

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Written Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
February 10, 2022
Andy Bohnenkamp, District Conservationist**

Good afternoon PMRNRD Board members and GM Winkler.

NRCS Field Office staff are busy working through the 106 EQIP applications for FY 2022 with a projected estimate of around \$1.5 to \$2 million in potential applications. Our initial NRD EQIP allocation is right at \$289,937 which won't take us very far through our list, however as I have mentioned previously we will have several opportunities to grab additional funds as they become available to us and I will keep you updated on that as we go through March, April and May. We have until May 27th to obligate 95% of our EQIP funding.

The 2022 General CRP sign-up is underway at an FSA office near you! Producers and landowners have until March 11 to enroll their eligible land into CRP.

COVID Update:

As of this week our agency has provided an update to the Covid Dashboard and so far things are trending well in terms of a drop in overall Covid cases within the NRD. Below is a snapshot of what I see from our weekly staffing model. As you can see based upon the counties where each of our 4 field offices are located 3 of the 4 offices are able to operate with 50% of the staff in the office and we are able to now take visitors by appointment. Thurston County case rate is still a little too high therefore the Walthill FO stays at 25% capacity for the remainder of the week.

State	County	Status - 02-07	Avg. Cases / 10,000 - Feb 7	Status - 01-31	Avg. Cases / 10,000 - Jan 31	Status	Change - This Week	% Change - This Week
Nebraska	Burt	50%	7.08	25%	15.04	Cleared	-7.96	-53%
Nebraska	Dakota	50%	7.06	25%	10.56	Cleared	-3.50	-33%
Nebraska	Thurston	25%	10.88	25%	23.93	Previous	-13.05	-55%
Nebraska	Washington	50%	8.27	25%	12.89	Cleared	-4.62	-36%

Lastly I want to update you on some unfortunate news relative to staffing. On Friday January 21 I was presented with a resignation letter from my newest

Resource Conservationist in the Walthill FO, Dirk Schultz. Dirk made the difficult decision to leave the federal workforce and go back to the family farm where he has roughly 350 head of cattle to tend to between his, soon to be retired father and himself. Dirk's last day was Friday January 28th and it was really tough to see him go, however we wish him all the best back on the family farm. I immediately requested to advertise the Resource Conservationist position and have it re-hired as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Andy Bohnenkamp

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