

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Two terrace projects and 2 waterway projects were staked by the Walthill field office (FO).
- Walthill FO received 1 certified wetland determination letter of appeal, and 2 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) “whistleblower” non-compliance determinations were appealed.
- Blair FO has 6 conservation applications for summer construction: 1 grade stabilization structure, 1 toe wall structure and 4 terrace systems.
- Blair FO has 19 miscellaneous NRD cost-share applications for FY2007; ten are completed and paid. These applications included CCRP/CRP seedings, pasture renovations, tree plantings, Pheasants Forever wildlife habitat seedings and cropland conversions.
- Blair FO staff wrote 5 conservation plans for compliance/CRP/EQIP.
- Omaha FO processed 2 NRD applications for payment: 1 for waterways and 1 for CRP seeding.
- Follow-up letters on conservation plan residue level requirements were mailed to owners and operators of 13 tracts in Dakota County.
- Dakota County processed 3 grass seeding payments for CCRP projects.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, Tekamah, has begun layout and design on several summer EQIP terrace projects; he has also completed several estimates for new applications.
- Justin Linder, Tekamah, has been revising several conservation plans for producers, updating their conservation cropping rotation and tillage practices. He has also developed a grazing plan for a producer who is actively involved in an EQIP project.
- Tekamah FO processed NRD Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) payments for grass seedings associated with the Conservation Reserve Program.
- Tekamah FO completed 46 HEL/Wetland determinations.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, Tekamah FO, completed a wetland determination appeal in Thurston County.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO completed 6 payments for cross-fencing, nutrient management, pest management, a grade control structure, critical area seeding and mulching (\$16,431.76).
- Omaha FO completed 6 payments for terraces with tile outlets, a rock drop structure with seeding and mulching totaling \$103,118.85
- Dakota City certified payment on a completed pasture pipeline. Two pasture fence and pipeline projects are under design; 2 grade control dams are under design; a water and sediment control basin is under construction.
- Tekamah FO has been inspecting a pipeline and tank installation project for a grazing system.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Walthill FO staff assisted with staking a WRP wetland in Burt County.
- Dakota City is developing wetland restoration plans for 2 sites to be completed by fall.
- Sam Thomas and Mitch Keebler met with Nebraska Public Power District representatives to review 3 restoration projects on July 24.
- One new WRP application has been received in Burt County.
- Layout for 2 WRP sites in Burt County has begun for restoration of a wetland.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Walthill FO staff completed 23 CRP contracts; 16 for CRP sign-up 33 and 7 were re-enrollments.
- Blair FO made payments on 6 general CRP applications and 3 CCRP (2 filter strips, 1 contour buffer strip and 2 field borders).
- Omaha FO completed 2 CRP contracts.
- Dakota County completed plans on 4 general CRP contracts.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- NRD officials and Olsson Associates representatives met with landowners to discuss park boundaries and access roads on July 26.
- A Sioux City TV station ran a news story on the Recreational Site during July.
- The Pigeon/Jones Watershed project was the focal point for the Dakota-Thurston County fair booth.

SILVER CREEK

- Four out of 6 dams have been completed on the Silver Creek Watershed project.

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 July. Article topics included: Dollars Available for Conservation Work; Scrap Tire Collection a Success; Household Hazardous Waste Collections Scheduled; and Controlling Noxious Weeds...It's the Law. Photos with captions were included of the Scrap Tire Collection Day, Dakota-Thurston County Fair Booth Display, and Noxious Weed Identification.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- Walthill NRD and NRCS FO staff made and entered a float in the Walthill centennial parade.
- Walthill FO NRD staff conducted maintenance on Pigeon/Jones and Silver Creek structures.
- Walthill FO NRD staff completed pesticide container collection operations for the season; approximately 10,000 containers were collected.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- NRCS staff, Don Atkinson, Neil Jensen, Robert Hall, Verlon Barnes, Neil Stockfleth and Andy Bohnenkamp, attended Wetland Functional Assessment training at Wayne.
- NRCS and NRD staff attended Grassland Management/Waterway training at Tekamah.
- An engineering staff meeting was held July 6, at Omaha.
- Sam Thomas and Justin Linder attended training in Bloomfield for developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for animal waste facility applications for EQIP.
- NRCS staff, Chuck Leinen and Sam Thomas, reviewed Pigeon/Jones Watershed structure designs and existing structure maintenance requirements on July 12.
- NRCS staff, Justin Linder, Andy Bohnenkamp and Neil Stockfleth, attended a prescribed burn implementation meeting involving numerous conservation agencies from eastern Nebraska and western Iowa at DeSoto Bend on July 19. The goal of the meeting was to promote burning as a maintenance tool on grasslands.