

Blair Field Office Monthly Newsletter

Fourteenth Edition - February 2022

Working Through the Pandemic

Navigating the pandemic in 2021 proved challenging, but Blair NRD staff continued establishing conservation around the county. In Washington County last year, we are happy to report:

- 390 acres of cover crops planted
- 5,350 tree purchased through the NRD and planted by landowners
- 6 communities/organizations awarded a combined total of \$15,009.80 for tree planting projects on public land
- Over 40,000 feet of terraces built using cost-share assistance
- Record-breaking Household Hazardous Waste collection
- 174.97 acres of native grasses and pollinators planted
- 1,150 tree plants by NRD staff
- 5 decommissioned wells successfully abandoned using NRD cost-share funds



Ecological Survey

Windbreak Planting



Pollinator Planting



Recycling Collection



2022 WASHINGTON COUNTY RECYCLING DATES!



May 25th: Electronic Waste Recycling

Blair NRD Office, 1060 Wilbur Street, Blair



August 19th: Tire Recycling Collection

Washington County Fairgrounds, Arlington

More
information
to come in
future
newsletters!

FIX IT, DON'T DISC IT

Flowing water on uneven landscapes leads to natural, depressed channels called ephemeral gullies. These gullies can be reshaped and farmed through, but continued flow leads to the erosion of nutrient-dense topsoil.

Ephemeral gullies can be fixed through conservation practices which protect crop productivity and water quality. "After a small gully has formed in concentrated flow areas, it can be tempting to break out the equipment and work the ground back into shape," said Tom English, Soil Conservationist in Blair. "The problem with this is that it further degrades the structure of the soil and leads to more erosion and more discing. The best solution to fix uncontrolled water is to either control it uphill, or vegetate that area."

Cost-share is available to farmers through the Papio-Missouri River NRD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service Center in Blair. Farmers are encouraged to work with local NRD and NRCS representatives to apply for cost-share funds on the practices pictured below- all of which address ephemeral gully erosion.



Terraces



Cover Crops

For more information, contact the Blair USDA Service Center at (402) 426-4782



Grassed Waterway

Visit the Nebraska NRCS website!
www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov

Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

If you've read the newsletter to this point, then you are up to date on the conservation work that was completed last year. You should also be aware that there are always conservation projects in various stages of completion. There are plenty of opportunities for conservation, from terraces and tree planting to wildlife habitat development and well abandonments.

For those of you that reside or own property in the 319 Papillion Creek Watershed, there are even more and greater opportunities that are beneficial to improving water quality. If you haven't had a chance to visit the bearded guy, known around the office as "Conservation Kyle," then I highly suggest you do so ASAP!

FIELD NOTE



While performing spot checks on projects in Washington County, Soil Conservation Technician Chuck Venditte watched a cattle drive over the county road!

CRP general sign-up will be open from Jan 31st - March 11th!