Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report To Papio-Missouri River NRD Board February 14, 2008 Verlon Barnes, District Conservationist

A. EQIP Status in the PMR:

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program or EQIP is a program that provides practice payment incentives to agricultural producers to implement and maintain conservation practices. We have 3 EQIP funding categories in the PMR:

1) EQIP - General

Initial Allocation = \$255,000

Current Allocation = \$464,531

- 36 Contracts have been Approved for \$446,488
- 4 Contracts are Pending Approval for \$30,350
- 73 Remaining Applications for \$1,200,000 are awaiting more funds to be allocated

2) EQIP - Animal Feeding Operations (AFO)

Initial Allocation = \$300,000

Current Allocation = \$208,640

- 1 Contract has been Approved for \$108,640
- 1 Contract is Pending for \$100,000
- 1 Application was Cancelled.

3) EQIP - Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC)

Initial Allocation = \$51,000

Current Allocation = \$30,000

- 2 Contracts Pending Approval for \$63,000
- 2 Remaining Applications for \$19,900

B. Farm Bill is still Pending:

A new Farm Bill is still pending. The Continuing Resolution that we are currently working under will expire March 15, 2008. NRCS in Nebraska is having to work under some very tight fiscal constraints through at least March 15, 2008.