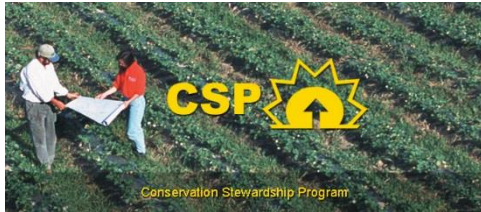


**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
July 14, 2016
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



\$150 Million for Producers to Improve Working Lands through Conservation Stewardship Program

NRCS is making available \$150 million for agricultural producers through the Conservation Stewardship Program in fiscal year 2016, which will add an estimated 10 million acres to the rolls of USDA's largest conservation program.

Below are some of the enhancements that producers are considering within counties located within the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

Air Quality Enhancements

- AIR04 Use drift reducing nozzles low pressures lower boom height and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift
- AIR07 GPS targeted spray application or other chemical application electronic control technology

Animal Enhancements

- ANM27 Wildlife friendly fencing
- ANM34 Leave standing grain crops unharvested to benefit wildlife

Plant Enhancements

- PLT15 Pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat

Soil Quality Enhancements

- SQL04 Use of cover crop mixes

Water Quality Enhancements

- WQL04 Plant tissue testing and analysis to improve management
- WQL05 Apply nutrients no more than 30 days prior to planned planting date
- WQL07 Split N applications 50 percent after the emergence green up
- WQL32 Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer



USDA Announces \$49 Million Public-Private Investment to Improve Critical Wetland in 12 States

2016 Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership Projects *Nebraska's Playa Wetlands; Working for Producers, Migratory Birds, & the Ogallala Aquifer*

Despite the extensive wetland drainage throughout the Rainwater Basin and Central Table Playa Wetland Complex, many historic wetlands intermittently pond water during the cropping season. As a result, these cropped wetlands are often subject to diminished profitability. Landowners and farm operators are the first to recognize when wetland conversion attempts have failed, and the need for viable economic alternatives for these acres. Restoration of these 900 acres of playa wetlands and associated upland buffer will create a win-win situation for producers, migratory birds, resident wildlife, as well as the citizens of rural communities. These wetland restorations are also expected to address seven of Nebraska NRCS's State Resource concern priorities, such as soil erosion and water quality.

Lead Partner: Nebraska Game and Parks

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$3,251,300

Proposed Partner Investment: \$573,750



Michael Bernhardt, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist) joined the Blair staff on June 13. Michael is attending UNO pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies – Earth Science.



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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.