

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



WHATS HAPPENING IN THE PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD

NRCS staff are working with local landowners to get contracts written and obligated in several USDA programs.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Papio-Missouri River NRD was allocated \$315,118 dollars for local fund pools. 15 applications have been preapproved. Contract are being written for terrace systems, cover crops, windbreak renovations and pasture improvements.

In addition to the local funds, 7 applications have been approved within area and state fund pools. Total funds allocated is \$161,912 dollars. Area funds preapproved are for terrace systems for Beginning Farmers/Ranchers. State funds preapproved are for High Tunnels.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

High rental rates has made CRP very attractive to landowners in the NRD. NRCS has received 181 continuous CRP applications. This does not include the applications that are anticipated for the General CRP sign-up that ended in February.

Participants have been signing up for shelterbelt establishment, grassed waterways, pollinator habitat, wetland restorations, filter strips, habitat buffer for upland birds, SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) and seeding on highly erodible cropland.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStwP)

Two applications were obligated this year. We have 8 participants that have requested to renew their CStwP contracts that expire this year. Contracts are for 5 years. The maximum a participant can earn in CStwP is \$40,000 annually. How much a participant can earn depends are number of enhancements the participant is willing to do and how many acres they do the enhancement on.



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