

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
October 12, 2017  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR NATURAL  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION FUNDS  
APPROACHING**

NRCS has a whole suite of conservation programs available to farmers and ranchers looking for assistance in improving and protecting the natural resources on their ag land. These programs provide funding on cropland and rangeland, as well as for animal feeding operations and establishing or enhancing wildlife habitat and wetlands. NRCS staff can help landowners and operators identify their options.

One of the most widely applied conservation programs in Nebraska is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Through this program, conservation practices were installed on over 400,000 acres in Nebraska during 2017 with over 800,000 acres currently under contract statewide.

The goal of EQIP is to provide a financial incentive to encourage landowners to install conservation practices that protect natural resources, resulting in cleaner air and water, healthy soil and more wildlife habitat.

Individuals interested in entering into an EQIP agreement may apply at any time, but the ranking of applications on hand to receive funding will begin Nov. 17, 2017. The first step is to visit your local NRCS field office and complete an application.

For more information about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other conservation programs, visit your local NRCS field office or [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov).

## **NRCS Fiscal Year 2017 Contracts Funded in the P-MR NRD**

EQIP – 38 contracts totaling \$600,306.00 was approved for funding on 5026 acres.

Practices funded:

- Cover Crops
- Terraces, Underground Outlets, Grassed Waterways, Critical Area Planting, Water & Sediment Control Basin
- Brush Management, Fence, Forage Planting, Livestock Pipeline, Watering Facility, Water Well, Pumping Plant, Prescribed Grazing
- High Tunnels
- Conservation Cover (Pollinator Habitat)
- Windbreak Renovation, Tree Site Preparation, Windbreak Establishment
- Structure for Water Control (Meters), Irrigation Water Management

CSP – 13 contracts totaling \$102, 657.00 was approved for funding on 7908 acres.

Practices funded:

- Forage Planting
- Prescribed Grazing
- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Conservation Cover (Pollinator Habitat)
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Forest Stand Improvement



The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

ACEP applications can be taken on a continuous basis; however, for FY 2018 funding consideration, an application cut-off date of **December 1, 2017** has been established.



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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).