

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
REPORT TO THE  
PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
September 12, 2024**

**PERSONNEL:**

- Neil Jensen, past NRCS District Conservationist with PMRNRD, and most recently a contract employee with NRCS in the Blair field office, “officially” retired with us on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**ACTIVITIES/Trainings :**

- New NRCS & NRD staff, and staff due for recertification, attended UTV training August 27 & 28
- A couple staff attended Windbreak Design & Restoration Training in Mead, NE on Sept 4
- A few new staff attended In-Field Inventory and Evaluation for Wildlife Habitat Training held near Hooper, NE on Sept. 10.
- NRCS & NRD staff are working together closely to plan for the upcoming Northeast Nebraska Area Land Judging Contest to be held near Blair on Oct. 2. The Northeast Area Contest is a large contest. In 2023, there were over 500 students from 28 different schools who attended the Northeast Area Contest.
  - Land Judging is a high school competition that challenges students to gain a better understanding of soil structure and land evaluation. It enables participants to learn how to recognize the physical features of soil, determine land capability for crop production, and evaluate management practices needed for proper stewardship of the land.

**PROGRAMS:**

**EQIP & CSP:**

- We continue to accept EQIP and CSP applications on a continuous basis. This fiscal year’s obligations are wrapped up, and we’re looking toward FY2025! Staff are working on contract maintenance, ensuring activities in current contracts remain on schedule and are certified for payment, and getting planning done for new applications.

**CSP-GCI:**

- CSP-GCI stands for “Conservation Stewardship Program- Grassland Conservation Initiative”
- We received 1 application in the Blair field office, which we are currently preparing for obligation prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**CRP:**

- Staff put in a lot of hard work in the month of August to prepare CRP contracts and get producer signatures, so that they could be returned to FSA by the first week of September.
- We continue to work on CRP status reviews in the field. We are required to do a status review on each contract 3 times during the contract period- The first at the initial certification of new practices installed, once to determine establishment (approx. 2-3 yrs after the initial seeding) and once within the last three years prior to expiration. This is a large workload, and we appreciate all of the help we receive from partner staff to help accomplish this.

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***