

Report for Wednesday, October 6, 2010

## **NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT - KRVN October 6, 2010**

I'm Marcia Lee of the Central Platte Natural Resources District in Grand Island Nebraska, and this is.. the Natural Resources Report.

Have you heard about the new AWEP cost share program? AWEP stands for the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program- yes, it's a mouthful; but it's also providing great payment rates for landowners within the Platte Basin. Through the Farm Bill, AWEP allocated \$2 million for 2010. Not only was that initial \$2 million contracted in the Platte Basin, district conservationist James Huntwork said there was \$700,000 in applications that will be turned over for 2011.

These funds are going quickly! Another \$2 million has been allocated for 2011 and sign up is taking place right now at your local NRCS office.

The program was developed to convert irrigated land to non-irrigated uses to reduce water consumption and related depletions to surface water flows. There are payments for both temporary and permanent retirements of irrigated acres. Landowners in the Central Platte NRD have a bonus incentive. On top of the great AWEP payments, the NRD is offering payments for permanent retirement- up to \$2,000 per acre-feet to the river on top of the AWEP payments. If you've tossed around the idea of retiring some acres, now is the best financial time to do just that.

To find out what your payment may be for temporary or permanent retirement of irrigated acres, contact your local NRCS office right away.

Thank you for listening. This is Marcia Lee, keeping you informed about your natural resources and the way NRDs protect lives, protect property and protect the future