Farm and Ranch Conservation Day set for mid January–

a look forward

Producers, please save the date of Jan. 17 and join your friends and neighbors for a day of important news and information about farming and ranching in Nebraska.

Staff members from NRCS, FSA, UNL-Extension and URNRD will explain various conservation programs and ideas to assist you with farm loans, irrigation water management, drought on rangeland, soil health, conservation compliance, disaster programs, NRD update and much more.

The event will be held at the Zion Lutheran Church in Grant.

Meet and greet with coffee, rolls and juice begis at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch will be provided by the Upper Republican NRD.

Pre-registration is required to guarantee your lunch. Call 308-352-4776 ext. 3 or email claudia.stevenson@ne.usda.gov to register.

Please RSVP by Jan. 11.

Speakers/presenters will include:

• Welcome & Farm Bill Update by Briana Brooks, soil conservationist-NRCS-Grant

• Farm Loan Program by Lisa Liska, farm loan manager-FSA-North Platte and Ogallala. Lisa will be giving a brief overview of the farm loan programs available through the Farm Service Agency as to who is eligible to borrow and what loan funds can be used for.

• HEL & Wetland Compliance by Teri Moss, county executive director, Perkins County-FSA.

Conservation compliance–be aware and be prepared–avoid costly penalties. Know what steps to follow for highly erodible / wetland compliance. Producers planning on doing dirt work this spring should file an AD-1026 with FSA prior to doing any work. This includes breaking new ground for crop production including expired CRP grass!

• Soil & Water & You by Claudia Stevenson, resource conservationist, NRCS-Grant.

Claudia will be covering soil. Soil is the basis from which all our food thrives. Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife, and beautiful landscapes.

• NRD Programs by Jasper Fanning, URNRD manager.

Jasper will be reviewing NRD rules and regulations for the upcoming allocation period. He will also be giving an update on NRD projects and programs.

• Irrigation Management by Chuck Burr,WCREC-North Platte.

This session will focus on scheduling irrigations based on stored soil moisture and crop water use. The session will look at soil type, crop growth stage, soil moisture sensors and ET gauges as a means of scheduling irrigations. The session will conclude with a look at system pumping capacity and limited or deficit irrigation.

• Range and the Drought by Nadine Bishop, state range conservationist-NRCS.

Nadine will be covering how drought impacts range and pasture grasses, changes in plant

composition that can be expected during and after a drought, managing pastures for recovery after drought and grazing strategies to improve the health and vigor of grasslands after drought.

• EQIP-AWEP-Conservation Programs by Andy Keep, district conservationist, NRCS-Imperial.

Andy will discuss NRCS conservation programs such as EQIP and AWEP. He will be focusing on how NRCS programs can help farmers and ranchers meet their conservation goals.

• SURE-2011 Disaster Program by Teri Moss.

Sure Program–Did you have a 2011 loss due to a natural disaster?

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that occurred in crop year 2011.

SURE is available to eligible producers on farms in counties with secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide except grazed crops. All crops of economic significance must be insured.

• Wrap-up and comments at 3:30 by Claudia Stevenson.

Please plan to attend, everyone is welcome.

Remember to pre-register by Jan. 11 and you will be signed up for the noon meal provided by the URNRD.