

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
July 10, 2014
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



**NRCS ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK
PRODUCERS IMPACTED BY JUNE TORNADOES**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced assistance is available for producers who suffered livestock mortality losses from the tornadoes that struck northeast Nebraska earlier this week. Craig Derickson, NRCS State Conservationist said that \$100,000 in assistance is now available to help producers properly dispose of animal carcasses. Impacted producers have until July 18, 2014, to apply.

This assistance is available through a special Livestock Mortality Initiative through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This Initiative is currently available to producers in Stanton, Wayne, Dixon, Thurston, Cuming and Cedar counties in northeast Nebraska. If additional severe storm events occur prior to the July 18 application deadline, more counties can be included in the sign up eligibility area.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

**STORM DAMAGE COVER CROP INITIATIVE
AVAILABLE TO REESTABLISH COVER ON
FIELDS**

Producers that have experienced crop and residue loss in the 2014 growing season due to weather and storms throughout Nebraska are encouraged to apply for EQIP assistance to establish cover crops on eligible fields. The Storm Damage Cover Crop Initiative is available to producers who suffered vegetative cover losses due to drought, floods, tornado, hail, and high winds.

Application cutoff date for the Storm Damage Cover Crop Initiative is August 15, 2014.

This initiative will assist producers to re-establish residue lost due to extreme weather conditions needed to protect the soil from water and wind erosion.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

FIRST PARTICIPANTS IN CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM CAN RENEW FOR FIVE MORE YEARS

Producers with expiring U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts have until Sept. 12, 2014 to renew and add conservation activities that will support their natural resource improvement activities and fine-tune their conservation plans.

Several CSP contracts in the Papio-Missouri River NRD are reaching the end of their initial five-year contract period and may be renewed for an additional five years when participants agree to take additional conservation actions.

The program provides opportunities for farmers and ranchers who are already established conservation stewards, helping them improve water quality and quantity, soil health and wildlife habitat.

There will also be another signup in fiscal year 2015.



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