

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Report To  
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board  
June 9, 2016  
Neil Jensen, District Conservationist**

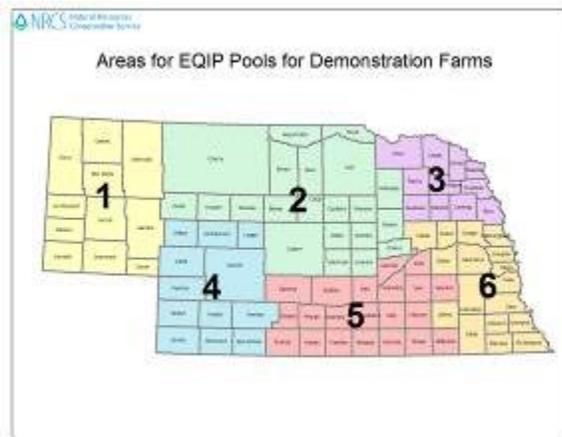


**USDA INITIATIVE WILL CREATE STATEWIDE DEMONSTRATION FARMS.**

*Farmers encouraged to apply for funding to establish demonstration farms to test soil health practices.*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is establishing a soil health initiative in Nebraska. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will lead a state-wide effort to enhance the adoption of soil health management systems through the Soil Health Demonstration Farms Initiative.

This initiative will establish 12 demonstration farms across the state to showcase soil health practices and related cropping system comparisons. Landowners interested in applying for funding to establish a soil health demonstration farm should submit their application to NRCS by June 17, 2016.



According to NRCS, the purpose of this initiative is to demonstrate soil health management systems applicable to various regions of Nebraska. The goal is to establish two demonstration farms per region (see map).

Producers approved under this initiative will be compensated for conducting strip trials of various cover crops, crop rotations, and management techniques. Producers will

receive \$121 per acre, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year, to conduct these strip trials, host field days, etc.

NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will be used to fund this initiative. Producers selected can receive this EQIP funding for 3-5 years.

For more information on the Soil Health Demonstration Farms Initiative, visit NRCS at the USDA Service Center or [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov).



## **RARE SIGHTING OF LUNA MOTH (*Actias luna*) BY NEIL JENSEN IN BLAIR**

*One of the largest moths in North America.*

Although rarely seen due to their very brief (1 week) adult lives, luna moths are considered common. As with all Saturniidae, the adults do not eat or have mouths. They emerge as adults solely to mate, and as such, only live approximately one week. They are more commonly seen at night. (From Wikipedia)



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