



Nebraska State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2026 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Hybrid meeting on Teams and 1121 Mall - Tundra Room 3rd Floor – Lincoln, NE

ATTENDEES – Rob Lawson, Conor Ward, Fred Stevens, Amy Miller, Jeremiah Schutz, Carlos Villarreal, Roger Yerdon, Jana Ingwerson-Laws, Patrick Lechner, Nathan Mueller, Jacob Malslouka, Burdette Piening, Andrew Tonnies, Kent Zimmerman, Mallory James, Nick Arneson, Tim Kalkowski, Kristine Jameson, Seth Mitchell, Anni Poetzi Larkin Powell, Dean Edson

VIA TEAMS & PHONE: Andy Bishop, Heidi Borg, Brian Bruckner Caro, Cordova, Chandler Schmidt, Chad Christiansen, Crystal Powers, Curt Becker, Dave Potter, Laura Badura, Alexa Davis, Dustin Wilcox, Jackson Ebberts, Ele Nugent, Andrew Houser, Josh Jelden, Jason Moudry, Jennifer Swanson, Katja Koehler-Cole, Kyle Hauschild, Mark Brohman, Mike Crosley, James Olson, Andy Pedley, Rachael Herpel, Mary Reece, Rich Walters, Holly Schacht, Scott Shaneman, Jami Thoene, Jenny Prenosil, 202-913-2730, 308-440-1388

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **DECEMBER 3, 2026**
 - **MARCH 4, 2027**
 - **JUNE 3, 2027**
 - **SEPTEMBER 2, 2027**
 - **DECEMBER 2, 2027**
-

Welcome & Opening Comments: *Rob Lawson - NRCS State Conservationist*

- Overview of the agenda:
 - FSA & NRCS Program Updates
 - Regenerative Pilot Program & Virtual Fencing Planning
 - ACEP Programs Updates
 - Partner Updates
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FSA Program Updates: Jana Ingwerson-Laws, Agricultural Programs Specialist – FSA

- **National CRP Acreage**
 - Statutory cap: 27 million acres (set by 2018 farm bill)
 - Current national CRP acreage: 25.9 million acres
 - National expiring 9/30/2026: 1.5 million acres
 - Nebraska CRP acreage: 2,468,538 acres
 - Nebraska acres expiring 9/30/2026: 72,014 acres
- **CRP Authority**
 - CRP will lose statutory authority September 30, 2026 if no farm bill or extension passes
 - Will stop all approvals of any new CRP
- **Transition Incentives Program (TIP) Authority**
 - TIP allows eligible owners/operators to receive up to two years of CRP rental payments after expiration
 - Must transition land to veteran, beginning, or SDA farmer/rancher
 - TIP opened back up March 16, 2026, but due to high volume of applications and funding exhausted, TIP enrollment closed April 29, 2026
- **Continuous CRP Signup 65**
 - Signup opened: February 12, 2026
 - Offers will go through batching process
 - Non-competitive first-come, first-serve basis
 - Two Batching Periods
 - March 20 – 1421 offers totaling 39,724.62ac accepted
 - May 1 – 79 offers totaling 1,292.83ac accepted
 - Total Nebraska Offers as of August 26, 2026
 - 1,372 offers totaling 35,074.71 acres
 - All contracts start 10/1/2026
 - Option to defer up to 6 months from COC approval
 - Conservation plans due: September 18, 2026
- **General CRP Signup 66**
 - Signup dates: March 9 – April 17, 2026
 - Nationwide accepted acreage = 325,244 out of 361,303
 - Nebraska Numbers:
 - Total Offers = 320 (20,143 acres)
 - Accepted Offers = 289 (18,641 acres)
 - 90% Acreage Acceptance Rate
- **Grassland CRP Signup 208**
 - Announced April 30th; Signup May 4-29, 2026
 - Nebraska: 578 of 667 offers accepted, 300,289 acres (89% acceptance rate)
 - Led nation in offers and acreage
 - Top Three States:
 - Nebraska
 - South Dakota (482 offers, 139,907 acres)

- Kansas (476 offers, 98,956 acres)
- Interim conservation plans authorized
 - Final Conservation Plans due December 31, 2026
- Interim and Full Plans due by September 18, 2026
- Authorized Practices on Grassland CRP

The following NRCS Practice Standards may be eligible for C/S.

NRCS Practice Standard	Practice Name	NRCS Practice Standard	Practice Name
338	Prescribed Burning	533	Pumping Plant
342	Critical Area Planting	561	Heavy Use Area Protection
378	Pond	574	Spring Development
382	Fence	575	Trails and Walkways
394	Firebreak	614	Watering Facility
472	Access Control	642	Water Well
516	Livestock Pipeline		

- **CRP-1096 Virtual Fencing on Grassland CRP**
 - Authorizes use of virtual fence on Grassland CRP
 - All criteria must be met to be eligible for virtual fence:
 - Must address an identified plant health resource concern by managing grazing distribution, frequency, and duration according to an approved Grazing Management Plan.
 - Virtual fence offers measurable financial advantages to USDA by reducing capital costs, minimizing long-term maintenance obligations, or enabling land management outcomes that would otherwise require substantial infrastructure investment.
 - The operation manages at least 125 head, and the CRP acreage under contract must be sufficient to support those grazing animals wearing collars for the average number of grazing days.
 - Existing Grassland CRP
 - COC may modify approved conservation plan to authorize C/S for virtual fence when it is reasonable, feasible and necessary to address a grazing distribution resource concern, provided no CRP C/S has previously been issued for interior fencing.
 - Boundary Fence must be in place
 - Eligible livestock: cattle (including weaned calves over 440 lbs.), sheep, goats
 - Will be creating Cost Share Components for future State Tech approval
 - Proposed Cost Share Rates – Need State Technical Committee and Nebraska FSA State Committee Approval

Component	Unit of Measure	Proposed Rate	Cost Share (50%)
NEVFBASE26	CONTRACT	\$11,243.44	\$5,621.72
NEVFCOLLAR26	HEAD	\$55.51	\$27.76
NEVFTRANS26	EACH	\$7,754.54	\$3,877.27

- Rate will be issued at percent of cost not to exceed the average actual cost per unit
- CRP Cost Share Rate 50%

- **ECP-105 Virtual Fencing on ECP**

- Authorized for resource concerns caused by natural disaster
- Operation must be considered suitable when virtual fence is more cost effective and includes:
 - virtual fence was in use by the producer and was damaged by a disaster event
 - Replaces large amounts of interior fencing that would otherwise require significant material, labor, and maintenance costs
 - The operation manages at least 125 head
 - grazing area is large, remote, or rugged pastures where physical fence installation and upkeep are expensive or difficult
 - Used to manage livestock access to sensitive areas such as water bodies, wildlife habitat and locations prone to soil erosion
 - Avoids ecological, regulatory, or physical challenges posed by building fence in wildlife corridors, archeological areas, sensitive habitats, or wildfire-prone zones
- Effective all disasters occurring FY2025 and forward
 - Producer cannot switch if already installed permanent interior fence
- Eligible livestock: cattle (including weaned calves over 440 lbs.), sheep, goats
- Payment Scenario will follow FY26 NRCS EQIP rates and standards/specifications
- Cost Share Rates for ECP follow FY26 EQIP payment schedules

Payment Scenario	Unit of Measure	Proposed Rate	Cost Share (75%)
Startup Year 1 Base Cost	Each	\$11,243.44	\$8,432.58
Startup Year 1 Implementation Cost (per head)	Each	\$55.51	\$41.63
Transmitter Station	Each	\$7,754.54	\$5,815.91

- ECP Cost Share Rate 75%

- **CRP: Emergency Hay and Graze**

- Emergency Haying authorized on all practices, 100% of contract acreage
- Emergency grazing authorized on all practices on 100% of acreage
- Once a county triggers LFP:
 - Emergency Grazing is now authorized during the PNS at 50% carrying capacity
 - Emergency Haying (restricted to 50% contract acreage) only on authorized practices (CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP8A, CP10, CP18B/C, CP21, CP23/A, CP28, CP37, CP38E, CP39) outside of the PNS.
- Contact County FSA Office before taking any action on CRP acres; those providing acres and those using the acres must both notify the County FSA Office; do not begin hay or graze until FSA issues approval
- NRCS will work with contract holders to update CRP conservation plan

- **ECP in Nebraska**

- Counties approved

County	Disaster	Signup Date	Extended Signup End Date
Cherry	Anderson Bridge Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Dawson	Cottonwood Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Lincoln	Cottonwood Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Arthur	Morrill Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Garden	Morrill Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Grant	Morrill Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Keith	Morrill Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Morrill	Morrill Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Blaine	Road 203 Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Thomas	Road 203 Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026

County	Disaster	Signup Date	Extended Signup End Date
Grant	Ashby-Minor Fires	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Garden	Ashby Fire	April 27-June 26, 2026	October 26, 2026
Custer	Pressey Fire	May 18-July 17, 2026	September 25, 2026
Arthur	Vasa Mell Fires	June 3, 2026-August 3, 2026	
Holt	Peterson Fire	August 10, 2026-Sept. 9, 2026	
Morrill	June Flood Event	July 20, 2026-August 19, 2026	
Dawes	Ash Pole Fire	September 19, 2026-November 16, 2026	
Dawes	South Fork Fire	September 19, 2026-November 16, 2026	
Dawes	Log Road Fire	September 19, 2026-November 16, 2026	
Boyd	Drought	August 31, 2026-September 30, 2026	
Holt	Drought	August 31, 2026-September 30, 2026	

NRCS Conservation Programs Updates: *Conor Ward* – NRCS ASTC-Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program – EQIP as of 8/3/2026
 - EQIP FA - \$90,016,820
 - 3,534 applications
 - 1,153 contracts
 - 33% of applications funded
 - \$75,000 average contract
- 2026 EQIP Top 25 Practices (by dollars)

Practice	Obligation
Cover Crop	\$ 13,190,506.48
Conservation Crop Rotation	\$ 12,164,587.32
Grazing Management	\$ 10,622,322.29
Nutrient Management	\$ 6,817,150.46
Water Well	\$ 4,721,574.29
Sprinkler System	\$ 4,350,398.45
Brush Management	\$ 4,233,655.65
Pest Management Conservation System	\$ 3,564,236.09
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	\$ 3,061,156.84
Pumping Plant	\$ 2,405,321.50
Watering Facility	\$ 1,971,715.17
Annual Forages for Grazing Systems	\$ 1,960,568.01
Fence	\$ 1,823,468.81
Livestock Pipeline	\$ 1,484,915.58
Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,481,850.00
Prescribed Burning	\$ 1,383,447.00
Terrace	\$ 1,086,322.78
Pasture and Hay Planting	\$ 1,067,128.68
Range Planting	\$ 691,509.00
Conservation Cover	\$ 651,614.91
Irrigation Pipeline	\$ 619,999.41
Underground Outlet	\$ 513,704.00
High Tunnel System	\$ 509,917.66
Forest Stand Improvement	\$ 493,773.00
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	\$ 471,096.13

- **2026 EQIP Top 25 Practices (by quantity)**

Practice	Quantity	Unit
Fence	743,167	Linear Ft
Grazing Management	557,442	Acres
Livestock Pipeline	482,675	Linear Ft
Terrace	431,773	Foot
Cover Crop	191,560	Acres
Nutrient Management	106,055	Acres
Pest Management	85,606	Acres
Irrigation Water Management	74,800	Acres
Underground Outlet	64,034	Foot
Irrigation Pipeline	54,826	Linear Ft
Brush Management	30,550	Acres
Residue and Tillage Mgmt, No-Till	19,300	Acres
Annual Forages for Grazing Systems	16,897	Acres
Conservation Crop Rotation	16,238	Acres
Prescribed Burning	14,381	Acres
Sprinkler System	4,660	Acres
Pasture and Hay Planting	4,322	Acres
Range Planting	2,090	Acres
Conservation Cover	2,000	Acres
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	1477	Acres
Watering Facility	489	Number
Pumping Plant	335	Number
Water Well	180	Number

- **Obligations by Fund Pool**
 - Water Quality/Water Quantity 31.7%
 - Soil Erosion/Soil Health 29.6%
 - Livestock Production Limitation 27.6%
 - 11% of allocation was for Disaster Response
 - Pest Pressure 7.2%
 - Wildlife/Forestry 3.9%
- **Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP - FY2026**
 - CSP FA - \$20.5M
 - 258 applications
 - 136 contracts obligated (7 NIPF, 129 Agland)
 - 53% of applications funded
 - \$157,715 average contract
 - 223,000 acres
 - CSP active 2025 contracts & active acres by county
- **Regenerative Pilot Program**
 - CSP - 13 contracts, 59% of RPP obligated
 - EQIP - 94 contracts, 165.3% of RCPP obligated

- **RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

- Projects

Name	Partner	Type / States	Expiration
2434 – Platte & Playa Wetland Protection	Ducks Unlimited	Classic	1/25/2027
2271 – Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery	CPNRD	Classic	1/26/2027
1966 – Resilient Futures for Nebraska Soils	The Nature Conservancy	Classic	4/23/2027
2406 – Building Ranch Resiliency in SD and NE	World Wildlife Fund	Classic (SD Lead)	10/27/2027
2752 – Life from Soil: The RSVP Network	World Wildlife Fund	AFA (MT Lead, SD)	3/15/2028
3454 – Tribal Buffalo Restoration in the SE Region	InterTribal Buffalo Council	AFA (OK Lead, KS, FL)	9/18/2030
3835 – Growing and Expanding Grassland Cores	RWBJV	AFA	1/17/2030

- **2026 Proposal Review Timeline**



- **Looking ahead to 2027**

- October 16, 2027 – EQIP, CSP and ACEP Application Deadline
 - IMPAC 2.0 Pilot Program
 - Nebraska is one of nine states in the pilot program

- **2026 Local Working Groups**

- Top 5 resource concerns: soil erosion, water quality degradation, livestock production, soil quality degradation, degraded plant conditions
 - Feedback to be reviewed regarding if there is anything we are not capturing through existing programs or practices

- **STAC Subcommittees**

- Soil Health, Grasslands, Water, Wetlands, Wildlife & Forestry member lists were shared
 - 1 annual meeting and on an as needed basis for any critical USDA time sensitive recommendations needed
 - Details for the first meeting to be sent via Subcommittee Chair end of FY26 or early FY27
 - USDA year end - Sept 30

Regenerative Pilot Program Outcomes & Next Steps: Jeremiah Schutz – NRCS Resource Conservationist

- **RPP Overview**
 - A whole farm planning and resource inventory process
 - Conservation plans include at minimum one primary regenerative practice with direct impact to soil and water resource conservation.
 - There is an existing soil and water resource condition criteria to meet eligibility thresholds for EQIP and CSP
 - Conservation plans include an evaluation and monitoring requirement
- **Regenerative Conservation Practices & Activities FY26**
 - Primary conservation practices are essential to the soil and water regenerative focus of the Pilot.
 - The CEMA 216 – Soil Health Testing Activity is utilized to evaluate RPP focused conservation plan outcomes.

Conservation Practices

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Y	N	N	N
330	Contour Farming	Y	N	N	N
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop	Y	N	N	N
340	Cover Crop	Y	Y	Y	N
554	Drainage Water Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
511	Forage Harvest Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N	Y	Y	N
449	Irrigation Water Management	Y	Y	Y	N
484	Mulching	Y	Y	Y	Y
590	Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	N
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Y	Y	Y	Y
528	Grazing Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Y	N	N	N
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced	Y	N	N	N
585	Stripcropping	Y	N	N	N

- 166 applications
- CEMA 216 activity used as a metric to evaluate RPP and whole farm plan development
- Primary RPP practices

Primary Regenerative Practices Planned in FY26	Total Extents Planned for 2026 and 2027
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	2,050 acres
Residue Management No Till (329)	2,563 acres
Cover Crop (340)	35,358 acres
Forage Harvest Management (511)	346 acres
Grazing Management (528)	4,354 acres
Nutrient Management (590)	21,512 acres
Pest Management Conservation System (595)	10,540 acres

- **RPP evaluation for FY27**
 - Evaluate the need to establish critical Soil and Water Resource Concerns
 - Evaluate eligible land-uses
 - Evaluate the list of Primary Regenerative Conservation Practices
- **Regenerative Critical Natural Resources for FY27**
 - The critical Soil and Water resource components that will be required to be met at planned condition
 - NOTE: The extent met requirement differs between EQIP and CSP
 - These resource components are critical to kickstart a Regenerative Conservation System.
 - Soil
 - Aggregate Stability
 - Organic Matter depletion
 - Soil Organism Habitat Loss or Degradation
 - All soil erosion components
 - Water
 - No change from FY26 – All components must be met at planned condition
- **Regenerative Land-uses for FY27**
 - Cropland
 - Range
 - Pasture
 - Associated Agland –
 - Adjacent land-uses such as riparian areas, stream corridors, wildlife habitat, etc. that are considered part of the whole farm resource inventory and planning process.
- **Regenerative Primary Practices for FY27**
 - The recommendation for FY27 is to maintain the current list of Primary Regenerative Conservation Practices.
 - This list adequacy covers the practices (Management and Vegetative) that are essential to regenerative planning and the critical resource concerns

Conservation Practices

Code	Asset Name	Crop	Forest	Pasture	Range
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Y	N	N	N
330	Contour Farming	Y	N	N	N
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop	Y	N	N	N
340	Cover Crop	Y	Y	Y	N
554	Drainage Water Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
511	Forage Harvest Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N	Y	Y	N
449	Irrigation Water Management	Y	Y	Y	N
484	Mulching	Y	Y	Y	Y
590	Nutrient Management	Y	Y	Y	N
595	Pest Management Conservation System	Y	Y	Y	Y
528	Grazing Management	Y	Y	Y	Y
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Y	N	N	N
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced	Y	N	N	N
585	Stripcropping	Y	N	N	N

- **Preparing for RPP in FY27**
 - Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff
 - Back to Our Roots In-Field Training

Virtual Fence Planning Efforts *Jeremiah Schutz – NRCS Resource Conservationist*

- **Project Details**
 - Added to our technical guide – released for use

Acres	Purpose	AREA	VF_System
2876	Large paddocks - poor distribution	South Platte NRD	
6559	Large paddocks - poor distribution	South Platte NRD	Halter
3068	Poor distribution - sensitive area protection	Little Blue NRD	
75	Access Control	Upper Elkhorn NRD	
53	Access Control	Tri Basin	
613	Multi Land Use Grazing	Tri Basin	
600	Wildfire 2026 - Purpose TBD	Central Platte NRD	Monil VF System
42	Pest Pressure	Nemaha NRD	
506	Poor distribution	Lewis & Clark NRD	
746	Increase forage production	Lower Platte North NRD	
85	Increase forage production	Lower Platte North NRD	
15,223			

- Utilized on Cropland, Range and Pasture
 - 8 projects in the Implementation Phase “obligated”
 - 3 projects in the Planning Phase
 - 2 livestock types (Cattle and 1 Goat operation)
- **Virtual Fence Practice Purpose**
 - Improve distribution capabilities and forage utilization
 - Protect or manage sensitive areas within grazing units
 - Create selective access to watering points
 - Support wildlife habitat conservation plans
 - Manage fuels to align with prescribed burn plans & mitigate wildfire potential
 - Targeted grazing for pest control
 - Incorporate multi-species grazing where infrastructure is lacking
 - **Resources for Vendors**
 - UNL Beef Resources
 - <https://beef.unl.edu/it-time-consider-virtual-fencing-intensive-grazing-management/>
 - <https://preec.unl.edu/news/virtual-fencing-enhancing-cattle-management-range/>
 - <https://beef.unl.edu/nebraska-producers-interested-virtual-fencing-new-cost-share-opportunity-coming-soon/>
 - <https://awesmlab.unl.edu/sites/unl.edu.ianr.snr.applied-spatial-ecology-lab/files/media/file/Virtual%20Fencing%20Report%202023.pdf>
 - <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/animalscinbcr/1278/>
 - Center for Regenerative Agriculture - University of Missouri
 - <https://cra.missouri.edu/heartland-virtual-fence-project/>

- **Implementation Requirement Evaluation in FY26**
 - The service provider needs to be solidified by the time of program incentive obligation.
 - Need to update the IR to allow for more room to...
 - Document site specific resources of concern and
 - Define evaluation procedures
 - Procedures developed cooperatively between NRCS and producer
 - Overall, it was a great success for first year practice rollout.

ACEP Program Update: Roger Yerdon – NRCS ASTC-Water Resources & Easements

- **Ranking Priorities**
 - WRE & WREP
 - Preliminary Due Diligence Completed
 - Percentage of Wetlands in the Offered Parcel
 - Proximity to Other Protected Lands
 - Permanent vs. 30-year
 - Cost of Restoration
 - Cost per Acre
 - Wetland Hydrology Present
 - Wetland Vegetation Present
 - ALE & ALE-GSS
 - Preliminary Due Diligence Completed
 - Percent of Prime, Unique, and important soils
 - Percent of Cropland, Pastureland, Grassland, and Rangeland
 - Ratio to Average Farm Size (County)
 - Average Farm/Ranch Size (County)
 - Population Growth/Decline (County)
 - Proximity to Other Protected Lands
 - Presence of a Succession Plan
 - Grassland of Special Environmental Significance
 - Cropping History
 - Risk of Conversion
 - Vegetative Biodiversity
- **GARC's for FY 2027**
 - Not to Exceed Rates
 - \$12,430 – Irrigated
 - \$9,315 – Non-Irrigated
 - Compensation will be 95% of the FMV
 - ALE
 - 50% Valuation Difference
 - ALE-GSS

- 75% Valuation Difference
 - **Wetland Restoration Criteria Guidelines (WRCG)**
 - Documents the technical considerations and parameters used to support decision making related to the restoration of wetlands and associated habitats through the ACEP-WRE program
 - Guides consistent, defensible, decision making based on vetted and documented technical parameters
 - Supports eligibility, ranking, planning, restoration design, management, and enforcement decisions
 - Document has been revised and is available for comments
 - <https://nrcs.box.com/s/hcf3qulgc5utik1wpbuiew3gsmjt4rr5>
 - Comments can either be made in the document using the comment tool or emailed to Melissa.Baier@usda.gov and Roger.Yerdon@usda.gov
 - Wetlands Subcommittee Meeting proposed for late September/early October to go over the WRCG and recommendations
 - **Nebraska ACEP-WRE Short Films**
 - Wetland Legacies – WRE Program Overview
 - Interviews with Agency Personnel and Partners
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWa-xh42tkI&t=4s>
 - Wetland Legacies – Nebraska Landowner Stories
 - Four Landowners discuss their easements
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Nqxl9LYPag>
 - Considering an agreement highlighting ALE & ALE-GSS easements
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Partner Updates:

- **Andrew Tonnies – Center for Rural Affairs**
 - We had a well-attended field day with the Conservation Mentorship Network
 - USDA Rainfall Simulator was demonstrated by Carlos Villarreal and Riley Hackbart
 - Keep an eye out for future events
- **Nathan Mueller – Nebraska Corn Board – Stewardship Programs Coordinator**
 - Nebraska Corn Board reinvests several million of their checkoffs through the request for proposal process, September 15 to December 16.
 - Key priority: ensuring sustainability
 - Precision conservation management is among our funded projects
 - Working with DWEE and NRD on our Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act and Nitrogen Use Efficiency Program
 - Partnering with UNL in research
 - Projects – in cover crops, integrated pest management, remediation & nitrate plumes,
 - Nebraska Strategic Ag Coalition – selected by UNL to redesign the website to increase it's utility to partners

- **Burdette Piening - Producer**
 - Recommended seeing Blackshirt Feeders – automated feedlot with 90K head and capacity for 200K in western NE.
- **Dean Edson – NARD**
 - Husker Harvest Days – Sept 15-17
 - Giving away 3000 spruce trees
 - Annual meeting in Kearney – Sept 27-29
 - Raise money for ag youth programs
- **Mallory Jaymes – US Fish & Wildlife Service**
 - For environmental reviews on endangered species, we have finalized our IPaC Nebraska State DT.
 - Online should quicken reviews for easy projects.
 - Happy to answer any questions or help those new to IPaC.
- **Steve Riley – American Bird Conservancy - Chief Conservation Officer**
 - We are a bird conservation organization throughout both Americas with staff in 13 states.
 - Focus on habitat management of all birds.
 - Host five of the migratory bird joint ventures.
 - Have worked with Nebraska Game & Parks and Northern Prairies Land Trust.
 - Looking to fill conservation gaps & bring new funding to conservation in Nebraska
- **Katja Koehler-Cole – Nebraska Extension**
 - Works in soil health with Caro Cardova who organized the CEMA 216 workshop
 - Had several other workshops teaching on cover crops
 - Always available to help education and promote good practices.
- **Andy Bishop -Rainwater Basin Joint Venture**
 - Thank you to NRCS for the diversity that has been put on the ground to help Nebraska producers
 - RBJV was awarded a Volumetric Groundwater Recharge Award from Bonneville Environmental Foundation to help support playa wetland restoration.
 - Wetlands that NRCS has helped restore is 844,000,000 gallons per acre per day for the recharge estimate on some of our playa wetlands. It puts value on our voluntary incentive-based programs.
 - Thank you, NRCS staff and partners that have helped make our AFA RCPP project, so successful. Should have over \$1M obligated by end of this federal fiscal year.

Wrap Up: Rob Lawson – NRCS State Conservationist

- Housekeeping – those in attendance, please sign in on your way out and any virtually please sign in the chat or

- Hope you all have a great harvest.
- Those on subcommittees be on the lookout for meeting emails.
- Reconvene on December 3