

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)****DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S MONTHLY REPORT****5/15/2023****PERSONNEL/OFFICE**

- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.
- The two new NRD Resources Technicians (Sean Loken and Lesli Lair) have been onboard for over a month now. They are busy assisting with projects and receiving training, both formal and on the job. In addition to the full time NRD and NRCS employees, Cindy Spilinek has been doing an excellent job training Sean and Lesli.

**LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT**

- Drought conditions impacted the installation of structural practices across the district during the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. There was a short period, following some precipitation, where jobs were being released across the district. Currently jobs are restricted again and may be released on a site-by-site determination based upon a soil moisture evaluation.
- Staff have completed site visits to certify LPSNRD program cover crops have been terminated and are wrapping up paperwork for payment.
- The LPSNRD currently has the following land treatment cost-share program applications:
  - Lancaster County
    - 19 Fall Structural Applications – 6 Completed Projects
    - 6 Summer Structural Applications – 3 Completed Projects
    - 36 Cover Crop Applications
  - Cass County
    - 37 Fall Structural Applications – 6 Completed Projects
    - 4 Summer Structural Applications
    - 4 Cover Crop Applications

**USDA PROGRAMS**

- Planning staff are wrapping up contracting for preapproved Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications.
- Planning staff are planning/contracting preapproved EQIP-Inflation Reduction Act applications.
- Planning staff are completing CRP status reviews/site visits.
- Planning staff are beginning to plan/contract the new CRP General and Continuous sign-up applications.
- Staff are wrapping up annual HEL/WC Compliance Reviews.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- June 19<sup>th</sup> – NRCS Office Closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Tom Cowan – District Conservationist