

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
January 9, 2014
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



Time Still Available to Sign Up for EQIP Funds

Farmers and ranchers interested in soil, water and wildlife conservation are encouraged to sign up now for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Individuals interested in entering into an EQIP agreement may file an application at any time; however, there is a second round application ranking cutoff date of January 17, 2014.

Initial EQIP Applications Show Strong Interest by Landowners

NRCS offices within the Papio-Missouri River NRD received 90 applications with an estimated cost of practice installation around 2 million dollars.



USDA extends Deadline for Conservation Stewardship Applications

The deadline for new enrollments in the Conservation Stewardship Program for fiscal 2014 has been extended to Feb. 7, making it possible for more farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to apply for this important Farm Bill conservation program.

The program emphasizes conservation performance — producers earn higher payments for higher performance. In CSP, producers install conservation enhancements to make positive changes in soil quality, soil erosion, water quality, water quantity, air quality, plant resources, animal resources and energy use.

While local NRCS offices accept CSP applications year round, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for this year's enrollment, producers must have their applications submitted to NRCS by the closing date.



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