

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ACTIVITY REPORT within the P-MRNRD
MARCH 2006

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- The following tree orders have been received for spring 2006 plant: Blair 9,900 trees; Dakota City 1,075 trees; Omaha 7,900 trees; Walthill 1,125 trees.
- Blair field office (FO) has written 3 farm bill compliance plans.
- Blair FO has 24 conservation applications for spring and 16 seeding applications; 17 have been completed.
- Walthill FO completed 2 certified wetland determinations and assisted with 2 in Burt County.
- Burt County has surveyed 4 terrace jobs for spring completion and surveying is ongoing.
- Omaha FO completed 3 certified wetland determinations and revised 5 conservation plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO has completed 4 EQIP payments; the incentive practices were terrace systems for \$10,030.53.
- Dakota County had 4 applications pre-approved.
- Burt County processed payments on 3 EQIP terrace projects.
- Walthill FO processed 4 payments.
- Walthill FO staff, Robert Hall, Omaha FO, and Sarah Statler, Lower Elkhorn NRD Agronomist, met with 4 EQIP contract holders regarding their nutrient management and waste utilization programs.
- Burt County processed payments on 3 EQIP terrace projects.
- Omaha FO completed EQIP ranking on 11 applications, of which 9 were approved.
- Omaha FO completed 3 EQIP payments.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Blair FO received a WRP application.
- Dakota County submitted 3 applications; 1 application is for a parcel adjoining the Blyburg Lake Wetland complex.
- Dakota County has topographical surveys underway on 3 parcels.
- NRCS staff met with Omaha tribal employees and Winnebago tribal council to discuss tracts for which WREP applications have been signed.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO staff wrote 5 CCRP contracts. The contracts were for quail borders, grass filter strips, and contour buffer strips.
- Blair FO received 1 CCRP application for a filter strip.
- Dakota County completed 3 new CCRP contracts; 3 filter strip seeding projects were completed and processed for payment.
- Dakota County NRCS and FSA staff conducted an information meeting for local producers interested in CRP on March 16.
- One waterway application was signed in Burt County; 8 grass filter strip and 2 grass waterway contracts were completed.
- In Burt County, 13 CRP contracts were revised to incorporate prescribed burning.

- Burt County processed 6 new Continuous CRP applications for quail buffers, grass filter strips and wetland restoration.
- Omaha FO wrote 1 CCRP contract and completed a CRP revision for reseeding grasses.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- An advisory committee meeting was held on March 27, to provide an update on the status of the recreational site near Hubbard. Park facilities and boundaries were discussed. Eighteen committee members took part in the meeting.
- NRD and NRCS staff met with the Dakota County Commissioners twice to review a \$350,000 inter-local agreement regarding road construction and maintenance within the project. The agreement was signed by the County on March 27.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

- Dakota County had 1 application approved.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- The Dakota County FO staff provided news items for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of March. Article topics included: USDA Announces CRP Signup, Field Borders Provide Habitat for Birds, Aquafest Water Festival in Wayne, and the Digger's Hotline. Photos with captions were included of NRCS staff inspecting a potential dam site, students attending Aquafest, and the first Nebraska Farm and Ranch Land Protection program site.
- NRD and NRCS each manned a booth at the Qwest Center for the Triumph of Ag show.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Blair FO staff, Neil Jensen and Terry Schumacher, attended the Pheasants Forever banquet.
- Terry Schumacher, NRD Field Representative at Blair, attended Pesticide Training in Omaha and also attended the Silver Creek Pre-Construction Meeting at Tekamah.
- Kelly Fravel, NRD Secretary, attended the annual Dakota County Government Agencies meeting on March 13.
- San Thomas, NRCS Dakota County, attended irrigation training in Columbus on March 16.
- Neil Stockfleth, Resource Conservationist at Dakota County, is the acting RC in Tekamah until a replacement is selected.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, attended Conservation Planning training.
- Omaha FO staff, Verlon Barnes and Robert Hall, participated in Rusle2 net meeting, remote computer training.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, April 12, 2006