

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
June 13, 2024

PERSONNEL:

- Robert Peterson started as our new Pheasants Forever biologist on May 20 in the Tekamah field office.
- Carli Rotondi, intern in the Dakota City field office started Monday, June 3rd
- Sa'Rya Travis, intern in the Blair field office plans to arrive in Blair Monday June 17th.

ACTIVITIES/Trainings :

- New engineering and technician staff attended Survey I training in Blair the week of June 3. This was a prerequisite for Advanced Survey Training to be held in Curtis, NE the week of June 10. There is a combination of 5 new NRCS and NRD technicians and engineering staff that will be attending this training from our NRD.
- On May 14, myself and Tom English, Soil Conservationist in the Blair field office, met with state and national leadership (Nina Bhattacharyya, senior technical specialist, and Brian Guse, director of the Office of Urban Agriculture) at City Sprouts in Omaha. City Sprouts was the recipient of one of NRCS's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants.
- The Blair field office Quality Assurance Review was held May 28 & 29. There were no major findings. It was a good learning experience and a good chance to meet new staff.
- Staff are busy conducting FSA Compliance Reviews.

PROGRAMS: We continue to accept EQIP and CSP applications on a continuous basis. Staff continue to work hard on finishing 2024 obligations while continuing to administer existing contracts.

- We have requested additional local funds for EQIP for FY24, we have not yet heard if we will receive the additional funds requested.

CRP:

- Continuous CRP signup announced- Currently underway and will run until July 31
 - Staff will soon be working more heavily on completing CRP status reviews, as well as plan writing for those contracts which plan to start Oct. 1.
- Grassland CRP Signup – Currently underway, signup ends June 28.
- General CRP Signup- We had one approved in Burt county.

That's all for this month. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share with you what the NRCS staff have been up to.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Schlueter
P-MRNRD District Conservationist