

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ACTIVITY REPORT *within the P-MRNRD*
NOVEMBER 2003

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Burt County received 4 requests for certified wetland determinations during the month of November.
- Blair field office has received 2 HEL/Wetland Determination/ASCS-569 requests for FY 2004.
- Omaha field office received a sodbuster and a certified wetland determination request; 4 terrace projects were completed in Omaha.
- Neil Jensen, RC Blair, worked with several landowners on erosion control complaints.
- Blair field office has received 37 applications for conservation practices in fall 2003; 90% have been laid out, designed and/or built; 1 application has been cancelled.
- Blair field office has sent 49 packets to landowners requesting information for ordering trees; 11 paid orders have been received.
- Blair field office has received cropland conversion applications for approximately 205 acres of native grasses for fall/spring planting.
- In Thurston County 1 grass waterway, 1 field border and 3 buffers were seeded; 3 terrace projects and 1 cropland conversion was completed.
- Walthill field office continues to assist 2 producers with wetland restorations.
- In Burt County, 20 terrace jobs have been completed and 3 additional terrace projects have been staked and designed and are ready for construction.
- South Sioux City field office has received orders for 1950 trees to date; 3 NRD tree plantings are scheduled for spring.
- A grade stabilization structure on the Copple farm in Dakota County is in the planning stage.

EQIP

- Construction has begun on an EQIP grade control structure in Sarpy County for Rich Jansen, NRD board member.
- All 4 terrace jobs approved for cost share through EQIP have been completed in Burt County and payment applications have been completed for 2 EQIP projects that were approved in September 2003.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Robert Hall, RC Omaha, met with the operator of PCS Nitrogen in Sarpy County to identify areas of cropland that would be suitable for restoration.
- The remainder of the seeding, approximately 17 acres, was completed on Olson's WRP site in Burt County.
- Steve Walker, Tekamah, has begun photo documentation on all of Burt County's WRP sites for the 2003 status reviews. He has also been trained to use the GPS unit which will be used to GPS locations of the easement boundary posts around WRP sites.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- Robert Hall, RC at Omaha, conducted a field visit to determine feasibility of grass filter strips and received two additional similar requests.
- In Burt County, 11 CRP contract revisions were completed for reseeding of filter strips and waterways.

SILVER CREEK WATERSHED

- Terry Schumacher, NRD Field Rep at Blair, has been working on the easements for 5 potential structures in the Silver Creek Watershed that are scheduled to be built in 2004/2005.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Construction is progressing on the Pigeon/Jones Creek Structure #3 northwest of Hubbard, pipe installation is underway.

WATER QUALITY

- Douglas/Sarpy Counties received 1 new application; 8 well applications are pending.
- Washington County abandoned 1 well; received 2 new applications; 15 well applications are pending.
- Dakota County abandoned 2 wells; received 2 new applications; 8 well applications are pending.
- Burt County has 5 well applications pending.
- Thurston County received 5 new applications; 7 well applications are pending.

NATIONAL RESOURCES INVENTORY (NRI)

- Robert Hall, RC Omaha, provided information such as conservation programs and conservation practices present as well as quantities and year implemented for NRI sites in Sarpy County.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Jenny Sundberg, RC Tekamah, has been assisting with developing Conservation System Guides for the new Conservation Security Program.
- 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 November. The news items were: Time to Prepare Windbreak Sites, Tree Planting Assistance Available in Dakota County, Tree Prices Announced by the Lower Elkhorn NRD, and the Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council Annual Meeting held November 18, 2003. The photos with captions were: Pipe installations on Pigeon/Jones Creek site #3 northwest of Hubbard, Jim Kennedy (NRCS CET) inspecting a potential grade stabilization site, and Officers Elected to lead the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Don Atkinson, RC Walthill, visited with Jason McCauley, BIA, regarding a farm plan on a Winnebago tribal tract.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Ralph Arauza (Blair field office), Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager, and Don Atkinson, RC Walthill, attended a Civil Rights meeting in Lincoln.
- Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, attended the Annual Tree Conference at Nebraska City and several meetings at the City of Blair chambers regarding the future rural water project to be built in southeast Washington County. He also attended the Rural Water meeting for landowners and interested persons at Fort Calhoun.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, Tekamah, and Neil Jensen, Blair, completed training for the new NRCS reporting program, Protracts.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

- Robert Hall, RC Omaha, assisted with the United Way Fund Drive by serving as campaign manager for the Omaha Service Center, distributed and collected pledge cards.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha
December 5, 2003

Cc: Ken Noonan, ASTC/FO, NRCS, Lincoln