

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**JULY 2007**

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- The District has paid 4 landowners' \$29,592.62 cost share through the 2008 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program.
- In Tekamah conservation plans were written for 4 producers.
- Dakota County revised conversation plans on 17 tracts.
- Dakota County staff surveyed 3 grade stabilization structure sites. Design is underway on a large pasture pipeline and fence project. Dakota County has 4 pasture project installations underway. Pipelines, tanks and fences are the primary practices being installed.
- Dakota County prepared 3 Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) seeding payment applications and 1 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) application for payment on a sediment basin and grass waterway projects.
- Walthill field office (FO) completed 5 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations.
- Don Atkinson, NRCS Walthill, generated 27 letters notifying producers of the preliminary technical determinations and entered on compliance website.
- Burt County completed 1 CAP payment for a terrace system.
- Justin Linder, NRCS Tekamah, completed 2 certified wetland determinations; he also met with a producer to go over a wetland determination that was completed in 1998.
- Blair FO staff completed 3 conservation plans, and Neil Jensen, RC, completed 1 wetland determination and 2 HEL determinations.
- Blair FO has 6 miscellaneous cost-share applications for P-MRNRD FY2008. The applications include CRP seeding, pasture renovation and cropland conversions.
- Blair FO has 4 cost-share applications for summer; 2 are completed and paid. The staff has also taken 30 cost-share applications for Fall 2007.
- Blair FO staff completed 19 reconstitutions.
- Omaha FO processed payments on 3 CAP applications for terraces with underground tile outlets for \$14,379; they also processed 1 NSWCP application in the amount of \$10,445.26 for rebuild terraces.
- Omaha FO completed 3 tract revisions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Walthill FO completed 6 terrace projects and 2 applications were received. They also completed open obligation reports.
- Dakota County completed open obligation reviews on 4 contracts.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, worked on a grade stabilization design for Mike Chatt.
- Burt County completed 2 EQIP payments (1 terrace system and 1 nutrient and waste management).
- Burt County has 3 new EQIP applications signed and completed preliminary work with 12 additional producers.
- Omaha FO approved 3 EQIP payments (2 for terraces with underground tile outlets and 1 for an irrigation conversion); they also completed 4 contract modifications.

## **WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

### **WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Walthill FO staff visited with Winnebago tribal employees regarding easement status of Glover Lake, verified survey stakes and easement markers on tribal tract with Omaha tribal employee, and assisted Omaha and Winnebago tribal personnel with completed forms for WREP.
- Dakota County has restoration work underway on 1 wetland project.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, has been assisting with WRP construction layout, construction inspection and construction checkout on 3 WRP sites. Neil Whites WRP construction was started on July 12, and completed on July 23; Marty and Rebecca Rocca WRP construction started July 25; Roger Barger's control structures were installed July 21, excavation to start around the 28<sup>th</sup>; and Frank Timperely WRP construction started July 20.
- Tekamah FO, Justin Linder – NRCS, completed a WRP boundary survey preliminary meeting that included the producer and surveyor. He also completed 4 WRP survey certifications.

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

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

- Dakota County completed 1 status review on a CCRP filter strip system.
- Tekamah FO has revised 8 CRP contracts.
- Blair FO staff reported 17 completed CRP Managed Haying and Grazing Program applications; 359.4 acres prescribed grazing and 273.5 acres of forage harvest management.
- Blair FO staff are completing the CRP grass seeding field reviews and reporting progress (82 acres of grass seeding).
- Omaha FO completed 1 CRP contract revision for managed haying.

## **WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM**

- Dakota County prepared an application for payment on a 5-acre tree and brush clearing project.

## **SILVER CREEK WATERSHED**

- Burt County has been working with a producer and the NRD for a new potential grade stabilization structure in the Silver Creek Watershed.

## **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- Walthill NRD staff conducted maintenance activities on Pigeon/Jones and Silver Creek structures; they also collected 8,000-9,000 pesticide containers for recycling.

## **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- Walthill FO staff assisted Benny Eagle, Winnebago tribal employee, with questions about letter tribe received from Corps of Engineers. They also assisted Jason McCauley, BIA employee, with technical assistance regarding grass seed mixtures.

## **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

### **No-till Whirlwind Expo at Pender: July 18, 2007 – approximately 180 in attendance**

- A **great team effort** was shown as Walthill NRD and NRCS personnel spent approximately 350 hours in event promotion, pre-event meeting at site, assisting at site and post-event work (June and July); 122 postcards were mailed out to farmers advising them of the event. With team cooperation, mailings were completed, sponsors were secured, signs were made, map was prepared showing crop rotations in various

fields, registration was completed, supplies for the “Expo” were purchased, “set up” completed and thank-you notes written.

- Don Atkinson, NRCS Walthill, wrote a news article about the Pender No-till Expo and wrote and taped radio script for KTIV, West Point.
- The Dakota County FO staff provided news items for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of July. Articles included: Dollars Available for Conservation Work, Federal EQIP Program Dollars-Investment in Nebraska, Lady Landowner Information Meeting Set, and Abandoned Wells Cause Hazards. Photos with captions were included of a livestock pipeline being installed near Willis; No-till benefits visible in soil pits at the No-till Expo held near Pender; and NRD pesticide container recycling efforts.
- Dakota County staff promoted the No-till Expo near Pender by direct mailings to farmers, posting announcements in public locations, and publicizing the event in the local paper and FSA newsletter.
- Blair FO staff promoted the No-till Expo near Pender by direct mailing of approximately 690 letters to producers and landowners. Blair staff also attended the event.
- NRCS State Conservationist Steve Chick toured Dakota County conservation practices with Neil Stockfleth on July 31.

#### **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- NRCS staff at Walthill, Don Atkinson and Sylvia Thomas, participated in a teleconference for the Bladen no-till expo.
- Chuck Leinen, NRCS Engineer at Omaha, attended Architectural/Engineering Contracting training in Portland, Oregon the week of July 16, 2007.
- Kelly Fravel, NRD Dakota City, took part in a South Sioux City tree board meeting held on July 10.
- Dakota County staff is preparing for a female landowner and operator meeting planned for August 15, at the Dakota City Natural Resources Center.
- Wetland Regulation and Delineation Workshop in Beatrice was attended by NRCS field office staff.
- Justin Linder, NRCS Tekamah, sat in on an appeals teleconference in Stanton.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, August 6, 2007