

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
June 11, 2015
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**Conservation Reserve Program General Signup
Announced**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will accept new offers to participate in CRP under a general signup to be held Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016.

- Eligible existing program participants with contracts expiring Sept. 30, 2015, will be granted an option for one-year extensions.
- Farmers and ranchers interested in removing sensitive land from agricultural production and planting grasses or trees to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat are encouraged to enroll.

The voluntary Conservation Reserve Program allows USDA to contract with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive land is conserved. Participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider the various CRP continuous sign-up initiatives that may help target specific resource concerns.

- Examples of practices are conservation buffers and pollinator habitat plantings.
- Initiatives include the highly erodible lands, bottomland hardwood tree and longleaf pine.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the enrollment of grasslands in CRP and information on grasslands enrollment will be available after the regulation is published later this summer.

For more information about CRP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation, or contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Conservation Client Gateway Offers a New Way to Work with NRCS



Conservation Client Gateway is a USDA public website that allows individual landowners and land users the secure ability to request conservation technical and financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Conservation Client Gateway provides users the alternative to

work with NRCS via the Internet as a supplement to in-person support. All you need to get started is a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account and a Service Center Information Management Systems (SCIMS) record linked to your eAuthentication account.

See more about Client Gateway at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>

Community Garden Receives Support from NRCS



No More Empty Pots, Universal College of Healing Arts and Crayon Castle are partnering to develop a community garden in Florence.



Additional EQIP Funds Received

An additional \$73,000 was received in the Papio-Missouri River NRD to assist farmers and ranchers install conservation practices on cropland.



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