

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

---

**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Blair field office (FO) completed 1 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determination and updated 2 conservation plans to meet compliance requirements.
- Blair FO has received 51 applications for conservation practices for fall; 36 practices have been designed, staked and are under construction; 19 applications have been paid.
- NRD tree sales are under way. The following tree orders have been received for spring 2006 plant: Blair 1,175 trees; Dakota City 275 trees; Omaha 1,200 trees; Tekamah 600 trees.
- Dakota County completed 1 water and sediment control basin project and 1 grass waterway rebuild project.
- A streambed stabilization structure is under construction on the Elk Creek near Jackson in Dakota County.
- Dakota County completed design packets on 2 livestock watering systems.
- Burt County has completed 2 terrace projects; they also have 27 Conservation Assistance Plan (CAP) applications for cost share for CRP seedings.
- Five terrace projects were completed and turned in for payment in Thurston County.
- Walthill FO staff completed 2 certified wetland determinations; completed field work for 3 certified wetland determinations; and discussed wetland restoration plan with a non-compliant operator.
- Walthill FO staff completed 3 HEL determinations.
- Omaha FO completed 5 conservation plan revisions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Blair FO completed 28 EQIP payments for 10 producers; all practices were terrace systems with underground outlets, waterways and seeding.
- Blair FO also received 19 EQIP applications; 17 terrace systems, 1 cross-fencing and 1 ag-waste system.
- Dakota County certified the completion of an irrigation conversion project; Dakota County is contacting landowners to complete applications for new contracts for pasture management systems, dams and terraces.
- Burt County has taken new applications for 6 terrace projects, 4 grade stabilization structures and 1 grazing system; they have completed 2 fall terrace projects.
- Water Quality staff from Norfolk met with 3 cattle producers to discuss reporting requirements for nutrient management for EQIP in Thurston County.
- Nine EQIP applications were received in Thurston County: 7 for terraces; 1 for an animal feeding operation and 1 for irrigation water management.
- Omaha FO completed 4 EQIP payments.
- Omaha FO has received 14 EQIP applications of which except one (dam) are terraces with tile or waterways.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Blair FO has received 1 WRP application covering 320 acres.
- Dakota County is contacting landowners seeking new applications for WRP/WREP; they received 1 new WRP application.
- Letters promoting wetland restoration were sent to 8 landowners in the Jackson Chute area in northern Dakota County.

- Burt County has provided technical assistance for planning 80 acres of potential wetlands and associated buffers.
- Burt County has received 3 new WRP/WREP applications totaling over 250 acres.
- One WREP site was surveyed in Thurston County.

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

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

- Dakota County received a wetland restoration project application.
- Burt County completed plan revisions on 4 CRP contracts.
- Four CCRP contracts for filter strips and quail buffers totaling 25 acres were completed in Burt County.
- In Thurston County, 130 acres of CRP was seeded using the NRD's no-till drill; 3 filter strip contracts were written and seeding was completed.
- Omaha FO completed a CRP contract for a grass filter strip.

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

- Landowner contacts promoting the watershed project are underway on sites 9, 17 and 18.
- The benefits of the recreation site 15 were touted on a Sioux City television station on November 25, by an influential Dakota County landowner.

#### **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- Neil Jensen, NRCS Blair, participated in the Blair High School Career Night 2005.
- The Dakota City staff provided news items for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of November. The news items were: Sign-up Underway for Soil and Water Conservation Funds, Cost-share Dollars Available for Trees, Time to Plan a Windbreak and Windbreak Benefits Translate into Dollars. Photos with captions were included of checkout of a rubber tire cattle watering tank, pheasant wildlife habitat creation opportunities, and the Papio-Missouri River NRD's natural resource programs website.
- Walthill FO staff wrote a news article and provided it to the newspapers in Thurston County.

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

- Walthill NRD FO staff conducted dormant seedings on Pigeon/Jones 5 and Silver Creek 15.
- Worked continued on Elk Creek stabilization project.
- Contractor completed sandblasting and paintings of Blackbird scenic overlook.

#### **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- Neil Stockfleth, Dakota City, reviewed guide sheets for Common Resource Area 102C.
- An engineering meeting was held on November 29, to discuss workload, changes with standards and upcoming issues. Those NRCS employees in attendance were Sam Thomas (Dakota City), Mitch Keebler and Chuck Leinen (Omaha), and Eric Hadenfeldt (Lincoln FO).

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

- Walthill FO staff attended the civil rights committee meeting at the NRCS state office. Don Atkinson at Walthill, American Indian Program Manager, send out two emails to all employees regarding November being "American Indian Heritage Month".

