

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
September 8, 2011  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**Nebraska Forestry Special Initiative through EQIP**

Nebraska landowners have a new opportunity to improve their existing woodlands, or to plant trees for conservation purposes, through the Nebraska Forestry Special Initiative administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This Initiative helps qualifying landowners' plant trees and shrubs or improves existing woodlands for multiple benefits including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, energy conservation, wood products, crop and livestock protection, carbon sequestration, recreation opportunities, and other conservation benefits.



**Eligible Practices**

The Forestry Special Initiative provides incentives for planting and/or managing forest resources. Special emphasis will be placed on practices that improve existing woodlands.

Applicable practices include:

- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment,
- Tree/Shrub Establishment,
- Riparian Forest Buffers,
- Windbreak Renovation,
- Tree/Shrub Pruning,
- Forest Stand Improvement,
- Prescribed Burning,
- Fencing,
- Restoration or Management of Rare or Declining Habitats, and
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.



## **Web Soil Survey – Simple Yet Powerful Way to Access and Use Soil Data**

Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. Web Soil Survey can be accessed at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>.



## **Lady Landowner Meeting a Success**

Tim Lemmons, UN-L Extension Educator at Norfolk, presents information about lease agreements to a group attending the third Lady Landowner meeting held at the USDA Service and Natural

Resource Center in Dakota City. Topics included information about agricultural conservation practices, cost-share programs, wildlife habitat, lease agreements, special watershed projects, forestry and other informative items. Speakers at the event featured representatives from the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension.



## **Staffing Updates**

Dan Gudenkauf has accepted the Soil Conservation Technician position in Tekamah. He will start September 12.

Molly Wilmes and Jon Krause have been hired as survey aids in the Walthill and Dakota City field offices, respectively. These are part time positions.

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