

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
December 10, 2015
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



USDA announces \$350 million available to help states, private partners protect and restore grasslands, wetlands, and working lands.

NRCS is making \$350 million in financial and technical assistance available to help landowners protect and restore key farmlands, grasslands and wetlands across the nation. The funding is provided through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which was created in the 2014 Farm Bill to protect critical wetlands and encourage landowners to keep lands in farming and ranching.

Agricultural Land Easements

ACEP's agricultural land easements not only protect the long-term viability of the nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses, they also support environmental quality, wildlife habitat, historic preservation and protection of open spaces. Native American Tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs are eligible to partner with NRCS to purchase conservation easements.

Wetland Reserve Easements

Wetland reserve easements allow landowners to successfully restore, enhance and protect habitat for wildlife on their lands, reduce damage from flooding, recharge groundwater and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. Tribal landowners also have the option of enrolling in 30-year contracts.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership

The 2014 Farm Bill replaced the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program with the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership as an enrollment option under ACEP – WRE. WREP continues to be a voluntary program through which NRCS signs agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat. The Rainwater Basin Joint Venture was recently awarded \$1.7 million for their project located in south central Nebraska.

To learn about ACEP and other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or your local USDA Service Center.

GENERAL CRP INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Pheasants Forever along with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Farm Service Agency and NRCS will be hosting 56 landowner meetings around the state to help promote the CRP signup being held from December 1 through February 26.

CRP Informational Meetings

General CRP Signup
Dec. 1st -Feb. 26th

A series of informational meetings will be held across the state concerning the Conservation Reserve Program.

Soil rental rates have increased significantly in some areas. Learn of these new rates and all your conservation program options.



Antelope County UNL Extension Service 501 Main St. Suite 98 Neligh January 14 7:00-9:00pm CST	Boone County Cornerstone Bank 240 S 3rd. St. Albion January 5 7:00-9:00pm CST	Box Butte County Alliance Public Library 1750 Sweetwater Ave. Alliance January 7 11:00-2:00 MST	Buffalo County Community Building 301 Alba Ave. Ravenna January 19 12:00-2:00pm CST	Buffalo County Community Building 110 N Main St. Amherst January 21 12:00-2:00pm CST	Burt County 1st National Bank Northeast 448 South 13th St. Tekamah January 5 12:00-1:30pm CST	Burt County City Auditorium (Rosen Rm.) 401 N. Oakland Ave. Oakland January 7 6:00-8:00pm CST	Butler County Hruska Memorial Public Library 399 5th Street David City January 7 1:00-2:30pm CST
Cedar County Auditorium 101 N. Broadway Hartington January 7 12:00-02:00pm CST	Chase County MPCC Ext. Campus 1324 Broadway Street Imperial December 3 11:00-1:00 MST	Cheyenne County South Platte NRD 551 Parkland Drive Sidney January 13 11:00-2:00 MST	Clay County Extension Office 322 Grant Ave. Clay Center January 13 7:00-9:00pm CST	Colfax County Schuyler Golf Club 295 Higgins Drive Schuyler January 13 1:00-2:30pm CST	Cuming County Pizza Ranch 245 S Main Street West Point January 14 1:00-2:30pm CST	Custer County Mid-Plains Community College 2520 South E Street Broken Bow January 20 12:00-2:00pm CST	Dawes County Country Kitchen 1250 10th St W Chadron January 8 11:00-2:00 MST
Dixon County Ponca State Park 88090 Spur 26E Ponca January 7 6:00-8:00pm CST	Dodge County Veterans of Foreign Wars 108 N Main Street Hooper January 12 1:00-2:30pm CST	Douglas/Sarpy County Pawnee-Missouri River NRD 901 S. 154 Street Omaha January 13 12:00-1:30pm CST	Dundy County Farm Bureau Office 1303 A Street Benkelman December 2 11:00-1:00 MST	Franklin County Franklin Country Club Hwy 136 Franklin January 7 11:30-1:30 CST	Frontier County Ag Valley Coop 202 W. 2nd St Curtis January 11 9:30-11:00am CST	Furnas County Community Center 722 Patterson St Cambridge January 11 1:00-3:00pm CST	Harlan County Johnson Center 509 Main St Alma January 6 12:00-2:00pm CST
Hayes County American Legion Hall 73297 Ave 369 Hayes Center January 13 6:00-7:30pm CST	Hitchcock County USDA Service Center 36465 US HWY 34 Trenton January 6 3:00-4:30pm CST	Holt County UNL Extension Service 128 N. 6th St. Suite 100 O'Neill January 6 3:00-5:00pm CST	Howard County The Gathering Place 612 Howard Ave. St. Paul January 7 5:30-7:30pm CST	Jefferson County Union Bank 1313 K St Fairbury January 6 7:00-9:00pm CST	Johnson County Nemaha NRD 62161 US-136 Tecumseh January 21 1:30-3:00pm CST	Kearney County USDA Service Center 1005 S Brown Ave Minden January 12 12:00-1:30pm CST	Keith County ESU 16 Building 3145 W 1st St. Ogallala January 5 5:30-8:00pm MST
Kimball County Eagles Club 218 S Chestnut St. Kimball November 17 7:00-11:00am MST	Knox County Community Center 101 S. Broadway Bloomfield January 13 10:00-12:00am CST	Lancaster County UNL Extension 444 Cherycreek Rd Lincoln January 28 5:30 - 7:00pm CST	Lincoln County Wallace VFD 118 N Commercial Ave Wallace January 4 5:30-8:00pm CST	Lincoln County UNL Extension - WCREC Auditorium 348 E State Farm Rd North Platte January 12 5:30-8:00pm CST	Logan County Community Center 236 Main St. Stapleton January 7 5:30-8:00pm CST	Madison County Lifelong Learning Center-Northeast Community College 801 E. Benjamin Ave Norfolk January 5 12:00-3:00pm CST	Merrick County Merrick Foundation 1530 17th Ave Central City January 20 3:00-5:00pm CST
Morrill County USDA Service Center 902 Main St. Bridgeport January 12 11:00-2:00 MST	Nuckolls County Community Center 333 S Main Street Nelson January 6 12:00-2:00pm CST	Pawnee County Pawnee City Library 735 8th St Pawnee City January 20 1:30-3:00pm CST	Perkins County USDA Service Center 927 Central Ave Grant December 8 9:00-11:00am MST	Red Willow County 4H Building 1412 West 5th Street McCook January 12 6:00-7:30pm CST	Richardson County Location TBD Falls City January 12 1:30-3:00pm CST	Saunders County Lower Platte North NRD 511 Commercial Park Road, Wahoo January 12 7:00-8:30pm CST	Scottsbluff County North Platte NRD 100547 Airport Road Scottsbluff January 6 1:30-3:30pm MST
Seward County Cattle National Bank & Trust 104 S 5th Street Seward January 7 7:00-8:30pm CST	Sheridan County Legion Club 206 Sprague Street Rushville January 5 11:00-2:00 MST	Thayer County Statsney Community Center 1350 Dove Rd Hebron January 11 7:00-9:00pm CST	Valley County Lower Loup NRD 2620 Airport Drive Ord January 21 5:30-7:00pm CST	Washington County USDA Service Center 1060 Wilbur Street Blair January 11 12:00-1:30pm CST	Wayne County The Max 109 Main St. Wayne January 13 6:00-8:00pm CST	Webster County Community Senior Center 555 W Gage St. Blue Hill January 13 11:00-1:00 CST	Wheeler County Fairgrounds Bartlett January 12 3:00-5:00pm CST

Plan to attend if you have an interest in learning more about how conservation programs can work to increase income on your farm or ranch. Additional cost-share incentives may exist in some areas.

Free meal may be included. Please contact your local USDA office to RSVP and speak with a local Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. Visit www.NebraskaPF.com or www.CRPsignup.com for more information.




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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.