

# Blair Field Office Monthly Newsletter

23rd Edition - November 2022

## ROLLER CRIMPER PRESENTS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Armando Zarco, Papillion Creek Watershed Coordinator

If you planted cover crops this fall and would like to save some money next spring and improve your soil quality on your fields, a Roller Crimper might be the way to go. A Roller Crimper is an alternative option to terminate cover crops without costly herbicides or tillage in the spring. By crimping cover crops and rolling them over like a blanket on a field, it can improve weed suppression and reduce moisture evaporation from the soil. In a nutshell, it can be a win-win scenario.



Don't want to spend thousands of dollars to try out a new piece of equipment? Well you are in luck! You'll be happy to know that with the assistance of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), the Papio NRD has placed an order for a 31-foot Roller Crimper, which should be delivered this Fall. It will be available for local farmers to rent at very little cost.



Be on the lookout! We'll be providing further details early next year on how to go about renting this Roller Crimper. You don't have to do your entire field - maybe give it a try on a few acres and make your own judgement. It might just be something worth investing for the future. Call Armando Zarco with any questions, (402) 350-3695.



Photos Courtesy of Thomas Hennig

**REMINDER: NOVEMBER 18TH IS THE LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR EQIP 2023 FUNDS!  
CALL THE BLAIR OFFICE AT (402)426-4782 FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

# Tribute - Terry's

A Word from Terry Schumacher,  
Land & Water Programs Coordinator



The month of November typically means turkey (and all of the fixings), spending time with family (good or bad!), and wrapping up harvest.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I am not going to beat you up about soil and water conservation or habitat development. I'm pretty sure I do that on a monthly basis and there is always next month! What I do want to note is that there appears to be a plethora of federal dollars available for various programs if one would have a need or interest.

Enjoy your turkey or whatever is on your table this Thanksgiving. Give thanks to what you have and try not to worry about what you don't. Cheers!

## ORDER FORMS FOR THE 2023 CONSERVATION TREE PROGRAM ARE EXPECTED IN LATE NOVEMBER!

### CALL (402) 426-4782 TO BE PLACED ON THE LIST TO RECEIVE AN ORDER FORM!

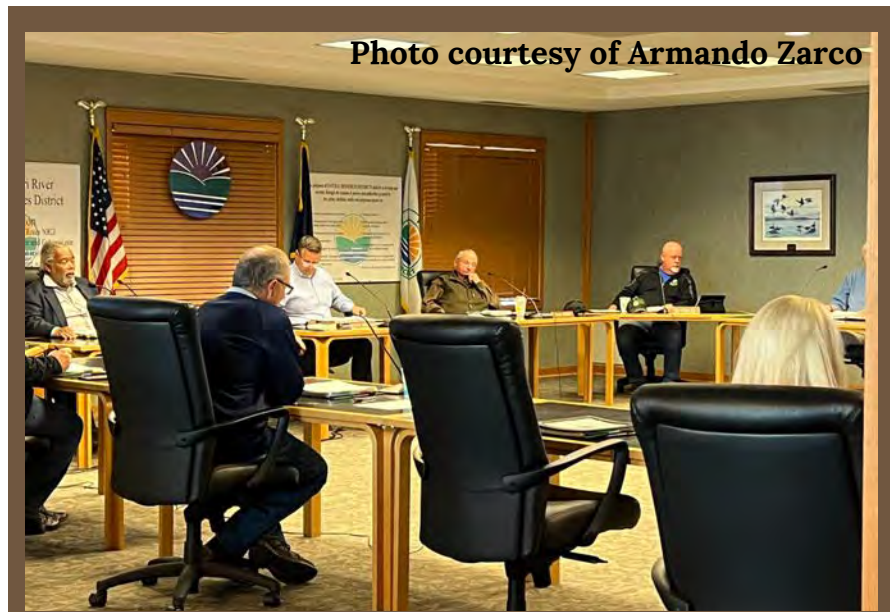


Photo courtesy of Armando Zarco

*The Papio NRD Board of Directors meets at the Papio NRD headquarters in Chalco Hills every second Thursday of the month. In October, the Board selected Josh Henningsen to fill the Subdistrict 7 vacancy following Danny Begley's resignation.*

## "LEAVE THE LEAVES"



Many people spend time in the garden during the spring and summer, tending to plants that benefit pollinators throughout the warm months. We can also help insects and other pollinators simply by 'leaving the leaves' in the fall. Many insects utilize fallen leaves as habitat to safely overwinter. Spiders, snails, beetles, and many others rely on 'leaf litter' to make it through the cold. Certain species of bumblebees even burrow in to hibernate over the winter. Some species of butterflies and moths use leaf litter as a safe play to lay their eggs. By blowing or mowing leaves in the fall, we can unintentionally be harming the next generation of beneficial pollinators.

According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, it's best to carefully rake fallen leaves, leaving them whole, and use them as mulch over flower beds, vegetable gardens, and around trees and shrubs. By 'leaving the leaves,' we're able to benefit the soil, insects, and overall ecosystem of our yards!