

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Written Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
April 8, 2021
Andy Bohnenkamp, District Conservationist**

NRCS PROGRAMS:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

We have started to pre-approve and allocate funds to our 2021 EQIP applications! The following is a breakdown in funds PMRNRD have allocated thus far.

- We currently have \$126,635 allocated from State and East Area funds to our NRD, which are extra funding sources through EQIP that do not count against our NRD's allocation which is a good thing!
- We have pre-approved all of our \$295,383 of our local NRD allocation.

So that's a total of \$422,018 so far out of 27 contracts and each county/office has at least 1 or more contracts. I have also asked for an additional \$445,030 for the NRD local fund which would add another 16 contracts to our total.

If I end up receiving all of that additional money, then PMRNRD is looking at a total of \$867k in federal EQIP funds this year. We will see where this goes. It is ambitious concerning all that we have going on, but I believe that we can make it happen especially since our timelines this year is much better than last year.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

We are currently assessing and ranking 5 of our 12 CSP applications for the PMRNRD. 3 applications in Thurston County, 1 in Sarpy County and 1 in Washington County. Our state has enough funds to approve roughly 80 CSP contracts this fiscal year, but we have also asked for more funds and have not received word on that yet.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The CRP General Signup is still open for receiving applications in 2021. We are currently writing continuous CRP contracts for buffer practices and waterways. Our workload this year has been tremendous for assisting CRP participants with management of their existing contracts and we are still working with those folks to

ensure that their CRP cover is being managed for wildlife and for the stated CRP program guidelines.

Our field staff, both NRD and NRCS, are keeping busy in the field implementing conservation practices and completing planning. With the conservation compliance season and planting season upon us it is crunch time for our field staff and planners. We have to get a lot of work done in a short amount of time, however they are very happy to get away from their offices and or homes and get out and do the jobs they are all so passionate about!

Lastly, we are currently operating the 4 Field Offices at approximately 50% staffing due to Covid-19 office restrictions, so there is a combination of telework and office work being done between the NRCS staff in each office and we are managing it well. Customers are still not allowed in the office at this time. We are looking forward to the day that we can return to normal, hopefully within the next 2 to 3 months!

That is all I have for this month's report!

Respectfully,

Andy Bohnenkamp
P-MRNRD District Conservationist



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