

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
February 14, 2013  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**DRAINING WETLANDS COULD COST  
PRODUCERS USDA PROGRAM BENEFITS**

Since the 1985 Farm Bill was passed, there have been provisions in place to protect wetlands and highly erodible cropland. Farming a wetland under natural conditions is not a violation. However, Draining, tiling, altering or filling a wetland for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity causes the farmer to become ineligible for USDA program benefits.

If you have a wet area which you're considering altering, come in and talk to the NRCS staff. We can do a wetland determination to know if that area is a wetland or not and keep you in compliance. The ramifications of altering wetlands can be significant in terms of the potential for losing USDA financial assistance and also in the amount of time that it takes to resolve unapproved alterations.



**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM:  
AN ALTERNATIVE TO DRAINING  
WETLANDS**

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore wetlands. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. Easements and restoration cost-share agreements establish wetland protection and restoration as the primary land use for the duration of the easement or agreement. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land.

## FEBRUARY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

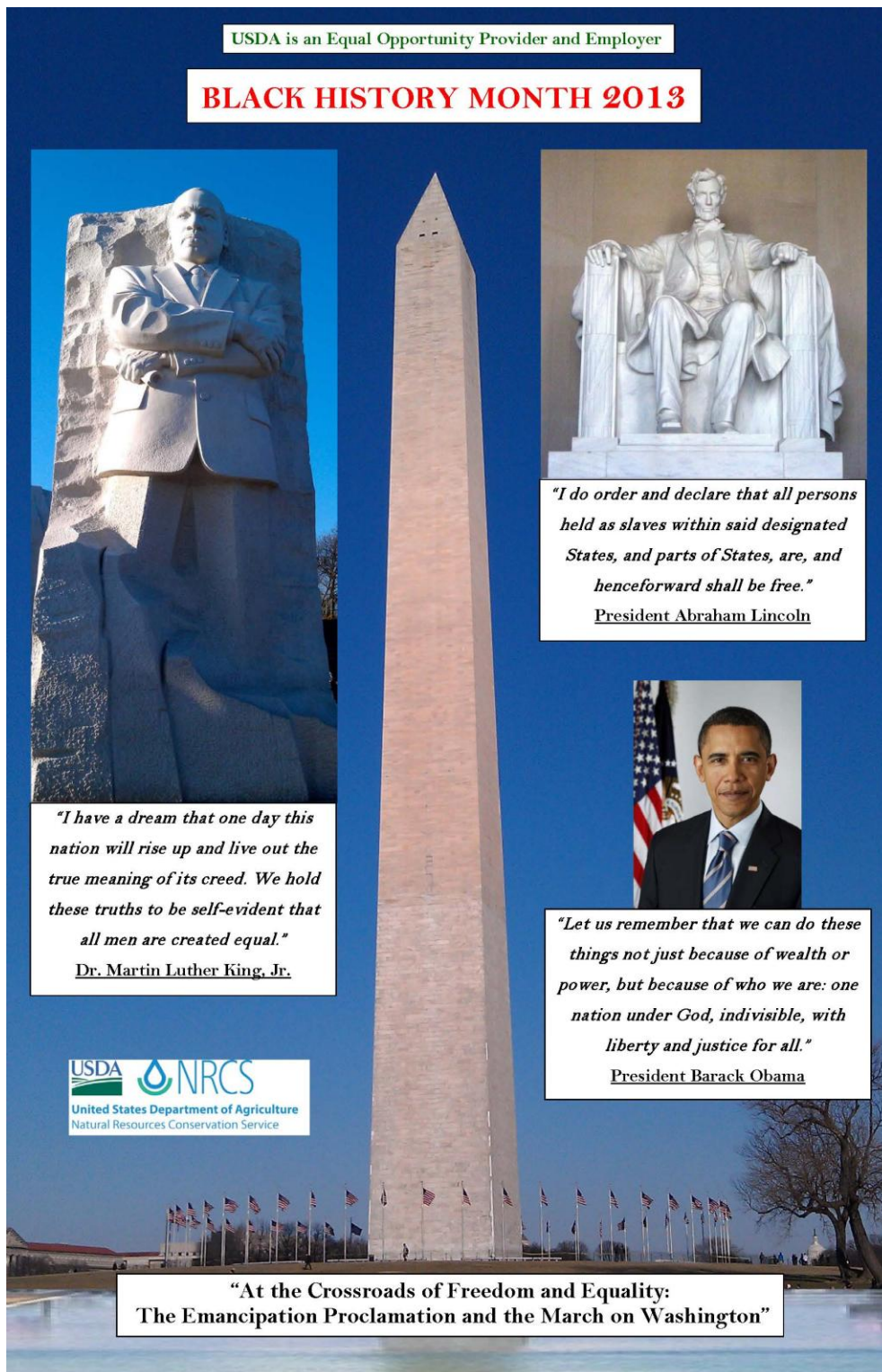
### *At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington*

1863 – President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation

1963 – Historic March on Washington


USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2013**




*"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."*  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free."*  
President Abraham Lincoln



*"Let us remember that we can do these things not just because of wealth or power, but because of who we are: one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*  
President Barack Obama

  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**"At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality:  
The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington"**



---

## USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.