

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
REPORT TO THE  
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
March 17, 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. New guidelines have been put in place to limit staffing of Service Centers to 25%. Staff will continue to complete field work while following social distancing guidelines.

**LAND TREATMENT:**

- The Conservation/Resources Technicians are currently working with contractors and landowners to finish all LPSNRD fall projects that received extensions. These projects must be completed prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> to receive cost share. They're also busy surveying/designing conservation projects that will be completed this spring/summer through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the LPSNRD Summer Conservation Program.
- The LPSNRD Resources Technicians have been working to complete all annual dam inspections on NRD managed structures.

**PROGRAMS:**

- Planning staff is finishing up ranking EQIP and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications. The LPSNRD has the following number of applications:
  - Lancaster County
    - EQIP – 27 applications
    - CSP – 22 applications
  - Cass County
    - EQIP – 16 applications
    - CSP – 5 applications
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – The CRP General and CRP Grasslands signups have begun. The Farm Service Agency has extended the original deadlines, and a new deadline has not been set. Interested landowners should contact their local county FSA office for signup information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Saint Patrick's Day – March 17<sup>th</sup>  
FY21 EQIP Ranking Deadline – March 19<sup>th</sup>  
FY21 CSP Ranking Deadline – April 16<sup>th</sup>**

***Cory Schmidt - District Conservationist***