**Program 304 – Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program**

**Program Description**
The Soil and Water Conservation Fund was created in 1977 to provide financial assistance to private landowners for installation of soil and water conservation practices. Various conservation practices are eligible for cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent. The Natural Resources Commission determines the list of eligible practices, establishes operating procedures, and annually allocates the funds among the 23 Natural Resource Districts (NRDs). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance needed in planning and installing the conservation measures. NRDs are responsible for the administration of the program at the local level.

**Program Objectives**
The objective of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Fund is to promote efforts by landowners to better manage and conserve the State’s natural resources. Funds allocated to natural resources districts (NRDs) are used to reimburse landowners for up to 50 percent of costs incurred in implementing conservation practices approved by the Natural Resources Commission and deemed appropriate by each NRD for conditions in their jurisdictions. Funds can only be requested if federal programs do not address the specified practice, or if federal funds were insufficient to satisfy landowner requests.

**Performance Measures**
Performance measures for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program are the number and extent of water and soil conservation practices implemented with cost-share available through the fund. A summary of implementation activity by practice follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practices</th>
<th>Actual FY 05-06</th>
<th>Estimated FY 06-07</th>
<th>FY 07-08</th>
<th>FY 08-09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claims Paid</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,622</td>
<td>1,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feet of Terraces</td>
<td>787,819</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>721,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feet of Terrace Outlets</td>
<td>189,699</td>
<td>175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dams</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Structures</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reuse Pits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Diversions</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Waterways</td>
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<td>400</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Control Basins</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Dugouts</td>
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<td>Acres of Grass Seeding</td>
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<td>Acres of Windbreaks</td>
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<td>Acres of Grazing Systems</td>
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<td># of Irrigation Water Mgt. Sys.</td>
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<td>Water Meters</td>
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