

# DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST SWCD REPORT

May 18, 2017



Welcome our 31st Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue.” As secretary, I will champion the concerns of farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, and will work tirelessly to solve the issues facing our farm families,” Perdue said. “I am proud to have been given this opportunity and look forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work as we continue to move the USDA and our nation forward.”

## **Report to Congress**

A new report has been developed proposing a 2017 Reorganization of the Dept. of Agriculture to establish an Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs. Reasoning is to meet the challenge of advancing Ag. Trade, improving service delivery to Ag. Producers, and addressing the needs of Rural America. In addition, USDA is proposing to create a new department for Farm Production and Conservation (FPC); and realign the Farm Service Agency (FSA), NRCS, and RMA (Risk Management Agency) under this new department. Forest Service will continue to be under the USDA umbrella under Natural Resources and Environment. This report does not address a reduction in force. I have included a Current and Proposed Reorganization flow chart.

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**The Dust Bowl, which will air on PBS in November.**

On this Plains emblem that left debated and



day, 82 years ago, a massive dust storm was making its way from the Great Plains towards the east coast. These “black blizzards” had become a common occurrence of the Dust Bowl, brought on by decades of unsustainable farming practices that left the soils dry and exposed to the elements. Meanwhile, a bill was being debated in congress to establish a permanent agency to help farmers heal the soils and rebuild their operations.

## Programs

### PRIORITIES AND DEADLINES

- **DUE: May 19, 2017** – Area Office staff completes folder reviews, relocated any additional funds as needed. Obligate 75% of all EQIP applications
- **DUE: June 16, 2017 - 100% of all EQIP funds must be obligated.**

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **2017 Conservation Stewardship Program – May 26, 2017** - Inventories on all CSP applications must be completed. Applications pre-approved on **June 9, 2017** and 100% funds obligated by **September 11, 2017**.

### RCPP-Regional Conservation Partnership Program

**2017 RCPP Funded Projects** – Spoke to Programs folks and they are still working on completing the Agreement with the Regional Teams. Timeframe to obligate those funds looks like September of 2017. Currently have 2 applications for the range improvements.

### EQIP ACTIVE CONTRACTS

Currently have 40 EQIP contracts, 3-RCPP Contracts, 9-CSP contracts, 70-CTA requests, that all my field offices are servicing for completion. This is the time of year my staff are out in the field certifying practices, addressing new request, meeting with contractors, attending outreach/training events.

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## Other Events/Activities:

- Indian Livestock Days – May, 10, 11, 12
- Albuquerque USDA still planning their move into new location end of May.

NMACD Annual Partnership “Road Show”

Location

Locations TBD in the near future.

Start Time

6/12/2017 12:00 AM

End Time

6/14/2017 11:59 PM

Description

NMACD is planning our annual Partnership “Road Show” with the leaders of state and federal natural resource agencies and the local soil and water conservation districts.

- NMACD Annual Partnership “Road Show” – 6/12/2017 12 PM to 6/14/2017 12 PM (location to be announced).