

State Technical Committee Meeting – 12/5/19

ALL POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ARE ON THE [WEBSITE](#).

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Volume control: press 04 to decrease, 06 to increase.)**

Attendees: Craig Derickson, Brad Soncksen, Tami Nordman, Kelly Klenke, Britt Weiser, Neil Dominy, Steve Roth, Boone McAfee, Kent Zimmerman, Al Juhnke, Dan Ruterbories, Russell Callan, David Potter, David Eigenberg, Annette Sudbeck, Carla McCullough, Kimberli Stine, Terry Julesgard, Dustin Wilcox, Jenny Prenosil, Eric Zach, Terry Schumacker, Adam Smith, Troy Kash-Brown, Elbert Traylor, Tatiana Davila, Rick Rasby, Doug Klein, Kyle Hauschild. Larry Hudkins;

via phone: Erica Gnuse, Kenny Dinan, Buffalo Bruce, Mike Murphy, Chandler Schmidt, Craig Romary, Andrew Pierson, Mike Crosby, Marcia Trompke, Greg Whitmore.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE! – Craig Derickson, State Conservationist, NRCS

- Explains the State Technical Committee purpose, reason we have the meetings and that the NRCS needs the input that we get from the committee. Discussed the Stakeholder process.
- FSA & NRCS will be doing a joint training on CRP training.
- Brad's staff will be going to training on the NEW Farm Bill rollout.
- Conservation Stewardship rules was released to the federal register & is open for a 60-day comment period.
- Kelly Klenke will discuss the resource assessment layer that we use for resource concerns & their distribution which is tied to the allocation of the funds across the state.

PROGRAM UPDATES – Brad Soncksen, ASTC– Programs, NRCS (Highlights)

❖ **ACEP –**

○ **FY19 ACEP-ALE – Implementation**

▪ **ALE (General)**

- Agreement approved with 2 parcels
- Located in Webster and Sioux Counties.
 - 4039 acres
- Entity holding easement
 - NE Land Trust
- Final Estimated Federal Cost = \$675,010.00

▪ **RCPP – ALE**

- 3 Agreements approved with 1 parcel each
- Located in Phelps, Clay and Fillmore Counties
 - 348 acres
- Entities holding easements
 - Little Blue NRD, Tri-Basin NRD and the Upper Big Blue NRD
- Final Estimated Federal Cost = \$472, 420.00

○ **FY19 ACEP-WRE Implementation**

▪ **Nine offers to purchase – Accepted**

• **WRE**

- 7 approved
- Located in Otoe, Dodge, Holt, Custer
- 439.3 acres
- \$2,072,534.00

• **WREP**

- 1 approved
- Located in Hall County
- 15.6 acres
- \$62,478.00

• **RCPP-WRE**

- 1 approved
- Located in Hall County
- 42.0 acres
- \$366,105.00

○ **NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM – WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS (ACEP-WRE) Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC's) for FY 2020 NOT to EXCEED RATE = \$4,488.00 for all land uses.**

▪ **Need to Review this with the State Technical Committee before this is approved & finalized.**

- **Any changes on the land use or areas that you would like to see changed?**
- **Note: No Recommendation for changes. Map and rates as reviewed have been submitted to NHQ for approval.**

❖ **FY2020 ACEP sign-up information**

- With the new 2018 farm bill, new rules and regulations are being worked on in D.C.
- A sign-up deadline will not be announced until this has been completed.
 - We are hoping for a late winter or early spring sign-up.
 - Ranking system will be changed
 - We are sure there will be other changes.
- WRP Teams are still working with possible applicants to look at sites and develop restoration plans.

❖ **ACEP-ALE: Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (GSS)**

- Means grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species as defined by State or Federal Law.
- Are subject to the threat of conversion to non-grassland uses or fragmentation and the land is:
 - 1(a) Rangeland, pastureland, shrubland or wet meadows on which this vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs or
 - 1 (b) Improved naturalized pastureland, rangeland and wet meadows and,
 - 2(a) Provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species
 - 2(b) Protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or
 - 2(c) Provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee.
- NRCS may authorize a waiver to increase the Federal share of the cost of an agricultural land easement to an amount not to exceed 75% of the fair market of the agricultural land easement if all the following apply:
 - The eligible entity has identified on the application that the offered parcel is applying for funding consideration as a GSS.
 - NRCS determines the land to be enrolled meets the GSS definitions
- An eligible entity will share in the cost of purchasing an agricultural land easement in an amount that is no less than 33.33% of the Federal share. The eligibility entity share may include a qualified landowner contribution if the eligible entity contributes its own cash resources in an amount that is at least 16.67% of the Federal share.
- The eligible entity agrees to incorporate and enforce additional deed restrictions to manage and enforce the easement to ensure the GSS attributes are protected.
- States must designate eligible lands for GSS consideration
- **State Technical Committee concurrence required – THIS WAS APPROVED**
 - Nebraska NRCS is requesting to designate the entire state of Nebraska eligible for GSS as long as the definitions of GSS are met, and
 - That the application does not exceed 5% cropland.
- We will then review this next year once we get an idea of the interest in this portion of the ACEP-ALE program.

❖ **2019 SPRING FLOODING**

- EWP – Floodplain Easement Program
 - Sign up ended October 31, 2019.
 - 28 active applications on approximately 6300 acres.
 - Nebraska received an initial allocation of \$4.3 million for easement purchases and restorations.
 - With only 5 cost estimates completed, there is a need of over \$13,000,000 in these 5 applications.
 - National Office Personnel visiting NE, IA and MO this week with staff.

❖ **CSP**

- NEBRASKA – Results of 2019 General Signup
 - Applications = 614
 - New contracts = 226
 - Acres in contracts = 467,707
 - Contract obligations = \$22M
 - New contracts in 59 counties
 - Counties with highest number of new contracts:
 - Harlan, Lincoln, Nemaha
- FY2020 CSP Fund Allocation – Nebraska
 - Nebraska
 - \$10 million - General
 - \$3.4 million - GCI
 - \$8.6 million - Renewal
- CSP – Grassland Conservation Initiative
 - The Agricultural Improvement Act (2018 Farm Bill) authorized NRCS to enroll producers with eligible base acres in GCI contracts from FY2019 – 2023. The GCI assists producers in protecting grazing uses; conserve and improve soil, water and wildlife resources; and achieving related conservation values.
 - Eligible Land
 - Base acres documented as grass, idle, or fallow through the years 2009 – 2017.
 - Entire farm # base acres must be eligible
 - Must address a resource concern associated with grassland.
 - Applicant Eligibility
 - Must be the operator, owner or other tenant, and must have control of the land and have an interest in the operation where the base acres are located.
 - Payment = \$18 /acre/year
 - Contract term = 5 years
 - Applicants can only enroll once during the 5-year farm bill
 - Nebraska 2019 CSP-GCI signup
 - 246 contracts
 - 73 different counties
 - \$1.5M in obligations
 - Brown, Holt, Lancaster, Lincoln and Thurston have most contracts (>10).

- FY2020 CSP-GCI
 - Ranking cutoff – November 8
 - 210 applications
 - 57 counties
 - Contracts obligated by January 24, 2020
- CSP Changes in the 2018 Farm Bill
 - Allows for the extension of contracts due to expire 12/31/2019 and authorizes renewal of these contracts (does not include contracts previously renewed).
 - Bases program allocations on funds rather than acres.
 - Provides one-time payment to participants who agree to develop a comprehensive conservation plan
 - Adds organic producers or producers transitioning to organic as a category of producer with a targeted ranking pool
 - Requires that the program be managed to enhance soil health
 - Requires CSP be aligned with EQIP in applications, contracting, conservation planning, conservation practices and related administrative procedures.
 - Adds advanced grazing management as another type of supplemental payment.
 - Modifies “eligible land” to include public land when the land is a working component of the participant’s operation
 - Expands the regulatory \$400,000 contract limit for all joint operations.
 - Adds language to allow for contract increases due to minor adjustments made to conservation activities at the discretion of NRCS.
 - Includes an eligibility restriction for renewal-eligible participants who choose not to renew in favor of competing for a new contract. 2 – year wait. **BIGGEST CHANGE**

❖ RCPP –

- 375 live projects
- 2,000 partners
- \$1 Billion on NRCS investment
- \$2 Billion on no-NRCS investments
- Provides mandatory funding at \$300 million (from \$100 million)
 - 50% of available funds for state or multi-state projects
 - 50% of available funds for projects within critical conservation areas
 - Removed National funding pool
- Removes 7% funding contributions from covered programs
- Adds CRP and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act as covered programs
 - Land enrolled into the new CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative is not eligible
- Agreements can be for longer than 5 years if longer period is necessary to meet the objectives of the program
- A partnership agreement may be renewed for a period not to exceed 5 years.
- Provides ability to renew partnership agreements through an expedited non-competitive process if Secretary determines that a project has met or exceeded the objectives of the project and extension is requested by the partner.

- **Existing Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects in Nebraska**
 - Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery – CPNRD & TPNRD
 - FY15 RCPP
 - 5yr 2015-2019
 - \$1.7 Million
 - Regional Grassland Bird & Grazing Enhancement Initiative – NGPC
 - FY15 RCPP
 - 5yr 2015-2019 with Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa
 - \$885,500.00 (Nebraska Allocation)
 - Cropland Cover for Soil Health and Wildlife – NGPC
 - FY16 RCPP
 - \$700,000.00
 - Hitchcock, Red Willow & Furnas Counties
 - Lower Elkhorn Water and Soil Conservation Project
 - FY16 RCPP – Lower Elkhorn NRD contains all or part of fifteen counties in Northeast NE.
 - \$400,000.00
 - Republican Basin Conservation Partnership – LRNRD, MRNRD, URNRD
 - FY16 RCPP
 - \$2.1 Million
 - Divots in the Pivots – UBBNRD/RWBJV
 - FY17 RCPP - Combination of ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE & EQIP
 - \$1.8 Million
 - Wahoo Creek Water Quality Sites 26 & 27 – LPNNRD
 - FY17 RCPP
 - \$1.5 Million
 - Papillion Creek Site WP-1 Dam – PMRNRD
 - FY18 RCPP
 - \$4.4 Million
- RCPP APF Timeline – FY2019
 - RESULTS:
 - 4 Proposals submitted involving Nebraska
 - **Once agreements are signed, partnership activities and obligations may begin.**
 - **Vision and Goals of the Program**
 - **Impact**—RCPP applications must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project’s impact and results.
 - **Partner Contributions**—Partners are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage NRCS’s RCPP investments. It is NRCS’s goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in an RCPP project. Substantive and sizable partner contributions are given priority consideration as part of the RCPP application evaluation criteria.

- **Partnerships and Management**—Partners must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental (and when possible, economic and social) outcomes of an RCPP project. RCPP ranking criteria give priority consideration to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved farm farmers and ranchers.

RCPP Action	Timeline
RCPP FY 2019 funding announcement released	September 3, 2019
RCPP renewals awards announced	By November 15, 2019
Application period closes	December 3, 2019
RCPP review process initiated	December 4, 2019
RCPP Interim Final Rule released	Late 2019/Early 2020
AFA funding announcement released	Soon after IFR release
RCPP review process complete	January 15, 2020
RCPP award announcement	Week of March 9, 2020
FY 2019 RCPP partnership agreements (including renewals) executed	By mid-June 2020
Next funding announcement released	July 1, 2020
AFA awards announced	Summer 2020

❖ **EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program –**

- Funding: \$9.1 Billion (increase of \$1.17 billion)
 - \$1.75 Billion for FY19
 - \$1.75 Billion for FY20
 - \$1.8 Billion for FY21
 - \$1.85 Billion for FY22
 - \$2.025 Billion for FY23
- Proportion of EQIP funding:
 - Livestock: 50% (reduced from 60%) of the funds under the program shall be targeted at practices relating to livestock production and grazing management practices
 - Wildlife Habitat: At least 10% (increased from 5%) of the funds under the program shall be targeted at practices benefitting wildlife habitat.
 - Clarifies that contracts entered solely for wildlife practices can be up to 10 years in length

- **Source Water Protection Program**
 - Dedicate at least 10 percent of the total funds available for conservation programs (with the exception of CRP), each year, to be used for source water protection.
 - STCs working with the State Technical Committee, public water utilities and the State drinking water agency must select initial local priority areas where we can anticipate targeting approximately 10 percent of conservation program funding to benefit source water protection.
 - Addresses excessive nutrients, and other impairments of drinking water sources (ground water or surface water).
 - Addresses the conservation of water to advance drought mitigation
 - Practice incentive payments for this initiative will go to EQIP eligible owners/operators of agricultural land who install conservation practices relating to water quality and quantity.
 - States can select up to 10 conservation practices to be eligible for 90% practice payment rate.
 - Is geographically located to address a national resource concern in a specific watershed.
 - Focus of initiative is the protection of community water systems that is defined by 25 people or more, 15 or more service connections, year-round.
 - In Nebraska, 99% of municipalities use ground water as their source of drinking water.
 - Groundwater Management Areas – may be eligible if they encompass several community water systems.

- Source Water Protection Practice List (*High priority practices with potential up to 90% c/s rate)
 - 327 Conservation Cover
 - 328 Conservation Crop Rotation
 - 332 Contour Buffer Strips
 - 340 Cover Crop
 - 342 Critical Area Planting
 - 355 Well Water Testing
 - 386 Field Border
 - 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
 - 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
 - 393 Filter Strip
 - 412 Grassed Waterway
 - 449 Irrigation Water Management
 - 590 Nutrient Management
 - 635 Vegetated Treatment Area
 - 656 Constructed Wetland
 - 351 Water Well Decommissioning
 - 430 Irrigation Pipeline
 - 441 Irrigation System, Micro irrigation
 - 442 Sprinkler System
 - 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
 - 550 Range Planting
 - 595 Integrated Pest Management
 - 657 Wetland Restoration
 - 659 Wetland Enhancement

- EQIP Allocation Formula FY2020 – **KELLY KLENKE, Financial Resources Specialist, NRCS – Here to help break this all down.**
 - FY2020 Statewide Fund Pools
 - Source Water Protection – 10%
 - Wildlife Initiative – 10%
 - Historically Underserved – 10%
 - Livestock – 50%
 - Seasonal High Tunnel
 - Organic
 - Energy
 - Conservation Activity Plans
 - Animal Feeding Operations
 - Tribal
 - HEL Treatment
 - Working Lands for Wildlife
 - Target Species
 - Greater Prairie Chicken
 - American Burying Beetle
 - Project Goal
 - Use EQIP to modify current livestock grazing infrastructure to achieve desired habitat conditions and increased profitability
 - Forestry Service Partnership
 - UNWNRD, MNNRD, ULNRD

❖ **National Water Quality Initiative**

- Wahoo Creek - Saunders
- Bazile Creek – Antelope, Pierce, Knox
- Big Sandy Creek – Little Blue NRD
- Turkey Creek – Lower Big Blue NRD
 - Readiness Phase Project

❖ **2020 LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS –**

- Meetings completed in January/February 2019
- **Allocation provided to 23 Local Work Groups**
 - **Allocations to local work groups are based on Resource Concern Critical Acres**

Resource_Concern	Nebraska Derived Critical Ac based on Statewide Datasets (w/Fert Ac)	% of Nebraska Derived Critical Acres	Manual Adjustments	Ex: \$15,967,994 to distribute based on Nebraska Derived Critical Ac %'s
Soil Erosion	13,921,289	23.1%		\$ 3,687,204
Soil Quality Degradation	1,458,536	2.4%		\$ 386,309
Excess Water	-	0.0%		\$ -
Water Quality Degradation	15,372,612	25.5%		\$ 4,071,602
Degraded Plant Condition	6,879,003	11.4%		\$ 1,821,978
Air Quality		0.0%		\$ -
Livestock Production Limitation	15,000,505	24.9%		\$ 3,973,046
Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife		0.0%		\$ -
Insufficient Water	7,656,306	12.7%		\$ 2,027,855
Totals for Local Pools	60,288,250			\$ 15,967,994

- **Kelly K. – Gave a breakdown on the resource concerns - SEE SLIDES & LISTEN TO RECORDING**
- **Use the same layering process with each resource concern – darker the color the more concentration on the resource concern.**
 - Soil erosion on Cropland
 - USE 3 data layer maps (latest 2018)
 - EI of 8 or greater, concentrated flow issue, cropland data layer
 - Top map identifies where the resource concerns are distributed across the state. Determines each NRD portion & how we distribute the funds based on just soil erosion on cropland.
 - Green areas are critical erosion acres
 - Soil erosion on Rangeland/Grassland
 - 2 data layer maps
 - Concentrated flow soils
 - Choppy or Loess soils w/ slope of > 20% on grass or range
 - Degraded plant condition
 - 3 data layer maps
 - Total # of beef cattle distributed across the state
 - Cropland data layer
 - # of Noxious weed distribution by county
 - Livestock production limitation on Grassland/pasture
 - 2 data layer maps
 - Cropland data layer
 - Total # of beef cattle distributed across the state
 - Inefficient Use of Irrigation water on Cropland
 - 4 data layer maps
 - Irrigated Water use (2010 most current data)
 - Taxed irrigated acres (updated yearly 2018)
 - Active irrigation wells
 - Cropland data layer
 - Water Quality Degradation
 - 6 data layer maps
 - Crops with medium to high runoff potentials for soils
 - Number of high nitrate wells per NRD
 - 303d listed streams – nutrients of miles per streams per NRD
 - Permitted CAFOs
 - Number of crop acres that have been fertilized (2017)
 - Number of crop acres that manure has been applied
 - Soil Quality Degradation
 - 2 data layer maps
 - Soils organic matter of .9 or less in our soils
 - Cropland, grassland, pastureland data layers
 - Green – Cropland
 - Yellow – Grassland/Pasture
- **LOCAL WORK GROUP AGENDA ITEMS:**
 - Priority Resource Concerns
 - Fund Pool - Ranking Tools – Screening Tools
 - Revised ranking process for FY2020 – CART
 - Practice Payment Schedule
 - LOCAL ISSUES

- **SUMMARY: Priority Resources Concerns**
 - Soil Erosion
 - Water Quality degradation
 - Soil Quality Degradation
 - Insufficient Water
 - Degraded Plants
 - Livestock Production Limitation
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Excess Water
 - Air Quality
 - Inefficient Energy

- **FY2020 EQIP State Policy Decisions**
 - FY2020 LWG/NRCS Recommended and Approved by STC
 - Revised policy on EQIP payments for Eastern Red Cedar
 - End option for irrigated to dry re-enrollment
 - EQIP application cutoff date - TBD
 - Applications ranked/Preapproved - TBD

 - Multiple adjustments to practice scenarios and payment rates
 - Integrated Pest Management (595) – Develop new scenario for a non-atrazine alternative for corn to protect surface water quality and assist with managing herbicide resistance
 - Brush Management (314) – Develop “Ultra Low Density” scenario

 - FY2020 LWG/NRCS Recommended and approved by STC
 - Practice Payment caps
 - Establish \$10,000 payment cap for Nutrient Management (590)
 - Establish \$80,000 payment cap for Waste Storage Facility (313)
 - Establish \$10,000 payment cap for Integrated Pest Mgmt. (595)
 - Retain existing payment caps:
 - (340) Cover Crop - \$7,500.00
 - (329) No Till - \$5,000.00
 - (528) Prescribed Grazing, Adaptive Mgmt. - \$15,0000.00
 - (327) Conservation Cover - \$7,500.00
 - (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. - \$7,500.00

QUESTIONS & Comment

Craig gave a breakdown for CSP & EQIP in what amounts are allocated per year.

EWP- Floodplain Easement Program:

Q: Is this open to just the lower part of the watersheds? Is this to restore or buy the land? Duration? Minimum or maximum acres required? Noxious weed requirements?

A: The entire state is eligible.

Restore the land, LO retains ownership of the Easement.

Permanent, but there is a 30yr option for the Tribal.

There are no minimum or maximum acre limitations.

LO responsibility to control the noxious weeds but will have to get a Compatible Use agreement.

ACEP- GARC rates:

Q: If it is irrigated cropland then are soil types taken into consideration?

A: Brad answered no, not directly with the way the GARC rates are setup.

ACEP-ALE: GSS –

Q: Are they paying on deeded acres or ASCS acres? Do they pay if there is a body of water on the easement?

A: The entire operation that is designated for ALE is appraised & it is all based on the appraised value.

Q: Are there grazing restrictions?

A: Landowner must follow the entity developed management plan which will address grazing on grasslands.

Q: Is the Cropland by statewide or by County?

A: By application.

- **Kim – Glad you didn't restrict access of the grassland but restricted the cropland.**
- **ACEP-ALE Programs usually gets 3 or 4 applications per year & usually funds up to 2-3 million.**

Q: Does the grazing management include fencing &/or water sources?

A: Grazing Management practice 528 in General EQIP could include fence & water facilities as support practices.

Q: Is there rotational Grazing?

A: **Rotational grazing could be part of the management plan developed by the entity.**

Source Water Protection Practice List:

Q: Don't see anything on organic?

A: It is improving Nutrient Management.

Resource Concerns: Please contact Kelly or Brad if you would like further details.

Q: Is the livestock #'s excluding large animals?

A: Kelly stated it was only small & Medium.

Q: 50% livestock, no more or no less?

A: At least 50%, no less than.

LWG:

The local work groups can be held more than once a year. It is not just about EQIP, we need the input for all the program's requirements.

NEW: WATER QUALITY AWARENESS SUB-COMMITTEE – Carla McCullough, MS Planning Unit, NDEQ

In October, NDEE and NGPC met as agencies to discuss common interests, current collaboration and potential future collaboration. Staff were grouped by job duties into smaller groups. Seven of us were grouped as dealing the most with watershed projects and water quality issues. For future collaboration, our group wanted to see a more concerted effort towards education regarding water quality, both within our sister agencies and groups and for the general public statewide.

Realizing that this effort would benefit from expanding to other local, state and federal agencies, it was proposed that we approach the USDA-NRCS Nebraska State Technical Committee for support to form a sub-committee for Water Quality Awareness. The State Technical Committee was viewed as an existing and useful vehicle to link all relevant agencies and groups together.

The proposed mission of the subcommittee is two-fold. First, the subcommittee would seek to educate ourselves within our agencies and groups regarding each other's programs and activities. Some potential topics initially may be an explanation of NWQI, Source water Protection efforts in the 2018 Farm Bill, impaired waterbodies and an awareness and coordination of monitoring and data sharing. Second, the subcommittee would seek to promote a common understanding of water quality issues and agency efforts to the general public. Potential topics would include groundwater nitrate trends and Source water Protection efforts, funding opportunities for conservation work and riparian management/aquatic habitat.

CRP & ECP UPDATE – Doug Klein, Price Support & Conservation Programs Chief, FSA

➤ **CRP**

- General Signup is December 2, 2019 – February 28, 2020
 - This Farm Bill requires annual sign-ups
 - Upland Bird
 - Tall Grass Bird Safe
 - Highly Erodible Land
- Items that are Continuous signup
 - Marginal CREP Migratory Bird Safe
 - NEW – Clear30
 - Water Quality Program
- CHANGES:
 - Authorized CRP through 2023
 - Acres 24 to 27 million CAP
 - Adjusting mid-contract management
 - No-Cost Share
- There was national training to emphasis on tracking of seed cost
- Acreage Report
- CREP Signup will be continuous.
 - 2 Training Sessions
 - 11th of December – Existing, no mod or changes
 - 12th of December – Changes or mods

- There will be a national call between FSA & NRCS to plan through the yearlong calendars so that the programs do on overlap each other.
- ECP
 - 2019 Flooding that started in March
 - 48 Counties
 - 5 practices
 - Debris Removal
 - Grading/ Shaping/ Leveling
 - Fence Restoration
 - Conservation Repair
 - Windbreak (few)
 - Paid 18 million as of 12/14/2019
- Craig explained the difference between EQP & ECP

QUESTIONS & Comments

Q: What about the foreign countries buying up land is there help for our famers?

A: As part of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Act (AFIDA), foreign ownership is required to be reported. Annually the Natural Resources Analysis Group publishes a report of foreign ownership. Many of the FSA programs have limitations on program participation by foreign interest. As for help, are you looking to help the buyers or the sellers in your example.

Q: Since 2011 lost millions of grassland acres to CRP turning them into Cropland, is that accurate or not?

A: Without knowing the source of your statement, we cannot assess the accuracy of your information.

Q: Will more information be coming out, like rates established?

A: Continuous sign up rates will be at 90% and general signup will be at 85% of the soil rental rates.

Q: Why is there a national training on the emphasis on tracking of seed cost?

A: The farm bill requires specific tracking of the seed cost.

Q: With CRP having a shift from midterm management will it still be able to go for cost-share?

A: No.

Q: CRP Grasslands signup?

A: All we know at this point is, a signup in the “spring” of 2020.

Please send any further questions or comments to Tami Nordman @ tami.nordman@usda.gov

FUTURE 2020 MEETINGS:

March 5, 2020 @ NE Game & Parks Outdoor Education Center, 4703 N. 44th St, Lincoln

June 4, 2020 @ UNL Extension Office, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Lincoln

September 10, 2020 @ NE Game & Parks Outdoor Education Center, 4703 N. 44th St, Lincoln

December 3, 2020 @ NE Game & Parks Outdoor Education Center, 4703 N. 44th St, Lincoln