

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deb VanMatre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She reported that the NRD abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business and said that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the south wall of the conference room. The Board reserves the right to change the order of an item on the agenda, and some items on the agenda are subject to closed session.

ATTENDANCE: Board members present by roll call were:

Todd Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	John Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Mick Reynolds	Kevin Werner
Amy Kyes	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Jerry Milner, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert and Mike Wilkens

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Collin Quandt – Agronomist and David Carr – Range Management Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – District Conservationist, Janelle Taubenheim – Buffalo County Resources Conservationist and Jason Buss – President of the Nebraska Trails Foundation.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman VanMatre reported that the notices of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island Independent, and the news release was provided to other media outlets in the district.

MEETING MINUTES: Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the March board meeting minutes. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Todd Arends, Lon Bohn and Barry Obermiller who abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Chairman VanMatre asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman VanMatre asked if anyone wanted to address the board

on any item not included on the agenda. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman VanMatre reported that Jerry Milner, Marvion Reichert, Doug Reeves and Mike Wilkens requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Tom Downey made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PLATTE PEER GROUP PRESENTATION: Jason Buss, President of the Nebraska Trails Foundation, is requesting Central Platte NRD serve as a fiscal agent for the Central City Riverfront Development Project. The role of the fiscal agent would be to apply for and receive grants in support of the development of the approximately 70 acres of riverfront property south of Central City. Chairman Deb VanMatre requested this be forwarded to the Eastern Projects Committee for review. The committee will make a recommendation to the full board at the May board meeting.

NRCS REPORTS: Janelle Taubenheim, Buffalo County Resources Conservationist, reported on programs going on in the Kearney Field Office (see attached).

Joe Krolkowski, District Conservationist, reported on the programs going on in the Hall County Field Office (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, shared a video of the building progress.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Chuck Maser, chairman, reported that the committee meet earlier today and reviewed the 2025/2026 Eastern Projects Budget. After some discussion the committee recommended moving the budget to the budget committee.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee meet earlier today and reviewed the 2025/2026 Western Projects Budget. After some discussion the committee recommended moving the budget to the budget committee.

Bohn also reported that the committee discussed the possibility of selling the Schroeder Property that the CPNRD purchased in 2018 in Dawson County. The property was purchased to provide options for earning Platte River credits by retiring irrigated acres, transferring water from the South Side Irrigation District canal, and directly discharging flows into the river. The committee will continue to discuss options.

VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that all 25 violators have been in contact with him and are currently working with him to get into

compliance.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported Tricia has included a list on Dropbox of names of those not in compliance with the Nitrogen Groundwater Management Program. At this time there are approximately 80 names on the list. She will be requesting cease and desist orders at the May meeting for those who are not in compliance.

Mick Reynolds brought up the current Nitrogen Groundwater Management Program and how it works and what needs to be turned in each year. The board talked about what changes could be made with this program. After some discussion it was recommended that we take this to the Water Quality Committee to discuss.

Vogt reported that a decision with the Platte Republican Diversion is not expected until after the anticipated merger of the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy.

STAFF REPORTS: David Carr, Range Management Specialist, Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist and Angela Warner, GIS Coordinator, presented to the board what their job duties are.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$2,000 from Grazing Deferment, to increase Soil Moisture Sensor by \$2,000, and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation, Center Pivot, Sensor Based Management of Fertigation, Cover Crop, Soil Moisture Sensor, and Well Decommissioning (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she recommended they be approved.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the cost share transfer and applications as reported. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote except Brian Keiser who abstained, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the April financial report.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the April financial report as presented. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported on the NARD Washington DC Conference. She encouraged everyone to attend in the future.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 22. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 3:25 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture


Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 S Webb, RD., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

April 21, 2025

Central Platte NRD
215 North Kaufman Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803

April Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update you all on current activities at the Hall County USDA Service Center. Please find attached 2 letters sent to Hall County producers for your review, one letters was sent by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the other letter was sent by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Due to recent staff transitions at the USDA FSA office at locations near the Hall County office, and to maximize remaining available staff resources within those area offices, Hall County FSA is adjusting the services available in Grand Island. **Beginning April 1, 2025, the Hall County FSA office will only provide service for farm programs, such as commodity safety net programs, disaster programs, and the Conservation Reserve Program, one day a week, by-appointment-only on Wednesdays at the Grand Island office location.**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office presence and service delivery remains unchanged in Hall County. **The Grand Island NRCS Field Office will be open to provide full service, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

As NRD Board members if you are asked questions while back in your home counties about this topic, you are up to date and can discuss it with your constituents. We feel this is important for Lyndon and the NRD staff also, as partners who communicate regularly and work on projects jointly, staying current with changes is essential to provide good service to each other and our customers.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Hall County FSA Producer Letter
Hall County NRCS Producer Letter

*Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hall County USDA Service Center

703 S. Webb Road, Ste. A
Grand Island, NE 68803
Office Phone: (308) 395-8586, ext. 2
www.fsa.usda.gov/ne

March 20, 2025

Dear Hall County FSA Producer:

You are receiving this letter to update you on activities at the Hall County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Due to recent staff transitions at USDA FSA offices at locations near the Hall County office, and to maximize remaining available staff resources within those area offices, Hall County FSA is adjusting the services available in Grand Island.

Beginning April 1, 2025, the Hall County FSA office will only provide service for farm programs, such as commodity safety net programs, disaster programs, and the Conservation Reserve Program, one day a week, by-appointment-only on Wednesdays at the Grand Island office location. This adjustment to farm program office hours is necessary to handle customer traffic in a way that maximizes the farm program staff resources available between the Hall, Merrick and Nance County FSA office locations. These three locations will now be operated through a shared management arrangement for farm programs. Appointments for farm program service on Wednesdays at the Hall County office help FSA staff ensure they have all appropriate paperwork and other items with them for a successful customer interaction.

Note: The Hall County FSA office will remain open full-time, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for customers who need farm loan program assistance, including direct operating and ownership loans, guaranteed operating and ownership loans, Farm Storage Facility Loans, and any other FSA financing needs. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the Hall County office location also will remain open full-time for business.

As of April 1, 2025, Hall County FSA farm program files will be located in the Merrick County FSA office in Central City and current Hall County FSA program staff will be integrated into the Merrick County FSA staff. The Hall County FSA Committee (COC) will continue to oversee all business related to the Hall County FSA office, and meetings will still take place at the Hall County Office.

As an alternative to your farm program records being transferred to the Merrick County FSA office, you can request your farm records be moved to another county that may be more convenient for you, to be effective for Fiscal Year 2026. If you choose this option, you must submit a completed FSA-179, *Transfer of Farm Records Between Counties*, for each farm number, which must be signed by the operator and all owners on the farm record. We have included the instructions and a blank form.

If you would like assistance completing the form, please contact us or any neighboring FSA office listed below.

Howard-Greeley: (308) 754-4424	Hamilton: (402) 694-6163	Clay: (402) 762-3521
Kearney: (308) 832-2280	Buffalo-Sherman: (308) 237-3118	Adams: (402) 463-6771

For those of you who intend to stay with the Hall/Merrick/Nance County FSA team, due to staff transitions the offices now will be jointly managed by Melanie Campell, who is presently the Hall County FSA Executive Director (CED). Other staff who will continue providing program services through the Hall, Merrick and Nance shared management arrangement are the following Program Analysts who you may already know including: Alex Ayres, Kelly Brandes, Dakota Johnson, Tammy Jones and Rhonda Roth.

To schedule an appointment for farm program service on Wednesdays at the Hall County FSA office, or to contact the Merrick County FSA office for any reason, call **(308) 946-3035, ext. 2**.

For your reference the location for the Merrick County FSA office is:

Merrick County FSA
1708 31st St., Ste 1
Central City, NE 68826-2720

Again, please remember the service locations for current FSA farm loan borrowers remain unchanged at any of the three FSA offices now under this shared management arrangement.

If you have thoughts you would like to share regarding this adjustment to the Hall County FSA office farm program services, you are welcome to contact Nebraska FSA District Director, Tansy Sack at (402) 326-0148 or tansy.sack@usda.gov.

Please know we will work to make this change as seamless as possible for our customers.

Sincerely,

MELANIE
CAMPBELL

Digitally signed by
MELANIE CAMPBELL
Date: 2025.03.20
12:39:09 -05'00'

Melanie Campbell
County Executive Director
Hall, Merrick, & Nance Counties

Instructions for Completing FSA-179 Form

One FSA-179 is needed for each FSA Farm Number.

Make copies of enclosed form as needed.

FSA-179 (05-28-24)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Farm Service Agency		OMB Control No. 0560-0253 OMB Expiration Date 01/30/2027	
TRANSFER OF FARM RECORDS BETWEEN COUNTIES					
See Page 2 for Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements					
1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OPERATOR Operator Name Operator Address		2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER Owner Name(s) Owner Address		3. ACTION INITIATED BY: ☐ OWNER ☐ OPERATOR ☐ COUNTY COMMITTEE	
PART A - REQUEST FOR TRANSFER					
It is requested that records for the below identified farm be transferred so that such land will be considered as located in the county and State indicated here		4. COUNTY New Administrative County		4B. STATE NEBRASKA	
5. REASON FOR TRANSFER (check appropriate box below)					
☐ Physically Located in Receiving County ☐ Combination With Other Farms Operated by Same Person ☐ County Office Closure ☐ Principle Dwelling of Operator Changed ☐ Significantly more Convenient					
☐ Change in Operation of Land ☒ Change has Occurred to Make Another Office More Accessible ☐ DAFP Approval (Specify):					
5A. SIGNATURE OF OWNER(S)		5B. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)		5C. SIGNATURE OF OPERATOR	
SIGNATURE OF OWNER(S) Owner's Signature		Date		SIGNATURE OF OPERATOR Operator's Signature	
SIGNATURE OF OWNER(S) NOTE: All Owners Must Sign					
SIGNATURE OF OWNER(S)					
PART B - ACTION BY TRANSFERRING COUNTY					
7. NAME OF TRANSFERRING COUNTY HALL		8. FARM NO Farm #		9. LOCATION OF FARM Legal Description (if known)	

Stop Here. The County Office will fill out remaining sections of the form.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 S Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
(308) 395-8586 Ext. 3

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

April 2, 2025

Dear Hall County NRCS Producer:

You are receiving this letter as confirmation that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office presence and service delivery remains unchanged in Hall County. Recently the Farm Service Agency (FSA) adjusted staff and appointment availability and file location at the Grand Island USDA Service Center. The adjustments to FSA farm program delivery will not impact NRCS operations in Hall County. NRCS will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to Hall County Producers at the Grand Island USDA Service Center.

The Grand Island NRCS Field Office location and telephone number is listed below and will be open to provide full service, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**GRAND ISLAND NRCS FIELD OFFICE
703 S Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-395-8586 EXT. 3**

Please consult with FSA for instructions and options for receiving services for programs administered by FSA.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience the recent changes may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding as USDA adjusts operations to maximize available staffing resources and maintain efficient delivery of high quality and timely customer service. Please contact the Grand Island NRCS Field Office if you have questions or me if you wish to express concerns about this information.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in natural resources conservation.

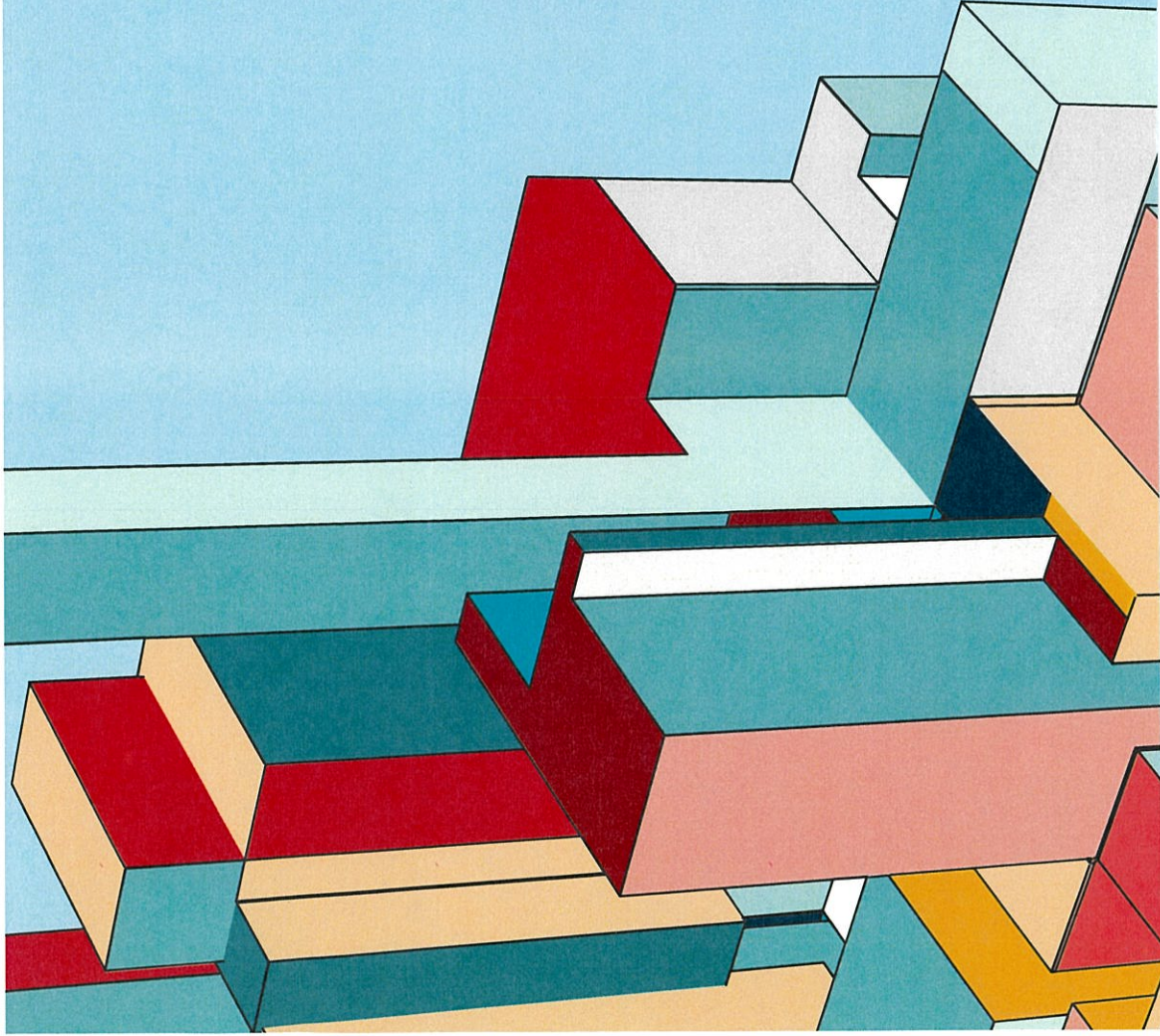
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Krolkowski'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist
(308) 395-8586 Ext. 3

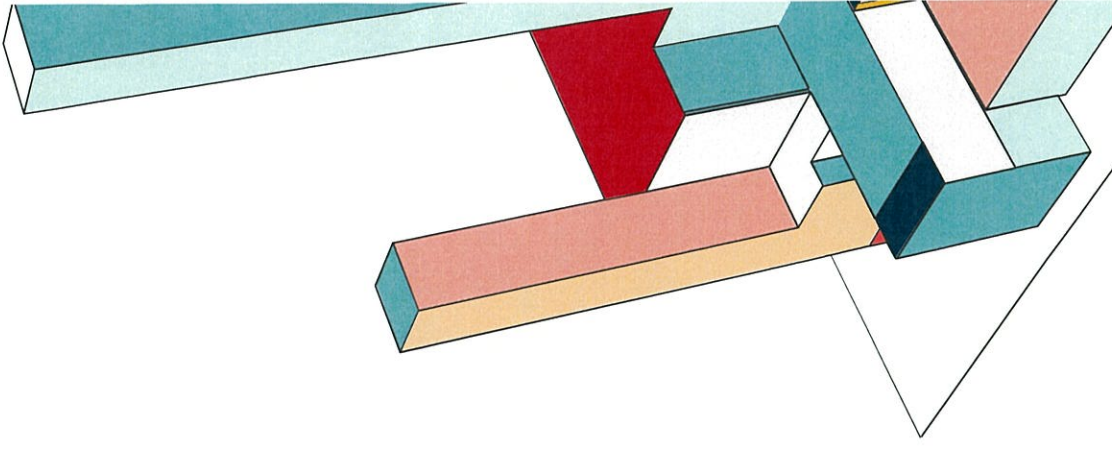


KEARNEY FIELD OFFICE



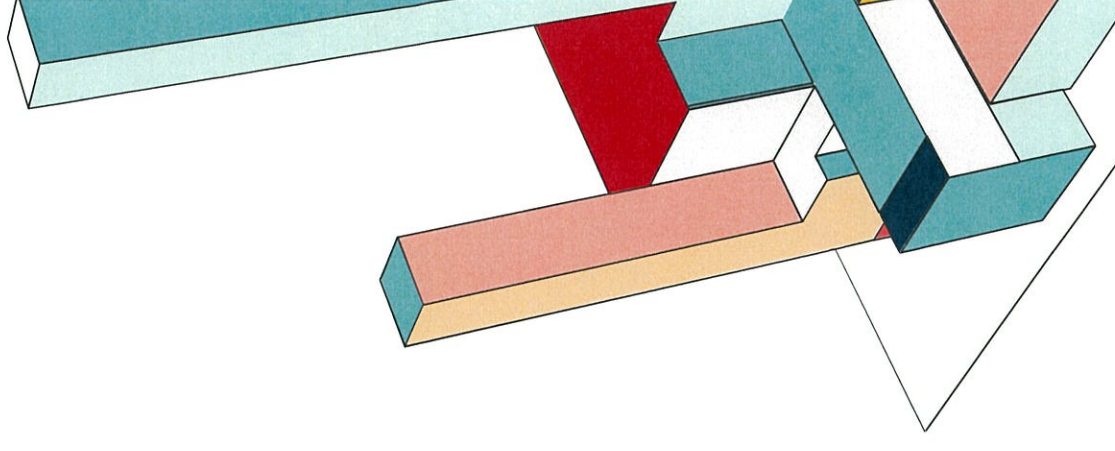
EQIP UPDATE

- 2025 Newly Obligated Contracts
 - 1 RCPP – Irrigated to Dryland
 - 1 EQIP Wildlife Initiative
 - 1 EQIP Grazing
 - 1 EQIP Pest Pressure and Grazing
 - 1 EQIP Written Burn Plan
 - 1 EQIP Source Water - SDI
- Assessed & Ranked – Waiting for Funding
 - 88 Additional Applications (18 Brush Mgt, 18 Cover Crops, 13 Grazing, 2 HEL Structures, 5 Nutrient Mgt, 14 Pivots, 1 Range Planting, 11 SDI, 2 SSUA, 4 IWM)
- New Applications since cut off date: 16
- Active Contracts to Manage: 47 + 10 RCPP



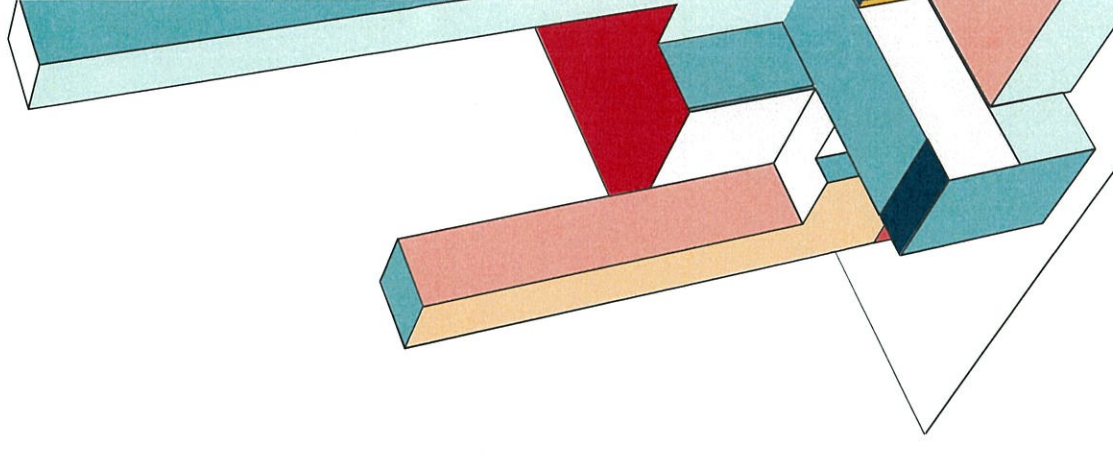
CSP UPDATE

- 5 Application Assessed and Ranked
 - Ranking Deadline was April 18th.
 - Waiting for potential funding.
- Active Contracts to Manage: 10
 - CSP-GCI - 4



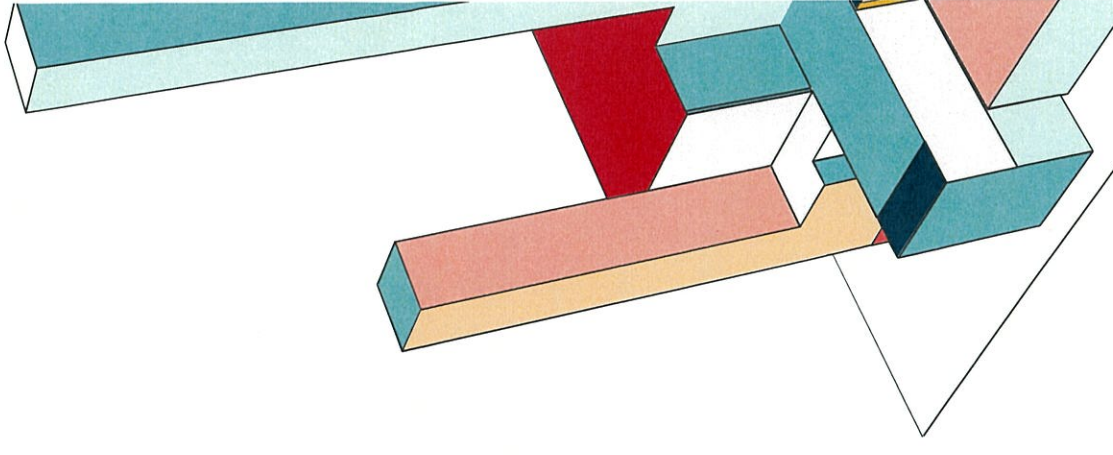
NSWCP/NRD PROGRAMS ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

- CPNRD
 - 3 windbreak, 1 grazing system, 1 brush management
- LLNRD
 - 1 waterway, 1 grazing system



NEW RCPP AGREEMENT

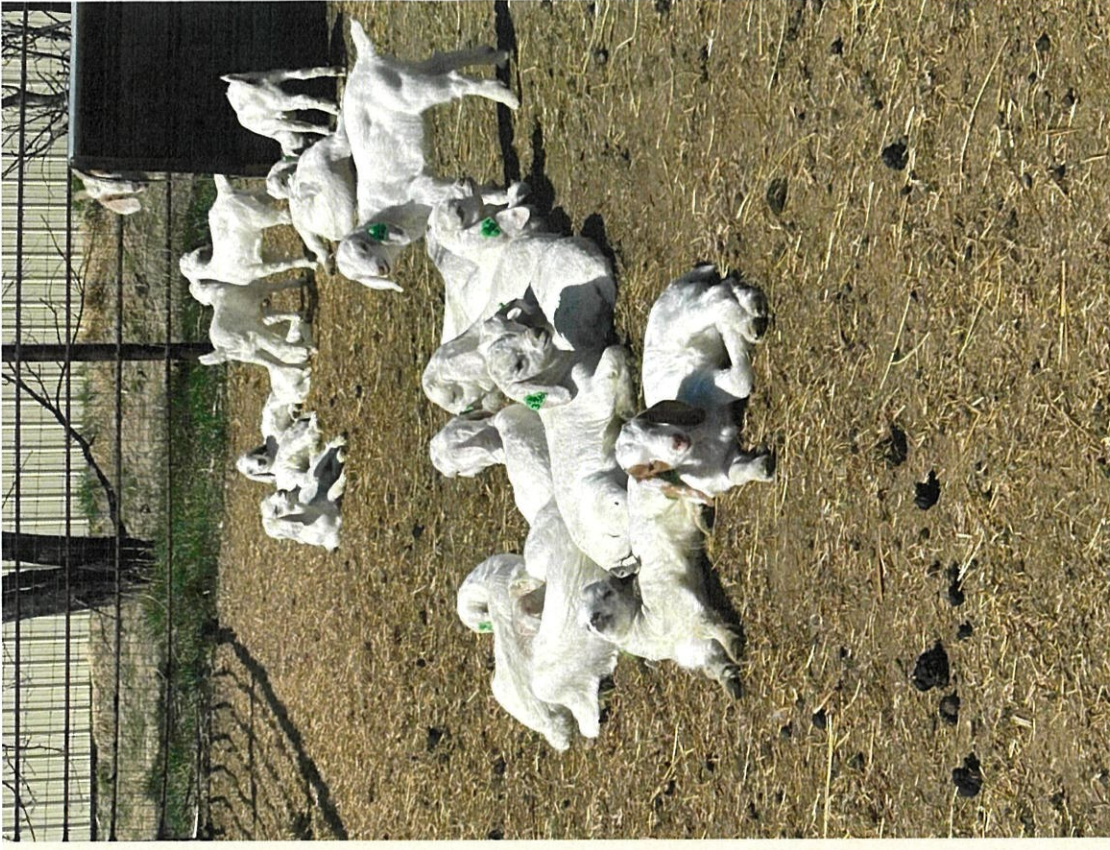
- Physically in LLNRD
 - Sign up now till May 30, 2025
 - Beneficial for those interested in nutrient management in Buffalo county that cannot use CPNRD funding for Nutrient Management Applications because physically in LLNRD. (We have many operators in both NRDs)
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/nebraska/news/usda-nrcs-announces-financial-assistance-to-landowners-and-operators-in>



NRD COST SHARE COVER CROPS AFTER WILDFIRE

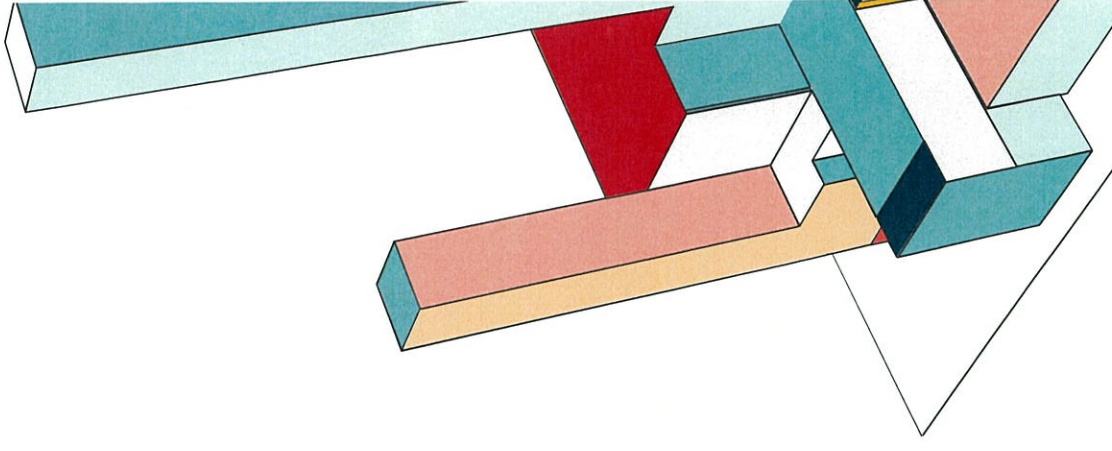
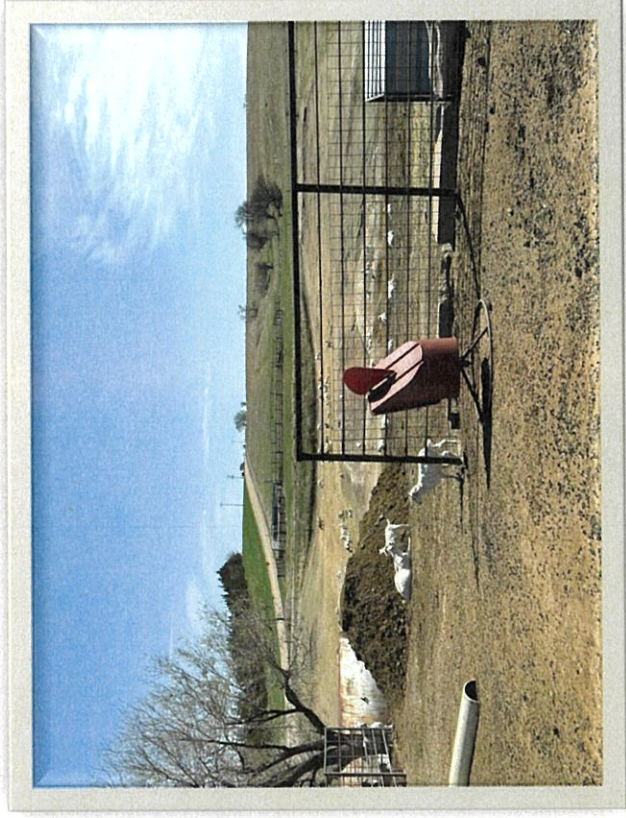


NEW EQIP INQUIRY GOAT CONFINEMENT



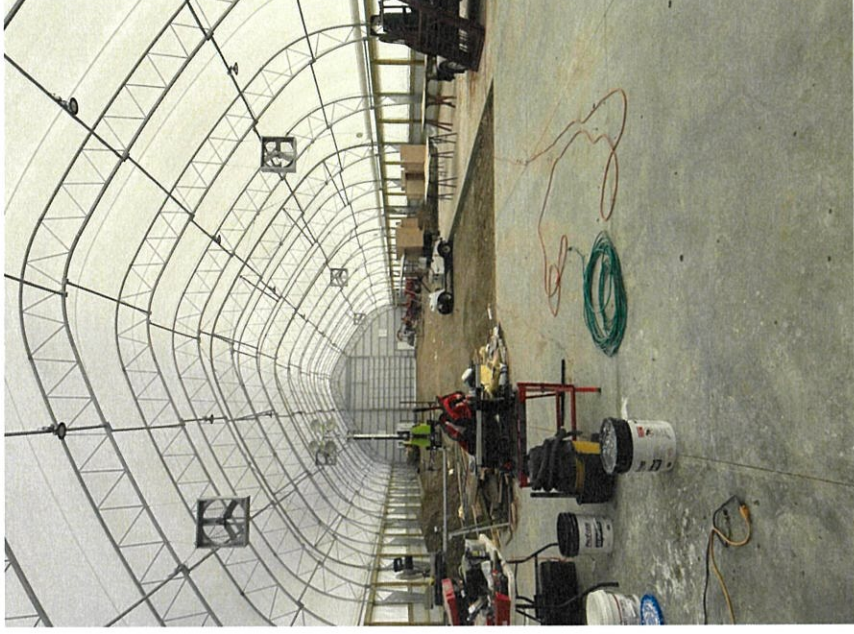
CURRENT RESOURCE CONCERN

- Currently managing goats on a creek water area.
- Producer wants to be able to properly utilize the manure and waist.



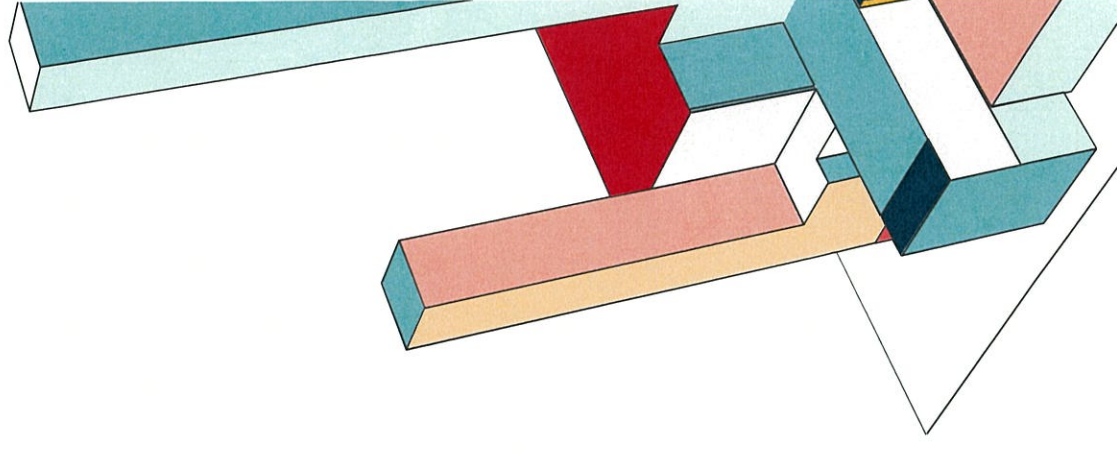
CURRENT BUILDING – ON PRODUCERS'

EXPENSE



PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Compost Facility
 - For Manure and Mortalities
- Better manage Manure by having concrete to clean and utilize
- Nutrient Management Plan and Budget
- Future expansion and buildings to be able to finish all Goats in a healthy way.

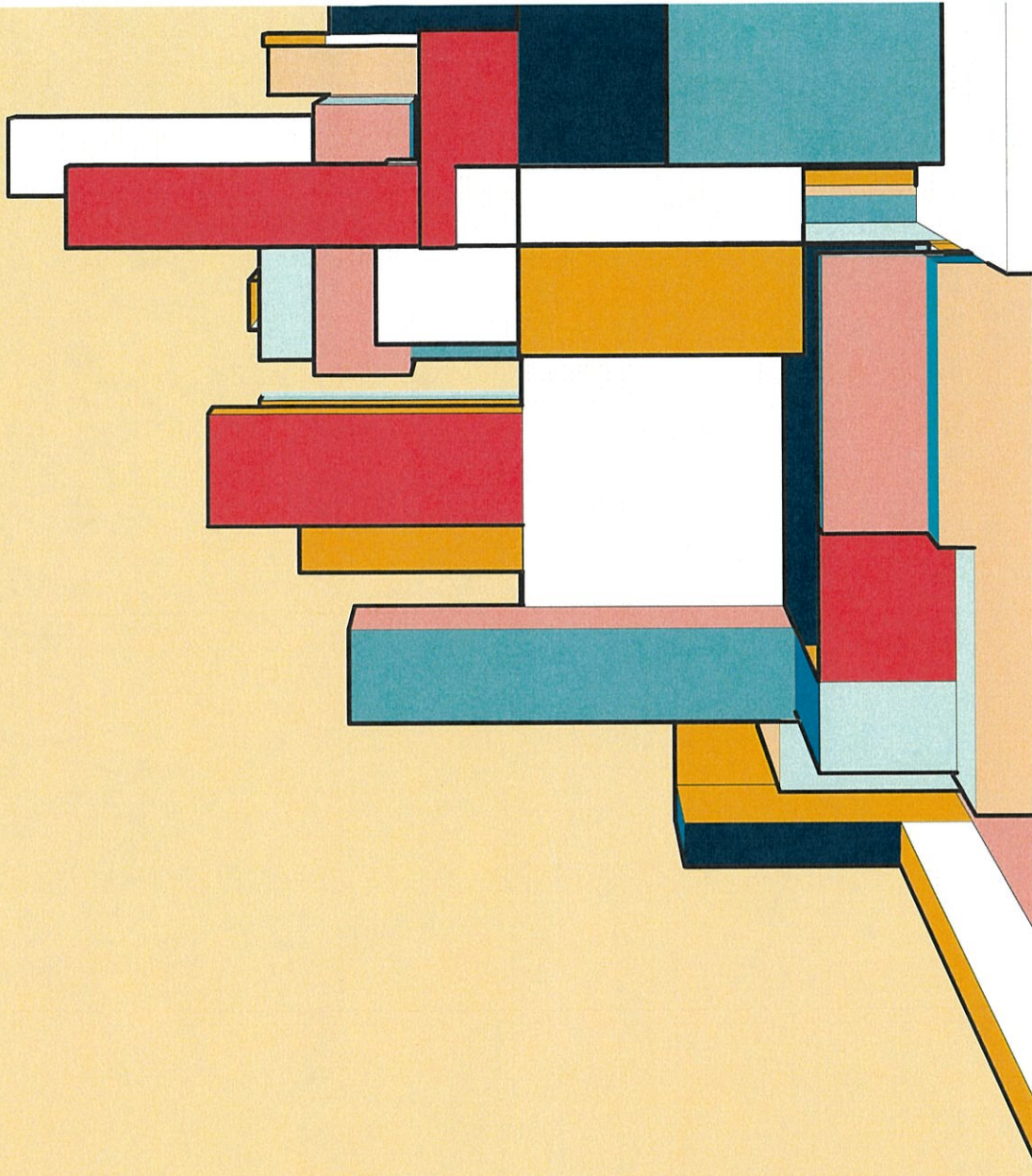


THANK YOU

Janelle Taubenheim

308-237-3118

Janelle.Taubenheim@usda.gov



Transfer \$2,000 from Grazing Deferment and put \$2,000 to Soil Moisture Sensor

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, April 24, 2025

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...	\$	1,509.30
Ford Brothers Holdings LLC – Dawson – Range Seeding	\$	1,509.30
SENSOR BASED MANAGEMENT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE	\$	3,190.00
B&D Giffin Inc. – Buffalo	\$	3,190.00
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Hadwiger Ag Production Inc. – Buffalo	\$	2,000.00
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Steve Bockmann – Hall	\$	2,000.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,250.00
Joe France – Dawson	\$	750.00
Shane Terrell – Dawson – 2 wells		1,000.00
Andrew Jobman – Dawson		500.00
TOTAL	\$	10,949.30