

Blair Office Monthly Newsletter

1060 Wilbur Street Blair NE 68008 (402) 426-4782

TWENTIETH EDITION, AUGUST 2022



A Look Back...

Historical imagery located in the Blair office archives show how drastically farming has changed over the decades. These photos demonstrate the importance of conservation practices to address soil and water erosion.

All photos and descriptions courtesy of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.



(Above) "Serious sheet and small gully erosion on approximately 20% slope. Field is planted to corn. Thousands of small eroded places are noticeable, headed from three directions. Photograph was taken a few hours after a 2-inch rain. Douglas County, 1943."



(Above) "Corn which will yield from 40 to 50 bushels per acre. This corn was grown on the contour in a terraced field and is better than average for this community. Douglas County, 1937."

(Left) "Badly eroded gully. Drop inlet gully control structure to be constructed. Gully is approximately 30' deep and 35' wide. Douglas County, 1944." Take note of the person at the very bottom of the gully!



Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,
Land & Water Programs Coordinator

The Monarchs



We aren't talking about King and Queens- we're talking about the beautiful butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). Monarchs have reached the endangered species 'red list' due to habitat loss and pesticide use. Milkweed is essential for the Monarch to continue to survive. When I was a youth walking beans, I remember taking the corn knife and whacking away at many milkweeds. Now, when I am out spot spraying, I keep a close eye for them to avoid accidentally spraying. Something to think about when you are out in the landscape!

It is time to also think about what your intentions are in regard to planting cover crops. If you are in the Papillion Creek 319 Watershed, our Watershed Coordinator, Armando Zarco is a great resource. Mr. Zarco will outline the cover crop program and other best management practice incentives available. Some of these practices will be a great benefit to the survival of the Monarchs.

FIELD NOTE:



Photo by Armando Zarco

A Pollinator Safety Corner, seeded last year, in full bloom. This program makes rural intersections safer by seeding one to three acres of pollinator or short native grasses where crops would normally be planted. Landowners receive 75% cost-share on seeding as well as \$250/acre per year for 5 years. Landowners inside the 319 Papillion Creek Watershed receive an additional \$100/acre annually.

DAMS AND THEIR CONSERVATION IMPACT TO YOU!

By Armando Zarco



Before



After

A dam project, located in Burt County, constructed with the help of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Papio NRD. Photos courtesy of Jon Hansen.

O dam! Do your gullies get washed out? Do you have large amounts of sediment that run off your fields during rain events, taking valuable nutrients from the soil? Would you like to help recharge your local groundwater supply with some surface water storage? Dams on your land have benefits such as reducing gully erosion, trapping sediment, and minimizing nutrient runoff.

You'll be happy to know that the Papio NRD is now offering up to \$50,000 to landowners looking to implement dams (sediment/water retention basins) to their field to address resource concerns. If your property is within the 319 Papillion Creek Watershed, there are additional cost-share options for further conservation practices such as: cover crops, waterways, buffers, terraces, and septic system repairs or upgrades. Swing by our office or give us a call if you are looking to implement these conservation practices on your land!