

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST’S MONTHLY REPORT

4/9/2026

PERSONNEL/OFFICE

- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.
- NWTf eliminated the NRCS Partner Forester positions across the US, including in the Lincoln FO. Fortunately, we were able to keep Zack on as a contract employee.

Lincoln Field Office (Lancaster Co) Staff	
District Conservationist	Tom Cowan
Resource Conservationist	VACANT as of 11/2024
Soil Conservationist	VACANT as of 12/2025
Soil Conservation Tech.	VACANT as of 10/2024
Program Assistant	Rebecca Wusk
LPSNRD District Secretary	Connie Hansen
LPSNRD Resources Tech.	John Albert
LPSNRD Resources Tech.	Bridget McKinley
PF Farm Bill Biologist	John McClinton
Contract Employee	Zack Zimmerman

Weeping Water Field Office (Cass Co) Staff	
Resource Conservationist	Devin Heusinkvelt
Soil Conservationist	VACANT as of 10/2024
Soil Conservation Tech.	James Conradi
LPSNRD District Secretary	Shelly Nielsen
LPSNRD Resources Tech.	Lesli Lair

LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT

- Weather and moisture conditions continue to allow construction.
- Technicians and planning staff are:
 - Processing cost-share program projects (survey, design, staking, field visits, check out, documentation, and payment processing).
 - Actively communicating with producers/landowners about cost-share program opportunities
- LPSNRD currently has the following active or completed land treatment cost-share program applications:
 - Lancaster County Field Office
 - 4 Fall 2025 Structural Applications (1 cancelled)
 - 12 Fall 2025 Cover Crop Applications
 - Cass County Field Office
 - 20 Fall 2025 Structural Applications (6 cancelled)
 - 1 Fall 2025 Cover Crop Application (cancelled)
 - 2 Summer 2026 Structural Applications
 - 2 Fall 2026 Structural Applications

USDA PROGRAMS

- Planning staff are assessing FY26 USDA program applications and preparing contract documents for applications selected for funding.

UPCOMING/CURRENT EVENTS

- 2/12/26 – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment opened
- 3/9/26 - 4/17/26 – General CRP enrollment open

Tom Cowan – District Conservationist