

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- ❖ Blair field office received 13 HEL/Wetland determination requests for FY2003.
- ❖ In January, the Omaha field office received 5 HEL/Wetland determination requests.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 14 applications for spring construction in Washington County.
- ❖ Blair field office has received 48 orders for 11,750 trees to be planted spring 2003.
- ❖ South Sioux City field office has received orders for 1,675 trees.
- ❖ South Sioux City field office has received 2 applications for fall construction in Dakota County.
- ❖ Twenty applications for cost-share assistance for terrace projects to be completed spring of 2003 have been submitted in Burt County. Also, 6 tree planting applications, primarily for windbreaks, have been submitted.
- ❖ Inventory and evaluations have been completed for 3 small grade stabilization structures in Burt County.
- ❖ With assistance provided by the Omaha NRCS field office, Burt County has completed 52 certified wetland determinations since the middle of October 2002. Additionally, 5 highly erodible land determinations were completed along with associated conservation planning as needed.
- ❖ Four tree plans calling for District planted trees have been generated in Thurston County.
- ❖ Four wetland determinations were completed in Walthill.

**PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED**

- ❖ NRCS technicians Vern Dean-South Sioux City, Jim Kennedy-Omaha, and Dennis Cady-Walthill, commenced the surveying of structures 4 and 5 in the Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed.
- ❖ The South Sioux City field office completed the Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed Action Plan, a strategy to accelerate the land treatment in the watershed. An information packet with information on conservation programs and conservation practices currently available to producers will be provided to all producers in the watershed. Also, a survey will be mailed out in early February to assess interest for conservation practices in the watershed.

**GLENN CUNNINGHAM WATERSHED**

- ❖ Letters were mailed to over 400 residents of the Glenn Cunningham Watershed in Douglas and Washington Counties informing them of 85% cost share on the NRD's tree planting service. Follow-up contacts can be made to John Zaugg or Terry Schumacher.

## **EQIP**

- ❖ One waterline and two terrace/tile EQIP projects have been completed in Washington County. Three waterlines and one grade stabilization structure have been sent for engineering final review.
- ❖ Annual status reviews were completed on 4 EQIP contracts in Walthill.

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

- ❖ Wetland restoration, construction and native grass seeding has been completed for the Paulson and Dixon/Smith contracts at the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge.
- ❖ Final design and bid packet preparations have been completed for a Wetland Reserve Program contract. Construction is scheduled for spring 2003 and 5.4 acres of wetlands will be restored when the project is complete in Burt County.

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

### **CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)**

- ❖ Omaha field office received 4 requests for Continuous CRP.
- ❖ Washington County has received two CRP applications (a windbreak and a buffer strip). Seven applications have been approved and contracts completed.
- ❖ One contract for grass waterways was completed at the South Sioux City field office.
- ❖ Burt County received 5 applications for CRP grass filter strips and 3 applications for CRP grass waterways in January.
- ❖ The Bell Creek area of Burt County was recently authorized for eligibility under CREP. A promotional effort in cooperation with Rod Wilke from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service Northeast Station has resulted in several inquiries into this program. Burt County has completed preliminary planning and eligibility determinations for 2 producers interested in this program. One of these pending signups involves the establishment of approximately 60 acres of grass filter strips and field corners under CREP.
- ❖ Four CRP filter strip plans and contracts were completed in Walthill; also, 4 Nebraska Buffer Program applications were generated.

## **WATER QUALITY**

- ❖ Douglas/Sarpy Counties had 7 applications for wells to be abandoned; 1 well was completed and submitted for payment; 6 wells are pending.
- ❖ Washington County has 11 applications for wells to be abandoned.
- ❖ Dakota County had 5 applications for wells to be abandoned; 2 wells were completed and submitted for payment; 3 wells are pending.
- ❖ Thurston County completed 4 wells and submitted for payment.

## **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- ❖ Don Atkinson attended a consultation meeting (Steve Chick, Doug Gahn, Kent Neumann and Stan Riggle) with Omaha tribal council members.

## **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- ❖ The following news items and/or photos with captions were provided for the NRD Share Page published in the *South Sioux City Star* for the month of January: 2002 Pesticide Applicator Certification program dates, planning of the Mid-States

Conference at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City, the RC&D meeting in January, Conservation on Private Lands, Blackbird Wayside Overlook, the NRD website and wildlife habitat.

#### **MEETINGS**

- ❖ Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, and John Zaugg, NRD Omaha, attended the Annual LICA convention at Kearney.
- ❖ The South Sioux City Tree Board met on January 14; Kelly Fravel returned to membership on the board and serves as Secretary.
- ❖ Rod Kinning and Denny Piper, NRD Walthill, attended the Missouri Tribes Conference. The proposed master plan for the Missouri River was discussed.

#### **TRAINING**

- ❖ NRCS staff from all field offices attended CRP CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) training.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

- ❖ NRD staff in Walthill, Denny Piper and Rod Kinning, are working on grass drill maintenance.
- ❖ Rod Kinning, NRD Walthill, assisted Dakota County Water District with operations and maintenance.
- ❖ NRD staff in Walthill, Denny Piper and Rod Kinning, conducted maintenance operations on the Elk Creek levee.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha  
February 11, 2003

Cc:

Steve Chick, State Conservationist, NRCS, Lincoln

Ken Noonan, ASTC/FO, NRCS, Lincoln

RH:le:Activity Report