

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
October 10, 2024**

PERSONNEL:

- Grant Kubie, contract technician in the Blair field office, last day was October 4.

ACTIVITIES/Trainings :

- Staff have been attending various Woody Encroachment Trainings across the state. This training was to introduce conservationists to a new strategy and planning process for reducing woody encroachment and conserving Great Plains grasslands for the benefit of landowner livelihoods, livestock production, wildlife habitat, water resources, and other important ecosystem services.
 - Woody encroachment is one of the top two drivers of grassland loss in the Great Plains, and past conservation strategies are being replaced with better science and technology.
- NRCS & NRD staff worked together to pull off a successful land judging contest in Blair on Oct. 2. I believe there were approximately 648 students who participated from 30 different schools. This was a true partnership effort and it was a pleasure working with everyone to pull it off. The students who qualified at this contest for state, will compete in the state contest to be held near Norfolk, NE on Oct. 16.

PROGRAMS:

EQIP & CSP:

- We continue to accept EQIP and CSP applications on a continuous basis. We are beginning to plan for next years programs. Getting planning done, working on finalizing ranking questions, getting training on updates to programs, etc.
- We continue to work with producers on getting practices applied and will soon be working on making CSP payments.
- The current dry conditions have put a halt to fall construction of many practices including terraces, basins, etc. We will use this time to catch up and prepare as much as possible for if/when it does rain and we're able to get some construction done.

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***