

Blair Field Office Monthly Newsletter

TENTH EDITION - OCTOBER 2021

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION



October 15th, 2021



3pm-6pm

Washington County Recycling Center
440 South 3rd Avenue Blair NE 68008

Responsibly dispose of household quantities of: paint, pesticides, oil, cleaning chemicals, yard chemicals, anti-freeze, fluorescent bulbs, car batteries.

We cannot accept: tires, electronic equipment, appliances, PCBs, Science Lab materials, radioactive materials or biological hazards.

Sponsored by the Papio-Missouri River NRD, Cargill, and the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council



Volunteers from PMRNRD field offices, the City of Blair, and Cargill assist with last year's Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Blair.

2021 'CONSERVATION DAYS' HOSTS 300+ STUDENTS AT SUMMIT LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA



Austen Hill of the Papio-Missouri River NRD with Finn, the Barn Owl. Austen spent the day showcasing snakes, lizards, turtles and other animals to the students.

Eight schools in the Burt County area participated in the 2021 'Conservation Days' at Summit Lake SRA. Students attended workshops focused on forestry, wildlife, soils, and the water cycle.

Students also participated in a nature hike where tour guides identified common grasses, wildflowers and trees.

This annual event is made possible by: the UNL Nebraska Extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Nebraska Forest Service and the Papio-Missouri River NRD. Thank you to all the schools who participated!





Field notes



Photo by John Zaugg



Chuck Venditte, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, surveys for a Sediment Control Basin near Kennard.

Photo by Kyle Madsen



NRCS and NRD employees perform a field visit on an EQIP project that will create a wetland and upland bird habitat on 30+ acres in Douglas County.



Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

A great example of a public/private partnership will be taking place on October 15th at the Washington County Recycling Center.

The Papio-Missouri River NRD will be partnering with Cargill and the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D to hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection from 3-6pm.

Partnerships have always been an invaluable tool for the NRD to accomplish the mission that we are tasked with. It must be noted that many hours of work and conversations happen behind the scenes to make these types of collaborations successful, so I would like to thank the staff members involved in this project!



If you would like to volunteer at this event, please call (402) 374-1920. We can always use the help, as long as you aren't afraid of getting a little dirty or what spooky things might have collected from the basement or the back of a garage!



WELCOME JASON WILLIS, WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL WATER OPERATOR!



We're excited to welcome Jason Willis to the Blair Field Office! Jason was hired as the Washington County Rural Water Operator following Bruce Sill's retirement!

Jason grew up in Wahoo and spent his most recent years working as a mechanic. He is excited for the new experiences and skills that come with the Rural Water systems.

When he's not working in the Blair office or out in the field, you can usually find Jason fishing, camping or enjoying the outdoors with his family! Jason lives in Lakeland with his wife Cassie and their three children: Kebra, Keaton and Kaylyn. Welcome Jason!



DID YOU KNOW?

Dasymutilla occidentalis is a common velvet ant in Nebraska. They are often referred to as the 'cow killer ant.' Though they pose very little long-term harm to humans, their sting can be extremely painful. On the insect sting pain index (the Schmidt index), the sting of a *Dasymutilla occidentalis* is ranked at a level 3 which is only one level away from the most painful!

SPOOKY