

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
June 16, 2021**

PERSONNEL:

- USDA Service Center Operations – The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers continue to be closed to walk-in customers. Producers may contact their local office to make arrangements for an appointment, or to conduct business by alternate means, such as over the phone, electronically, or by mail.
- Cindy Spilinek, LPSNRD Resources Technician in Weeping Water, has retired with over 30 years of service. Congratulations Cindy and we wish you the best in retirement!
- Nicole Strand, Soil Conservationist in Lincoln, will be leaving the staff for a promotion. She has accepted the Resource Conservationist position in Osceola. Nicole will continue to be in the Lincoln Field Office until early August. Congratulations Nicole!

LAND TREATMENT:

- The Conservation/Resources Technicians are currently working with contractors and landowners to finish all LPSNRD spring/summer conservation projects. They're also busy surveying/designing dam and terrace projects that will be constructed this spring/summer.
- We continue to take applications for the LPSNRD Land Treatment Program. Applications are due July 1st to ensure consideration under the FY22 operating budget.

PROGRAMS:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Staff is finishing up obligating EQIP contracts. The LPSNRD has the following number of contracts:
 - Lancaster County – 11 contracts - \$232,955
 - Cass County – 6 contracts - \$195,910
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Secretary Vilsack has announced that USDA will open enrollment in the CRP with higher payment rates, new incentives, and a focus on climate change mitigation. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Independence Day – July 4th
General CRP Signup Deadline – July 23rd
Continuous CRP Signup Deadline – August 6th**

Cory Schmidt - District Conservationist