

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
September 13, 2018
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



Emergency Conservation Program

Thurston County has been approved for Emergency Conservation Program funding.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

ELIGIBLE FARMLAND RESTORATION PRACTICES

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- Debris removal from farmland (cleanup of woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
- Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
- Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates or wildlife exclusion fence from agricultural land);
- Restoring conservation structures (waterways, diversion ditches, buried irrigation mainlines and permanently installed ditching system); and
- Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).



EQIP UPDATE

45 EQIP applications have been funded in the amount of \$983,215. We still have a few applications that have been approved for funding that should take us over

1 million.



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff recently completed 45 CRP contracts. Practices enrolled include Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways and Wetland Restoration.



VACANT POSITION FILLED

Jason McCauley has been selected to fill the Tekamah Resource Conservation position. Jason is an NRCS employee from Sergeant Bluff, IA. He will start on October 1. We welcome Jason to Tekamah.



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