 2025 property tax bills from county treasurers this first week of December. The 2026 Legislature will mark 30 years of tax-relief efforts using budget and tax lids and property tax credits. A Telegraph analysis of six sample Lincoln County properties shows that they've held down growth in actual net tax bills over that time – but they're still 20% to 101.6% higher for three North Platte homes since 1995 and nearly triple the 2003 net bills for three agricultural operations across the county.

Net December tax bills for sample properties (with and without Unicameral tax-relief measures)



Notable years

1999:

Full implementation of tax-rate and budget lids

2007:

Start of Property Tax Credit Fund and 75% limit on agland taxable value

2021:

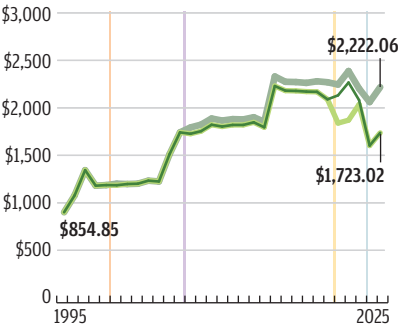
School income tax credit

2024:

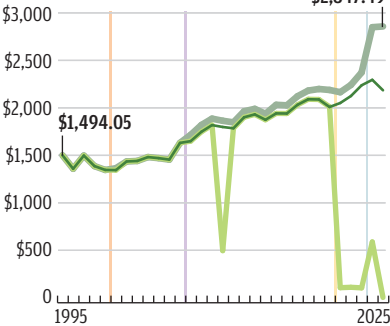
School Property Tax Credit Fund discount

North Platte homes, 1995-2025

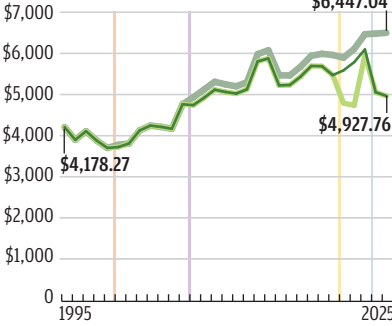
Home 1 (north)



Home 2 (south)*



Home 3 (southwest)

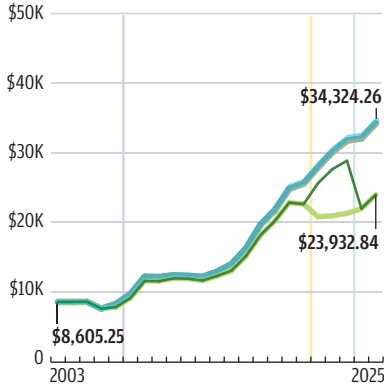


*All credits: Includes full or partial homestead exemptions in 2010 and 2021-25

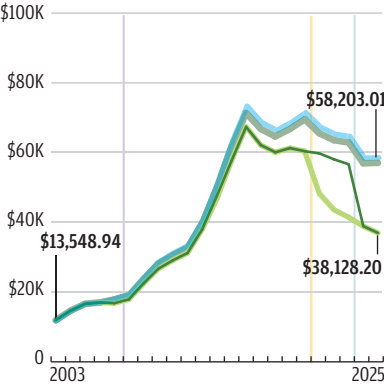
Lincoln County ag operations, 2003-2025



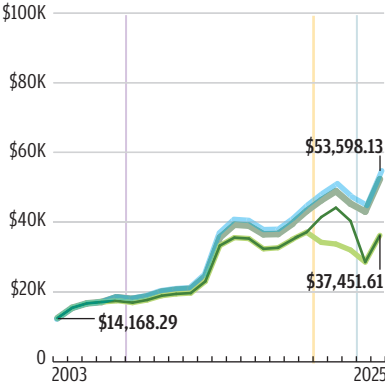
Ag 1 (ranch, NW of Sutherland)



Ag 2 (mixed, SE of Maxwell)



Ag 3 (mixed, N&W of Wallace)



Note: Local budgets and taxes in given fiscal years were affected by the following new state laws:

- 1998: First stage of budget-growth and tax-rate lids take effect.
- 2001: Second stage of lids takes effect.
- 2006: K-12 schools and affiliated Class I districts merged under LB 126 (2005); LB 968 lowers taxable value of agland from 80 percent to 75 percent of actual value starting in 2007; Property Tax Credit Fund created as direct discount on December tax bills.
- 2021: Optional income tax credits take effect for 6% of K-12 school taxes, rising to 30% by 2024.
- 2022: Optional income tax credits for community college taxes take effect, rising to 100% by 2024.
- 2024: LB 34 converts K-12 tax credit to direct discount on December tax bills. Community college income tax credit retained.