

## **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 KRVN Resource Report**

I'm Jo Siel, Information and Education Coordinator for the Lower Republican Natural Resources District in Alma, NE, and this is the Natural Resources Report.

Although the NRCS deadline has passed for 2010 AWEP and CCPI signup, the Lower Republican NRD was awarded five years of support under the AWEP grant and three years of support under the CCPI grant, and future years' funding will be contingent primarily only upon the national programs not being cancelled. This means the LRNRD is virtually guaranteed to be able to make available, at a minimum, \$1.7 million in AWEP funds for 2011 and \$250,000 in CCPI funds for 2011.

The NRCS local office has agreed to accept applications for this funding on a continuous basis through 2010 and into 2011, with the understanding that final agreements are contingent upon continued national funding, so that producers will not be faced with the same sort of extremely short sign-up periods that were necessary for 2010 funding.

Producers in the Lower Republican NRD are reminded that the AWEP grant funding will pay up to \$173 per acre per year for five-year temporary retirement of groundwater-irrigated acres, with the LRNRD adding a \$400 per acre one-time payment as an incentive to permanently retire those acres. Acres must have been irrigated at least two out of the last five years to qualify for the program.

The CCPI funding will pay between \$500-\$600 cost-share per irrigated field for purchase and installation of soil moisture sensor technology.

Acres most closely connected hydrologically to streamflow receive priority ranking for both programs, but all district acres are eligible, with approval depending on the number of applications received. Producers should contact their local NRCS office for an appointment to apply for either program.

Thank you for listening. This is Jo Siel, keeping you informed about your natural resources and how NRDs are committed to Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, and Protecting the Future.