

## Watershed Operations

May 2013

## ***Gering Valley Watershed Project, Nebraska***

### **Introduction**

This project completed the Gering Valley Watershed Project, located in the Nebraska Panhandle, and provides flood-prevention benefits.



The Gering Valley Watershed Project is located in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

### **Project Description**

- **Location:** Scotts Bluff County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,391,107
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$450,000

This project has made channel improvements and created a diversion to control and safely pass flood water from a 1,214 acre drainage area. These flood control practices complement the structures already installed through the Gering Valley Watershed Project, providing floodwater protection for the area.

### **Partners**

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- North Platte Natural Resources District
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Gering-Ft. Laramie Irrigation District
- Scotts Bluff County
- Gering Irrigation District
- Central Irrigation District
- Area Landowners

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



Land slope before installation of a diversion to redirect flood water..

---

## Gering Valley Watershed Project, Nebraska

---

### Benefits

This project protects high value cropland from damages caused by flooding. County roads, and an irrigation canal system vital to crop production in the area, are also protected by this project. Homeowners, landowners and the town of Gering also benefit from the flood protection provided by this project.

In addition to the measurable monetary benefits, this project prevents this valley from reverting to dryland conditions.

### Economic Opportunities

Construction began in September of 2010 and has since been completed. The construction of the floodwater control structure provided job opportunities to the area. This project provides \$37,000 in average annual benefits.

By providing a secure source of irrigation water, this project provides economic benefits to the farmers in the valley and to the business community who depend upon the trade of watershed residents.

### Statewide Perspective

Completing the Gering Valley Watershed Project has helped reduce the amount of erosion occurring in this watershed and prevents sediment and other pollutants from reaching the North Platte River.

### For More Information

Tim Haakenstad  
Nebraska NRCS State Conservation  
Engineer  
(402) 437-4037  
timothy.haakenstad@ne.usda.gov  
www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov



Pre-construction rendering of how the soil surface was shaped to create the diversion with grass re-established



Pre-construction rendering of the diversion built to safely divert floodwater.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

