

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Blair field office (FO) completed 1 wetland determination; 2 field reviews were completed with Patrick Cowsert, NRCS Soil Scientist.
- Blair FO updated 1 conservation plan.
- Blair FO has 14 applications for \$57,860 in conservation practices for spring; 4 have been completed and paid. Also, Blair FO has completed 20 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) cost-share applications to the State of Nebraska totaling \$130,054.
- The following tree orders have been received for spring 2006 plant: Blair 6,600 trees; Dakota City 875 trees; Omaha 3,650 trees.
- Dakota City Field Office completed 3 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations and updated 6 conservation plans to meet conservation compliance requirements.
- Dakota County has a wetland mitigation project in the planning stages; they also received a WHIP application for native grassland restoration.
- Burt County is working through a backlog of FSA field re-determinations; approximately 10 were completed; 60 new re-determinations were received from FSA.
- Omaha FO updated 2 conservation plans.
- Omaha FO completed 4 EQIP status reviews and 3 CRP status reviews.
- Walthill NRD staff processed 6 Conservation Assistance Program applications for payment.
- Walthill FO received 3 certified wetland determination requests.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Blair FO completed 2 EQIP payments for nutrient/pest management.
- Blair FO also received 8 EQIP applications for the second signup: 6 terrace systems, 1 ag-waste system and 1 terrace system in Cunningham Lake Watershed.
- Dakota County received an application for pasture management and a dam.
- Burt County has 6 EQIP 2006 contracts for multiple practices allocating \$233,341 in program funds.
- Burt County has constructed 13,000 feet of terraces with associated practices from 2005 contracts.
- Omaha FO completed 3 EQIP payments for terraces and underground tile and completed 2 EQIP contracts.
- Omaha FO received 7 EQIP applications for funding: all included terraces with other associated practices such as nutrient and pest management, no-till, and a grade stabilization structure.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Dakota County submitted an application for a parcel adjoining the Blyburg Lake Wetland complex; they also had easements filed on 2 WRP parcels.
- Burt County has received 10 new applications totaling over 2,000 acres.
- Walthill staff and the Wetland Team looked at application sites with Omaha tribal employee, and later met with 3 Winnebago tribal employees regarding Corps' easement status on Glover's Lake.
- Walthill staff contacted the BIA regarding the status of 4 pending WREP applications.

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

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

- Blair FO staff wrote 1 CCRP contract for a quail border and received 2 CCRP applications for a quail buffer and a contour buffer strip.
- Dakota County completed 8 new CCRP contracts.
- Walthill FO staff planned a buffer strip.

### **SILVER CREEK WATERSHED**

- Blair FO NRD staff assisted Olsson and Associates with selling the Silver Creek contractor bid packets and the site showing in Burt County. Four sites were offered in this round of bids (6, 30, 31, 36). The bid opening was held at the Blair office. The apparent low bidder is Camden Excavating.

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

- Landowner contacts promoting the watershed project are underway on sites 9, 17, 18 and 20; Dakota County is also reviewing additional sites for inclusion in the watershed work plan.
- Planning is underway for a tour of watershed road sites with the Dakota County Commissioners on February 13, and for a landowner meeting on February 15.

### **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 January. Article topics included: Backyard Wildlife, Tree Seedling Availability, New Energy Estimator Available for Notill, and Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway Projects. Photos with captions were included of the construction of the Elk Creek streambed stabilization structure, backyard wildlife habitat, and Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway signage.
- Sam Thomas assisted Burt, Dakota and Thurston counties with updating the information in the Access program.
- Walthill FO staff provided BIA employee technical assistance regarding a terrace system.

### **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- NRD employees, Terry Schumacher, John Zaugg, and Rod Kinning, attended the 2-day Land Improvement Contractors Association State Convention in Grand Island.
- Kelly Fravel, Dakota City NRD, attended a South Sioux City tree board meeting.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, February 9, 2006