

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
April 11, 2024**

PERSONNEL:

- Grant Kubie is our new contract technician in the Blair field office. Grant started April 1. He is a native to Blair and brings a lot of practical farming background to the position which we appreciate. He's already been out to help stake some new terrace projects, potential dams and grad stabilization structures, as well as a CSP site visit. Welcome, Grant!
- We held interviews for the contract technician position in Tekamah on April 4, and hope to have good news to share with you at the next meeting about a new employee there!
- I've received a panel for the Pheasants Forever biologist position in Tekamah and hope to be helping conduct interviews for that position the week of April 15th.
- Super excited to be close to almost fully staffed again!

ACTIVITIES/Trainings :

- We had Local Work Group meeting in the Blair field office on March 20. We reviewed our local priority resource concerns, ranking pools, and edits to common conservation practices. Thank you to board member Ted Japp for joining us and engaging in the discussion.
- A few staff attended in-field Cropland Inventory and Evaluation training near Snyder, NE. on April 2. This was led by Andy Bohnenkamp and gave attendees instruction on how to assess and plan conservation practices on cropland.
- I plan to attend the upcoming "Natural Resources Conservation Connecting Points" Workshop to be held at Mahoney State Park on August 10.

PROGRAMS: We continue to accept EQIP and CSP applications on a continuous basis. EQIP IRA obligations are essentially obligated for the NRD. Staff have been working hard at getting this monumental task completed. We continue to work on CSP IRA as well as ranking and assessing our general EQIP and CSP applications.

**Continuous CRP signup announced- Currently underway and will run until July 31
Grassland CRP Signup April 29 – May 24, 2024**

That's all for this month. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share with you what the NRCS staff have been up to!

Respectfully Submitted,

***Kristin Schlueter
P-MRNRD District Conservationist***