

BLAIR FIELD OFFICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIFTEENTH EDITION - MARCH 2022

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Terry Cosby spoke to attendees about the importance of conservation in an ever-changing landscape.

The annual conference for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) took place in February. The Papio-Missouri River NRD was represented by Director Tim Fowler and staff member Kalani Fortina.

Speakers at the conference included NRCS Chief Terry Cosby (pictured left), Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning, Ducks Unlimited CEO Adam Putnam, National Conservation Foundation Chairman Brent Van Dyke, among many others.

Breakout sessions ranged from a variety of topics including: tribal outreach, forestry, stewardship, and urban agriculture.

These conferences provide opportunities for deeper discussions with conservation districts across the country.

* * * CRP GENERAL SIGN-UP ENDS MARCH 11TH! * * *

Our habitat partner,
Pheasants Forever, is
holding their annual banquet
March 26th at the
Washington County
Fairgrounds

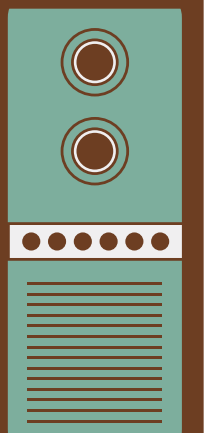


CORRECTION!

Electronic Waste
Recycling will be held

MAY 24TH

from 3-6pm at the Blair
office, 1060 Wilbur Street





Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program



Photo courtesy of Kathy Welsh

Now is a great time to consider applying for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). Through this program, landowners enroll anywhere from 2 to 20 acres in native grasses or pollinator mixes. Contracts are written for 5 years. Landowners receive \$150/acre the first year for establishment, followed by \$50/acre every year after. The WHIP program is very popular among small acreage owners!

Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

I hopped on the computer this morning, after checking cows at 3am, and looked at the grain markets. Corn is up 35 cents and beans are up 80 cents. Corn is over \$7/bushel and beans \$17/bushel. Is this a good thing? The answer is probably yes and no. With oil being over \$100/barrel and the cost of everything else skyrocketing, it looks like a wild ride is in store. Hopefully you have your inputs locked in for the 2022 crop year and the bins full of 2021 crop.

As a natural resources professional, I do have serious concerns about getting conservation on the ground. It is going to be a battle to keep the land that is currently enrolled in CRP on the landscape- let alone getting new CRP sign-ups before the deadline on March 11th. The NRD Field Office Staff "Conservation Sales Team" met in late February to discuss all of the challenges ahead, but rest assured we are ready and able to meet your needs! Is that a key I hear unlocking the doors?! Stay tuned!

Ask the Staff!

WHAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR THE FUTURE?

Tom English,
NRCS Soil Conservationist:

"Seeing more cover crops and diverse cropping systems in the area is something I'm really looking forward to!"

Terry Schumacher,
Land and Water Programs Coordinator:

"I'm most excited about special watershed projects because those conservation practices will be around long after I'm gone."

Kyle Madsen,
319 Watershed Coordinator:

"Buffer strips are always the most exciting to me! There are many different areas in Washington County that could benefit from buffers."

**SEND IN A QUESTION FOR THE
BLAIR STAFF TO ANSWER!
EMAIL KALANI.FORTINA@USDA.GOV**