

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
June 17, 2020**

PERSONNEL:

- Mitch Schoenfelder has been hired as the NRCS Soil Conservation Technician in the Lincoln Field Office. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in Environmental Studies – Natural Resources with minors in Water Sciences and Fisheries and Wildlife. Mitch has been a contract technician in the Lincoln Field Office since February 2019.
- USDA Service Center Operations – Service Centers continue to be closed to the public to avoid face-to-face interactions with customers. Producers may contact their local office to make arrangements to conduct business by alternate means, such as over the phone, electronically, or by mail. Staff will continue to complete field work while following social distancing guidelines.

LAND TREATMENT:

- The Conservation/Resources Technicians have mostly finished with certification and payment for Fall 2019 applications. They're currently finishing certification and payment on early Summer 2020 applications and will begin layout of projects that will be constructed after wheat harvest.

PROGRAMS:

- EQIP - Staff has completed ranking of all applications received prior for FY2020 signup. The amount of requested funds far exceeds our LPSNRD allocation of approximately \$236,000. The following funding has been requested for our local LPSNRD fund pools:
 - LPSNRD – Cropland: ≈ \$814,000
 - LPSNRD – Grasslands: ≈ \$7,500
- CRP - FSA's general CRP signup has been completed. FSA has accepted approximately 80-90 offers within Cass and Lancaster Counties. Staff is currently busy with making site visits on all renewal contracts to determine if there's a need to upgrade vegetation to meet current conservation practice standards.
- CStP - NRCS is currently in the process of ranking all general applications. The deadline for ranking these applications is June 26th.
 - Lancaster County: 22 applications
 - Cass County: 1 application

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Independence Day – July 4th

Cory Schmidt - District Conservationist