

Brookings Conservation District Board Meeting
NRCS Monthly Board Report
April 2, 2019

Assistance/Progress

- CRP
 - Still very little info coming out, but a sign-up sometime this year is quite likely.
 - Cody Rolfes was at their PF meeting and brought back a flyer (see attachment) on the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) component that has been added to CRP in the new Farm Bill
 - Had Ryan Forbes approve the Burn Plans needing approval.
 - Had a request from a producer to be able to thin a row in their windbreak, so I made a field visit and provided FSA with my input.

- CSP
 - For last year's renewals, set to expire this May, a modification will be done to extend the contract length to 12/31/19.
 - The \$200,000 payment cap will still apply to these contracts.
 - They can choose to not extend the contract length.
 - We believe there will be a 2019 program sign-up, with the cut-off possibly being sometime in May.
 - We have ~17 potential applications with new interest and folks that chose not to renew their contracts last year.

- EQIP
 - 4 applications have been preapproved totaling \$358,642.00
 - 1 application for cropland and 3 for waste storage related practices.
 - NRCS SD has requested additional funds with the hopes of being able to fund additional contracts.
 - 2 were marked as ineligible and sent ineligibility letters.

- WRP/WRE
 - Announced April 12 as the cut-off for this sign-up for WRE.
 - We have 2 new applications this year, plus several carry-over applications from previous years.

- Conservation Plans for Review

Other Items of Interest

- I attended the ARS Customer Focus Group meeting on 3/20.
- NRCS is having an All Employee Meeting on April 2-3 in Oacoma.
- NRCS is trying to determine the need for emergency funding due to the recent flooding. If you know of acres that may be too wet to farm this year or resource concerns caused by the flooding that NRCS may be able to address with emergency funding, please let me know. I have until April 12th to request funds.

- Funding could possibly be used for:
 - Cover Crops on fallow ground
 - Grassed Waterways
 - Buffers
 - Other issues created by the flooding

