

BLAIR FIELD OFFICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

eighteenth edition - June 2022



WELCOME ARMANDO ZARCO, PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED COORDINATOR!

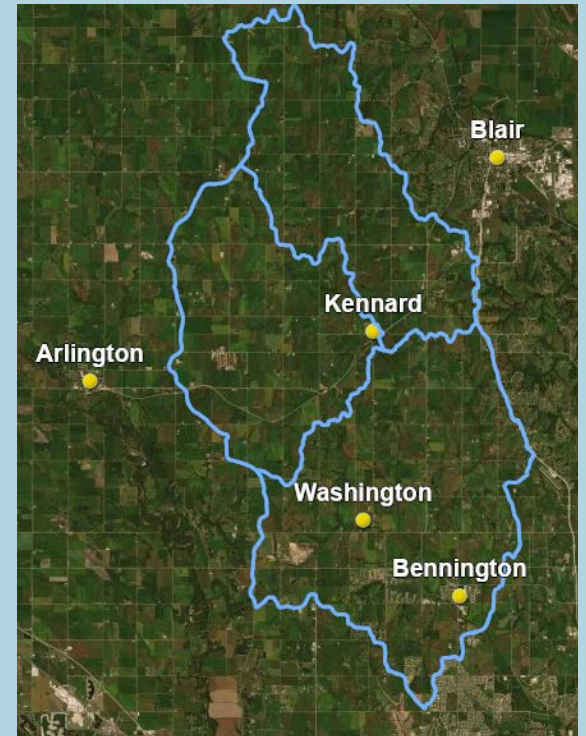


Armando joined the Blair office NRD staff in May as the new 319 Papillion Creek Watershed Coordinator! He holds a BS in Geology with an emphasis in hydrogeology. His previous work experience includes the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas water office.

Armando is currently finishing his research with UNL's Department of Biological Systems Engineering. He has experience working with farmers and stakeholders on water conservation concerns and water quality improvements. Armando has also worked with advisory groups and provided recommendations for policies to state legislation.

As the Watershed Coordinator for the 319 Papillion Creek Watershed, Armando will be working to reverse watershed impairment through the reduction of nutrient, sediment and E. coli loading.

Cost-share incentives are available to landowners within the watershed (pictured right). Examples of conservation practices with extra incentives include: cover crops, buffer strips, waterways, and many others! Stop by the office and Armando would be happy to discuss your options!



The 319 Papillion Creek Watershed encompasses parts of Washington and Douglas counties. Incentives are available to landowners within the watershed for conservation practices that improve water quality.

FORT CALHOUN PLANTS 12 TREES THROUGH CELEBRATE TREES GRANT



The city of Fort Calhoun was awarded a Celebrate Trees Grant in 2022. The Parks Board utilized funding to plant a total of 12 new trees at Pioneer Park and the Fort Calhoun baseball fields.

Celebrate Trees is a grant program administered through the Papio NRD to assist with tree planting on public land for community benefit.

"Adding new tree growth to our aging canopy will keep our parks beautiful for years to come," says Kris Richardson, Ft Calhoun Parks Board President.



E-WASTE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS HELD IN MAY



Electronics recycling collections were held in all four field offices in May. Over 100 loads were brought to the Blair collection to responsibly dispose of computers, televisions, radios, audio/video equipment and small electronic devices.

These collections are a great way to keep electronics out of the waste stream. Funding is provided through the Litter Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

NRD and NRCS employees assisted with the collections as well as volunteers from outside agencies including the City of Blair and Cargill. Thank you to everyone for making these a great success!



Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

Where does the time go? We are beginning the 6th month of 2022 - almost half done with the year! Planting got a slow start with the cool weather in April and rain the first week of May. Once the planters got rolling, it did not take long to get the seed in the soil. Now the checking of your favorite weather app begins, is it going to rain or how severe is the storm going to be?

I know everyone will begin filling out your crop acreage maps and reporting to FSA as well as your crop insurance agent. If you are going to be in the office, stop into the NRD/NRCS side to see what conservation programs are available to you. For many of you, it has probably been a couple of years since you stepped foot in the door. If you have been reading this newsletter regularly, you are aware that there are some new faces in the building that are ready to assist with any conservation needs. There are also one or two seasoned staff members around the office too!

FIELD NOTE



Photo by Jon Hansen

Papio NRD staff have been busy tree planting this Spring. Blair office staff planted over 3,000 trees in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties through the Conservation Tree Program!