

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

Secretary Perdue Names NRCS Chief



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the appointment of Matthew J. "Matt" Lohr to serve as Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

In his role, Lohr will provide leadership for NRCS and its mission to support America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in their voluntary conservation efforts through a network of over 3,000 offices in communities nationwide.

Lohr, raised on a century farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, now owns and operates Valley Pike Farm, Inc., with his wife Beth and their six children. Prior to his appointment by the Trump Administration, Lohr held public office, serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2006-2010. In 2008, Lohr was awarded Legislator of the Year in honor of his work as an ambassador for economic and community development in Virginia. He then served as Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services from 2010 to 2013. More recently, Lohr worked as Knowledge Center Director for Farm Credit of the Virginias, a customer-owned financial cooperative that provides resources and education outreach to local farmers and the community. And since June 2017, he has been farming full time on the family operation, which includes poultry, beef cattle, row crops, and sweet corn.



Statement of Secretary Perdue on Passage of the Farm Bill – December 12, 2018

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today hailed the passage of the 2019 Farm Bill. The House of Representatives approved the conference report on the bill this afternoon, following the Senate’s passage yesterday.

Perdue issued the following statement:

“The passage of the 2019 Farm Bill is good news because it provides a strong safety net for farmers and ranchers, who need the dependability and certainty this legislation affords. This Farm Bill will help producers make decisions about the future, while also investing in important agricultural research and supporting trade programs to bolster exports. While I feel there were missed opportunities in forest management and in improving work requirements for certain SNAP recipients, this bill does include several helpful provisions and we will continue to build upon these through our authorities. I commend Congress for bringing the Farm Bill across the finish line and am encouraging President Trump to sign it.”

UPDATE ON FIELD OFFICE ACTIVITIES

- Several payments have been processed for practices funded in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).
- NRCS has received over 70 EQIP applications in Fiscal Year 2019. Ranking deadline is February 1.
- Staff continue to process Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Determinations for producers. NRCS has received 80 requests since October 1 within the 6 counties located in the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

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