

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Written Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
Thursday October 13, 2022
Andy Bohnenkamp, District Conservationist**

NRCS is currently taking applications through November 18th for the EQIP and CSP programs for potential funding in 2023. A wide variety of practices are included with each program some examples include, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Terrace systems, Livestock pipelines, tanks and fences. New for EQIP this year we will have a Small-Scale Ag operation and High Tunnel initiative which will set aside a specific allocation of money to prioritize and fund Urban Ag projects and seasonal high tunnels.

Harvest is well underway throughout the district and well ahead of schedule too, which in a normal year would be great news for our field staff working on construction projects, however its not a normal year, thanks to the drought! Our technicians are currently checking each project site for adequate soil moisture to ensure proper compacted fill for structures like terraces, diversions, sediment basins. We are currently planning to work with producers who have contracts set-up to complete construction this fall and re-schedule practices to next year due to the drought. So please continue to pray for rain for a host of reasons, but not the least of which so we can complete at least a few conservation projects this year!

Staffing update: We continue to see good news on the staffing front throughout the state for NRCS, but also here at home in the Papio-NRD. The Blair FO has been selected to hire a NRCS Pathways intern - starting the summer of 2023. A Pathways Soil Conservationist is much like a college level intern in the private sector, additionally our pathways interns are given the opportunity to be hired-on at the end of their term to a position within Nebraska NRCS. This is a great developmental-type position that allows the individual to see if a career with NRCS is right for them and obtain some very crucial job experience at the same time.

I hope to see you all next month in-person.

Respectfully Submitted

Andy Bohnenkamp
P-MRNRD District Conservationist



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