

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Written Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
Thursday October 12, 2023
Andy Bohnenkamp, Interim District Conservationist

NRCS is currently taking applications through November 17th for EQIP-IRA, CSP-IRA, ACEP IRA, EQIP and CSP programs for potential funding in 2024. A wide variety of practices are included with each program some examples include, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Terrace systems, Livestock pipelines, tanks and fences and prescribed grazing just to name a few.

As you know NRCS Nebraska is expecting a huge increase in funds to allocate this year for IRA and General EQIP. We are making a push to expand and improve on outreach and producer engagement. One new idea we are going to employ is a success story from each NRD in the state. I have directed each of our field offices to submit one success story from their office. NRCS would like to highlight a producer that we have worked with who will talk about how NRCS helped them attain their conservation goals. The producer's personal conservation story and interview with photos will be posted to our Nebraska NRCS website. If Papio has a producer success story selected to be featured, we will be sure to update you and provide that story.

Dry conditions continue to persist throughout much of the district especially the north half. Harvest is well-ahead of schedule and NRCS technicians and NRD Field Reps are out checking soil moisture, as we get rain, to give the green light on structural conservation practice projects where adequate soil moisture is needed for compaction. We are in desperate need of rain so that our customers can complete terrace projects this fall. We are way behind on these projects since last year proved to be a bust and we will have more contracts to approve this year. So please pray for more rain!

Staffing update: The new DC position has closed, interviews have been conducted and a selection is pending. As of 10/6/23 the day this report was written we did not have an official selection. I was really hoping that I could announce the new DC at this meeting but it just didn't work-out. Expect to get word in the next few weeks about that and maybe meet the new DC at the November Board meeting. I will be serving as the interim-DC in the meantime.

We are still searching for Soil Conservation Technicians in Blair and Tekamah to replace the two that were promoted to Soil Conservationists. It sounds like we will

continue to advertise these positions until we get candidates to fill them, which is good news! Thankfully we averted a Federal government shutdown so that we can continue to move forward with our mission. That's all for now.

Respectfully Submitted

Andy Bohnenkamp
P-MRNRD District Conservationist



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