

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ACTIVITY REPORT within the P-MRNRD
MARCH 2005

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Blair field office (FO) has 19 Highly Erodible Land (HEL)/wetland determination/non-compliance requests.
- Burt County has received 14 new requests for HEL determinations and 4 new wetland determination requests; they completed 7 of the 40 in backlog.
- Blair FO has received 15 Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) applications for spring conservation practices.
- The following trees orders have been received for spring planting in the District: Blair FO 70 orders for 14,050 trees, Tekamah FO 6,525 trees, Omaha FO 55 orders for 11,500 trees and South Sioux City 1,975 trees.
- Walthill FO staff completed staking 3 terrace projects.
- Dakota County staked 1 water and sediment control basin slated for spring construction.
- Omaha FO staff completed staking 3 spring conservation projects in Douglas/Sarpy Counties.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Omaha FO and South Sioux City FO each had 1 EQIP irrigation conversion application approved for 2005 funding.
- Walthill FO has received 40 new EQIP applications.
- Burt County has 13 new terrace projects and 1 animal waste storage/utilization project signed up for EQIP. Burt County is also developing contracts on 5 terrace projects, 2 animal waste projects and 1 irrigation system. They have completed the survey and design for 3 EQIP terrace projects to be completed this spring.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Burt County has received 3 new WREP applications totaling 455 acres.
- Walthill FO staff supplied names and legal descriptions of allotments within 1-mile of Missouri River for creation of a wetland map.
- Walthill FO secured a Technical Service Provider to assist with WREP applications on land along the Missouri River.
- South Sioux City has appraisals being prepared on 4 WRP applications.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO staff completed 3 CRP contracts for field borders.
- Burt County completed 27 CRP revisions/modifications for acreage changes and completed 15 revisions/modifications for early successional habitat/food plots/burning on 430 CRP acres.
- Thurston County received 1 filter strip and 1 waterway application.
- Omaha FO completed 6 revisions and 6 new contracts of which 3 were for buffer strips.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Representatives from a variety of state and federal agencies met on March 2, to review site 15, the proposed recreational site located southeast of Hubbard.
- Site showing for sites 4, 5 and 14 was held on March 22. Bid opening for construction of the 3 sites was held on March 31, with Cooney Fertilizer of Walthill submitting the apparent low bid.

- Stockfleth participated with Ralph Puls and Jason Farnsworth, NRD representatives, in a presentation on site 15 to a meeting of Dakota County elected officials.

DAKOTA COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

- The interior walls are nearly finished, the entryway is complete and the finish on the exterior walls is underway. Plans to move in early June are on schedule.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Blair FO, Terry Schumacher, attended the Pheasants Forever Meeting. A chapter has been established in Washington County; the first banquet and fund raiser is scheduled for April 23, at the Center Court in Blair.
- NRCS and NRD field office staff assisted with set-up and manning the Triumph of Ag booth in Omaha.
- The South Sioux City staff provided new items and photos with captions for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of March. The news items were: EQIP Dollars Allocated for Manure Management Systems; Rules on Conservation Compliance if Converting Grassland to Cropland; Conservation Grants Available; Call Before You Dig...It's The Law; Students Attend Water Festival. Photos with captions were included of staff members from a variety of Nebraska State Agencies touring the Pigeon/Jones Recreational Site near Hubbard; NRCS technicians reviewing plans for Pigeon/Jones Site 4; Fifth Grade students study soil erosion and water quality at Wayne Aqua Fest.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

- Walthill NRD staff conducted drill maintenance and delivered a drill to one operator.
- NRD staff in Walthill wrote 4 tree plans.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Walthill FO assisted Ho-Chunk employee with EQIP application for Winnebago Tribal Bison Program and supplied a BIA employee with NRCS fencing specifications.
- Walthill FO staff secured wildlife technical support for wildlife restoration work being done on Winnebago tribal land (Glover's Lake).

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Omaha NRCS FO staff, Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, and Lynn Heng, District Conservationist, attended the Cunningham Lake Technical Advisory Meeting. Also, Lynn Heng, Robert Hall and Ralph Puls, NRD Land/Water Programs Coordinator, attended the Cunningham Lake Watershed public meeting sponsored by the City of Omaha and Extension Service.
- NRCS FO staff attended the Environmental Evaluation Training in Norfolk and Toolkit/Arc/GIS training in Lincoln.
- Prescribed Burning Workshop at North Platte was attended by NRCS staff, Neil Jensen, Dave Bedlan, Robert Hall and Neil Stockfleth.
- NRD staff from Omaha, Blair and Walthill attended the Tree Workshop at the NRCS in Omaha.
- Stockfleth, South Sioux City, attended the annual meeting of the Omadi Drainage District in Homer and attended Cultural Resources training in Lincoln.
- Walthill FO staff attended the County Weed Committee meeting

Reported by: Lynn Heng, District Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, April 12, 2005