

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Blair field office (FO) has 54 conservation applications for fall construction; 32 have been approved and 9 have been completed and paid with NRD, State and Federal funds.
- Blair FO has 45 miscellaneous NRD cost-share applications for FY07. These applications include CRP/CCRP seeding, pasture renovation, tree planting, Pheasants Forever/wildlife habitat seeding, field buffer/filter strip seeding and cropland conversion; 19 are completed and paid.
- Blair FO has received 5 orders for 875 trees and shrubs to be planted in spring 2007.
- Blair FO has paid 8 landowners' \$29,126.54 cost share through the 2007 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) State program.
- Blair FO has completed 6 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations; they also received two 569's (wetland issue and an HEL) on potential non-compliance.
- Dakota County reported 1,400 acres of conservation plan revisions during November.
- Dakota County completed a design for a terrace project and a water and sediment control basin scheduled for fall installation; they have also received 2 water and sediment control basin applications and 1 grass waterway seeding application.
- Dakota City has received tree orders for 325 trees with 1 NRD tree planting project.
- Walthill FO staff gave Rural Development employee (Norfolk) technical assistance regarding hydric soils on tract being purchased with their financial assistance.
- In Burt County, of the 30 terrace projects already lined up for construction this fall, 14 terrace jobs have been completed so far. They have received several new inquiries for terraces and will be doing cost estimates for them. Justin, RC at Burt County, has assisted and is working on getting Job Approval Authority for these practices.
- Evelyn Maslonka, NRD Secretary Burt County, has processed NRD applications for the terrace jobs and has sent them into the NRD; she also completed payments for grass seeding on CRP contracts.
- Evelyn Maslonka, NRD Secretary at Tekamah, has been processing Recons, 1026's for HEL and Wetland determinations received from FSA. Several Wetland determinations have been completed with the letter and documentation returned to FSA and the producers.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Blair FO completed 3 conservation plans for EQIP contracts and completed payments on 2 EQIP terrace systems in the amount of \$21,584.36.
- Omaha FO completed 2 modifications and received 1 new application.
- Walthill FO staff staked out 2 terrace projects and 1 waterway project and completed design work.
- Burt County completed the EQIP payments on Charling Farms Animal Waste Facility and processed 2 payments for irrigation water management.
- Burt County has 6 new EQIP applications and a couple possible applications.
- Justin Linder, RC at Burt County, has been actively working with EQIP contract holders that have Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans to get soil sampling and manure analysis records before applying and following requirements for a nutrient budget.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Dakota County has 2 restoration projects underway this fall.

- One new WRP application has been received in Burt County which has been processed and sent to the Wetlands Team in Syracuse.
- Construction has been completed for Brodersen's WRP in Burt County. Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Burt County, also did construction checkout with the Wetlands Team on the sites built this summer and fall.
- Burt County completed the easement survey on Harbor 671.

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

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

- Omaha FO completed 13 CRP contracts for reenrollment for signups 2008-10.
- Blair FO completed payments on 49 acres for a general CRP seeding and a 5.1 acre CCRP field border.
- Dakota County received a grass waterway CCRP application.
- At the Walthill FO, 36 reenrollment plans and CPO's completed, 1 quail buffer turned in for cost share, and 1 33<sup>rd</sup> signup seeding turned in for cost share.
- Evelyn Maslonka, NRD Secretary at Tekamah, has been organizing and filing the CRP folders. All staff at Tekamah is currently working on the 30 contracts for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

### **SILVER CREEK WATERSHED**

- A Continuous CRP application for a filter strip is in the process of getting a contract written for sites 30 and 31.

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

- Survey work is scheduled for Site #18.
- Survey for a grade stabilization structure located upstream of the recreation site is scheduled for this fall.

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

- Dakota County has tree clearing scheduled for this fall on a native prairie remnant restoration 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 November. Article topics included: EQIP Applications Accepted, Tree Sales Announced, Organic Farming Transition Informational Meeting, and RC&D Award to P-MRNRD. Photos with captions were included of a grass waterway construction project near Hubbard, NRCS technicians surveying a terrace project, and P-MRNRD staff receiving a RC&D award.

### **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- Walthill FO staff gave Benny Eagle, Winnebago tribal employee, technical assistance regarding plant ID.

### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- Drill was rented out 2 times – 120 acres at Walthill.

### **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- NRD Field Representatives, John Zaugg and Terry Schumacher, attended Public Relations training in Omaha.
- Ralph Arauza, NRCS Blair, and Robert Hall, NRCS Omaha, completed on-line ethics training.
- All NRD staff from the field offices attended the P-MRNRD All-Employees Meeting in Omaha.

- Omaha FO staff attended the Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee meeting regarding a producer's request for a Good Faith Determination due to a HEL non-compliance. Also, another producer that was granted a Good Faith Determination by FSA requested to be reinstated.
- Sam Thomas, NRCS Dakota City, attended Cultural Resources training November 6-9; she also attended TOPCON (GPS) survey equipment training in Omaha, November 28-30.
- Multi-county meetings have been scheduled for grazing management on January 9, for no-till practices on January 16, and for earthmoving contractors on January 30, at the Dakota City Natural Resources Center.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, attended and gave an award presentation for the Earth Team at the RC&D meeting banquet in Wayne.
- Justin Linder, RC at Tekamah, attended Cultural Resources training in Norfolk.

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

- Don Atkinson, Resource Conservationist, reminded the Walthill FO staff in a meeting that November is American Indian Heritage month.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, December 14, 2006