

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Blair field office (FO) completed 1 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determination, 1 wetland determination and updated 5 conservation plans to meet compliance requirements.
- Blair FO has received 57 applications for conservation practices for fall; 41 practices have been built; 36 applications for \$200,588 for cost share have been paid with funds from the Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) and Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP).
- Omaha FO updated 11 conservation plans to meet compliance requirements.
- Omaha FO processed 5 applications for payment with CAP and NSWCP funds totaling \$24,074.05.
- NRD tree sales are under way. The following tree orders have been received for spring 2006 plant: Blair 5,000 trees; Dakota City 525 trees; Omaha 3,650 trees.
- A streambed stabilization structure is nearing completion on the Elk Creek in Dakota County. The project was fully funded by the Papio-Missouri River NRD and is part of the NRD's commitment to operation, maintenance and improvements to the levee system since the merger of Drainage District No. 5 and the NRD in 1999.
- Dakota County is finalizing the design on a livestock watering system.
- Walthill FO staff completed 26 reconstitutions, processed 2 terrace applications for payment and received 3 certified wetland determination requests.
- Burt County is working through a backlog of Farm Service Agency field re-determinations as a result of Common Land Use layer updating; approximately 45 were completed.
- Burt County has processed 5 payments, 3 for underground tile and 2 for terraces.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO completed 13 EQIP payments for \$67,677.84; the practices were terrace systems with underground outlets, nutrient/pest management and irrigation water management.
- Blair FO also received 3 EQIP applications; 2 terrace systems and 1 ag-waste system.
- Dakota County accepted applications for 6 new contracts for pasture management systems, dams, terraces and irrigation conversion.
- Burt County has processed the following 2006 EQIP applications: 12 applications for terraces and tile, 2 grazing applications and 1 ground and surface water conservation application.
- Burt County conducted site feasibility assessments on 3 new sites for Silver Creek structures.
- Omaha FO received 8 new EQIP applications for terraces with tile; they also processed 5 EQIP payments totaling \$53,816.80.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Blair FO, Neil Jensen-Resource Conservationist (RC), met with Bryan Schultz, Boyer Chute Refuge Manager, and others (reps from Ducks Unlimited, Cargill and OPPD), to review plans for further wetland restoration on the Paulson and Dixon WRP contracts.
- Burt County certified easement boundaries on 8 WRP contracts covering over 900 acres.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO staff wrote 3 CCRP contracts with assistance from Shelley Stoley, Wildlife Biologist from Stanton; the 3 contracts were for filter strips.
- Blair FO received 2 CCRP applications for quail buffers; also, Blair staff processed cost-share applications for 3 CRP contracts that completed seeding this fall.
- Walthill FO staff completed 2 filter strip contracts.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Landowner contacts promoting the watershed project are underway on sites 16, 17, 18 and 20.
- NRCS and NRD staff met with the Dakota County road superintendent and the Dakota County Commissioners on December 19, to update them on progress within the watershed 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 December. Article topics included: Pigeon/Jones Creek Watershed project update, Habitat Buffers for Upland birds, RC&D project reports and Renewable Energy grant applications. Photos with captions were included of the construction of a water and sediment control basin, the Elk Creek streambed stabilization structure and a well-designed windbreak.
- Walthill FO staff provided a quail habitat initiative news article to “The Panorama” and recorded on tape a 2-3 minute informational briefing to be aired on KTIV on Saturday morning.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION

- Walthill FO NRD staff completed inspections for Tekamah Mud 34 (Summit Lake) and selected structures on Silver Creek.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Robert Hall, NRCS Omaha, and Dave Bedlan, NRCS Tekamah, attended RUSLE 2 training in Grand Island.
- Dakota City NRCS employees, Vernon Dean and Sam Thomas, attended Toolkit and ArcGIS training held in Lincoln in December. Sam Thomas also attended Terra Model drafting program training at Omaha in December.
- Neil Stockfleth, Dakota City, completed Conservation Planning Recertification in December.
- Walthill FO staff attended Toolkit training.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, January 10, 2006