

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
June 10, 2010
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**



Conservation Stewardship Program Extended

Landowners now have until **June 25, 2010** to apply for the next ranking and funding period for the Conservation Stewardship Program. The final rule for CSP has also been issued. Changes expand access, increase payment limits, and promote greater environmental benefit while maintaining program goals.

An "**Enhancement**" is a conservation activity used to treat natural resources and greatly improve conservation performance. Enhancements are installed at a level of management intensity which exceeds the *sustainable level* for a given *resource concern*.

A "**Bundle**" is a group of specific enhancements which when installed as a group, addresses resource concerns synergetically.

Energy Enhancement Activity – *Pumping Plant Powered by Renewable Energy*



Enhancement Description

This enhancement requires the use of renewable energy - solar or wind - to power pumping plants for irrigation, drainage, livestock watering, or wildlife.

Benefits

The advantages of using solar or wind resources to power water pumps include conservation of fossil fuels, the reduction of the use of chemical fluids such as oils and coolants, and the reduction of air pollutants such as greenhouse gases caused by the combustion of fossil fuels commonly used to power most pumping systems.

Staffing Changes

Blaine Gaer, Soil Conservation Technician, Walthill Field Office retired May 31.

Vern Dean, Soil Conservation Technician, Dakota City Field Office will be reassigned to the Walthill Field Office, starting June 21.

Jeremy Bowers, Resource Conservationist, Tekamah Field Office has accepted a position in the Lincoln State Office.

Chuck Leinen Providing Assistance in Tennessee

Chuck Leinen, Civil Engineer, Omaha Field Office, has been detailed to Tennessee to help with the Emergency Watershed Program exigency work resulting from the recent widespread flooding in Tennessee.

Chuck left for Tennessee on June 7. He is initially detailed for 30 days.

On May 1-2, 2010, two-thirds of Tennessee's 95 counties experienced an unprecedented amount of rainfall. The rain is now being accurately described as a 1,000-year storm event. In many locations, rainfall totals exceeded 18 inches in just 36 hours. The effects have been devastating on human life and property as well as natural resources.

Urgent requests have already come in from numerous counties seeking NRCS help with debris removal from creeks. There are concerns about the integrity of numerous PL-566 watershed structures throughout middle and west Tennessee. Most of these dams are approaching the end of their 50-year lifespan. Assessments are ongoing, but it is believed significant resources will be needed to make these structures safe.

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