



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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February 13, 2010

Charles (Chuck) H. Butterfield Ph.D., CPRM  
 Chair, Department of Applied Sciences  
 Professor of Ag and Rangeland Management  
 Chadron State College  
 Chadron, NE 69337

Dear Dr. Butterfield,

At your request I am sending this letter in support of the proposal for new agricultural equipment for the Chadron State College (CSC) Agricultural College. I was a student at CSC from 1999 through 2003, receiving my Bachelor of Science degree in Range Management with minors in Plant and Animal Science. During my time at CSC I was able to secure an internship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Student Career Enhancement Program (SCEP). I worked with the NRCS for two summers, as a Range Management Trainee in the Chadron, Rushville, and O'Neill, Nebraska field offices. Upon graduation and the successful completion of the SCEP, I was offered a full time position in the Chadron Field Office as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Due to the focused nature of the CSC range program, I was able to qualify for the Rangeland Management Specialist series (GS-0454) without any additional coursework from other universities.

Starting my NRCS career in Chadron was very beneficial in learning how to work effectively with private landowners to meet their objectives while protecting our natural resources. The area that I worked in while stationed in Chadron included a wide variety of different rangeland ecosystems, allowing me to diversify my expertise in the field. I worked in the Chadron Field Office for two years before taking a promotion to a Resource Conservationist in the Elwood Field Office in central Nebraska. The area I worked in while in Elwood provided new challenges to my training and expertise. Large tracts of tillable farmland were intermingled with the rangelands of the area. This new challenge involved educating private landowners on the benefits of conserving their highly productive rangelands instead of breaking them out to be farmed. This new challenge was very sensitive since it involved working with the socio-economic factors involved in production agriculture. As part of my education I had taken Ag Business courses to help prepare me for this exact situation. After two and a half years in the Elwood Field Office, I took a promotion to my current position as District Conservationist in Alma, Nebraska. In this position, I am a first level manager and have four offices in four counties in south central Nebraska. I have 7 full time employees under my supervision and numerous part time employees at different times during the year. I have been in this position for three years and have received multiple awards for my service.

I still have a strong network with many of my former classmates from CSC who also work in numerous facets of agriculture. I feel it would be a great investment to encourage CSC to continue to developing future leaders in the agricultural industry.

*1st Nick Simonson*  
 Nick Simonson  
 District Conservationist  
 Alma Service Center

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