

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S MONTHLY REPORT****1/15/2026****PERSONNEL/OFFICE**

- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.

Lincoln Field Office (Lancaster Co) Staff		Weeping Water Field Office (Cass Co) Staff	
District Conservationist	Tom Cowan	Resource Conservationist	Devin Heusinkvelt
Resource Conservationist	VACANT 11/2024	Soil Conservationist	VACANT 10/2024
Soil Conservationist	VACANT 12/2025	Soil Conservation Tech.	James Conradi
Soil Conservation Tech.	VACANT 10/2024	LPSNRD District Secretary	Shelly Nielsen
Program Assistant	Rebecca Wusk	LPSNRD Resources Tech.	Lesli Lair
LPSNRD District Secretary	Connie Hansen		
LPSNRD Resources Tech.	John Albert		
LPSNRD Resources Tech.	Bridget McKinley		
PF Farm Bill Biologist	John McClinton		
NWTF Forester	Zack Zimmerman		

LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT

- Continued warm weather and adequate moisture are allowing construction to continue into January.
- 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
 - 12 Fall 2025 Cover Crop Applications
 - Cass County Field Office
 - 20 Fall 2025 Structural Applications
 - 1 Fall 2025 Cover Crop Application (cancelled)
- Waiting for finalized FY26 NRCS Practice Payment List, then we can develop the 2026 LPSNRD Cost Docket

USDA PROGRAMS

- New Regenerative Ag Pilot Program announced. Staff are being trained.
- Planning staff are working on FY26 USDA program applications. Application deadline was extended from 11/21/25 to 1/15/26.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/19/26 – USDA Offices closed for Martin Luther King Day Holiday
- 2/16/26 – USDA Offices closed for President's Day Holiday

Tom Cowan – District Conservationist