



BLAIR FIELD OFFICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST EDITION- JANUARY 2021

319 PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED INCENTIVES APPROVED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On December 10th, 2020, the P-MRNRD Board of Directors approved proposed incentive rates for the 319 Papillion Creek Watershed. Incentives include cost-share for agricultural conservation practices within the Papillion-Creek Watershed (see map below). Goals of the program are to reverse watershed impairment through the reduction of nutrient, sediment and E. coli loading. Structural practices like terraces and waterways are included, as well as added up-front funds for practices such as CRP buffer strips.

With this 319 Grant, P-MRNRD will also be offering an NRD stand-alone cover crop program and a septic system upgrade program - both of which are the first of their kind for the P-MRNRD. To see if you or your land lies within the watershed, you may go to <https://arccg.is/058Dim> and search by address. You may also contact Kyle Madsen, Watershed Coordinator, at (402)350-3695 or email kmadsen@papionrd.org

319 INCENTIVES RATES

Buffer Strips..... up to \$400/acre

Cover Crops.... up to \$53/acre

Waterways.... up to \$375/acre

Field Borders..... up to \$325/acre

Pollinator Planting.... up to \$325/acre

Septic System*..... up to \$7,500

*non-existent systems

Septic Upgrade**.....up to \$5,000

**dysfunctional systems

Contact Kyle Madsen, Watershed Coordinator, for a full list of practices!
(402)350-3695



The Papillion Creek Watershed encompasses parts of Washington and Douglas County.



ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE FOR 2021 TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

In need of a windbreak? The NRD's annual tree planting program is accepting order forms for 2021 spring planting. Seedlings (trees and shrubs) come in bundles of 25 for \$22/bundle. The NRD will also plant your seedlings for \$.75/tree with a minimum requirement of \$100.00. Order forms will be accepted through March 20, 2021. Contact the office at (402) 426-4782 ext. 101 with any questions!



Since the start of the Tree Program in 1990, the NRD has worked with over 1,300 landowners to plant over 207,000 trees!



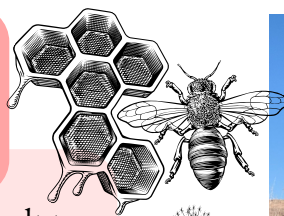
**DID YOU
KNOW?**

NRD's were officially established in 1972 and are unique to the state of Nebraska!
The 23 NRD's in our state are divided up by the major river basins.



POLLINATOR SAFETY CORNERS: A SOLUTION TO HAZARDOUS, HARD-TO-MANAGE CORNERS

Field corners adjacent to intersections are often difficult to farm. This leads to a build-up of noxious weeds and tall grasses that pose a danger to traffic and pedestrians. The NRD provides cost-share of \$250/acre annually for 'Pollinator Safety Corners.' These corners are seeded with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers which benefit pollinators and surrounding wildlife while also staying under 2 feet tall. Landowners in the Papillion Creek Watershed are eligible for an additional \$100/acre annually for a total of \$350/acre annual Pollinator Corner payment. Some landowners even install beekeeping boxes at their corners! (see top right photo). If you think you may have a corner that applies for the program, contact the Blair office at (402)426-4782.



Tribute-Terry's

A word from Terry Schumacher, NRD Land & Water Programs Coordinator

"I don't mean to wish life away, but having 2020 in the books is fine by me. 2020 was certainly challenging with the COVID restrictions and we will start 2021 with many of the same challenges. The staff at the Papio-Missouri River NRD worked through all of the challenges in 2020 and will continue to be available to work with landowners in 2021.

Currently, the Field Offices are closed for public visitation, but the NRD Field Staff is available to work with you to meet your conservation goals! This can be done in several ways: by telephone, email, zoom meetings or out in the field with social distancing. Let us know how we can best provide the assistance you need."

Notes From the Field ...



Marty Shepard of Shepard Enterprises at work building a terrace system before the first snow falls. The terrace system will reduce soil erosion and water run-off on this Washington County farm.



Many of the trees at Stone Creek Park in Douglas County were planted through the Celebrate Trees Grant Program. Applications are being taken for 2021. The program supports tree planting projects on public land for community benefit. Contact John Zaugg (402)670-4336 for more information.

NICE TO MEET YOU!



Thank you for reading through our first newsletter! I'd love to take this opportunity in the first edition to introduce myself. My name is Kalani Fortina and though I've only had the pleasure of working for the PMNRD for the past 9 months, I've learned an enormous amount in that short time! Our goal with this newsletter is to educate and highlight our conservation programs, the Blair field office staff, the work being done with our partner agencies and to show your tax dollars at work! We hope that you'll continue to enjoy these newsletters and consider contacting our office to see what programs are available for you, your neighbors and your land!



To update your subscription or give feedback on the newsletter, contact:
Kalani Fortina (402)426-4782 ext. 110
Kalani.Fortina@usda.gov

