

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Burt County revised 14 conservation plans to update FY05 installed practices, mostly terraces and no-till.
- Burt County received approval for 5 new terrace projects scheduled for fall construction.
- Blair field office (FO) has received 9 Conservation Assistance Program/Lands for Conservation (CAP/LFC) applications for summer conservation practices in Washington County; 6 are staked and designed; 3 are pending as fields are not cropped.
- Bail FO has received 16 CAP applications for fall construction practices in Washington County; they have received 23 tree order requests for spring 2006.
- Dakota County has 3 “Not Actively Applying” conservation compliance determinations currently under appeal by landowners.
- Dakota County completed one HEL determination.
- Omaha FO completed one HEL appeal.
- Dakota County provided cost-share assistance on 2 tree planting projects, 3 Continuous CRP seeding projects, 2 water and sediment control basin projects in the Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed and 1 cropland conversion seeding project.
- Omaha FO revised 25 conservation plans to report conservation tillage.
- Walhills FO staff staked 5 terrace projects, and 2 terrace projects were completed.
- Walhills FO completed and mailed out status review letters.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Burt County received approval/funding for one more ag waste facility; estimated EQIP cost is \$103,000.
- Burt County processed payment for one 2005 terrace contract completed this spring and one 2004 grazing system.
- Burt County received one new terrace application and one new Ground & Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) pivot application.
- Blair FO technical staff reports that construction has begun on Ciurej’s grade stabilization structure; Van Dyke’s structure is completed and awaiting payment.
- Dakota County received one new pasture system application.
- Omaha FO received 4 new applications for terraces.
- Walhills FO certified payments for 3 ag waste facilities.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Burt County completed construction on 2 WRP projects restoring over 100 acres of wetland habitat.
- Blair FO reports that upland seeding has been completed on the Fink WRP contract in Washington County; this completes the contract obligations for this WRP site.
- Dakota County has a boundary survey planned on a WRP parcel on the Missouri River floodplain.
- Walhills FO processed one WRP application for Thurston County and one application for Burt County.

- Walthill FO met with the Winnebago tribal council to discuss potential WREP sites along the Missouri River.

### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

#### **CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)**

- Burt County has 25 general CRP contracts. Conservation plans, schedule of operations, seeding and planning sheets have been completed on 16 of the 25.
- Blair FO has completed writing the 13 General CRP contracts that were approved. Contacts have been made with the landowners to get signatures, explain seeding practices and setup NRD cost-share applications.
- Dakota County prepared one Continuous CRP conservation plan of operations.

#### **WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)**

- Burt County received one WHIP application.

#### **GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (GRP)**

- Burt County received 2 GRP applications, and Washington County has received 2 applications.

#### **PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED**

- Construction work was completed on Site #5 and is underway on Site #4 near Hubbard.
- A resource inventory for the watershed of Site #15 was completed for use by the NRD's engineering consultant, Olsson and Associates, in planning purposes.
- Walthill FO staff assisted with staking Site #4 and with construction inspection of structures.

#### **DAKOTA COUNTY SERVICE CENTER**

- An open house to showcase the new facility is scheduled for August 25, 2005.

#### **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- The Omaha FO provided the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) downtown Omaha location with seeding, mulching and cover crop information for a COE restoration project.
- The South Sioux City staff provided news items and photos with captions for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of July. The news items were: Dollars Available for Conservation Work; Well Sealing Protects Groundwater; Scrap Tire Collection; and Controlling Noxious Weeds...It's the Law. Photos with captions were included of Verlon Barnes, new NRCS District Conservationist; Pigeon Jones Watershed Site #5 construction; and Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D scrap tire collection activities.

#### **SEDIMENT AND EROSION COMPLAINT**

- Blair FO, Neil Jensen RC, met with a landowner on a sediment and erosion complaint in Washington County. Documentation was provided to the NRD that the site was eroding at 25 times "T", the allowable soil loss to sustain productivity. Recommendations were made to control soil loss by reseeding and mulching the site.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION**

- NRD FO staff at Walthill helped with recycling of tires and herbicide containers; they also conducted maintenance of Tekamah and Silver Creek structures and Pigeon/Jones structures.

**TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- Walthill FO assisted Omaha tribal employee with information on proven and average county yields.

**TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- NRCS/NRD staff completed the web-based training on computer security; NRCS staff also completed sexual harassment and civil rights training.
- NRD and NRCS staff manned a booth at the Dakota/Thurston County Fair held in South Sioux City on July 27-31.
- Kelly Fravel participated in a South Sioux City tree board meeting on July 12.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, August 8, 2005