

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Blair field office (FO) has 54 conservation applications for fall construction; 33 have been approved and 23 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 seeding, pasture renovation/cropland conversions, tree planting, Pheasants Forever Wildlife Habitat seeding and field buffer/filter strip seeding; 21 are completed and paid.
- Blair FO has received 18 orders for 2,400 trees and shrubs to be planted in spring 2007; Dakota County has received orders for 4,850 trees with 2 NRD tree planting projects.
- Blair FO has paid 11 landowners' \$54,996.12 cost share through the 2007 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) State program.
- Blair FO has completed 4 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations and 1 wetland determination. They also received a 569 form on a potential wetland non-compliance.
- Dakota County completed installation and payments for 2 water and sediment control basins and completed earthwork for a grassed waterway.
- Burt County has completed 12 terrace projects; this brings the total terrace jobs completed so far for FY07 up to 26. They have also received several new inquiries for terraces and will be doing cost estimates and EQIP and/or NRD applications for them.
- Tekamah FO has been processing Reconstitutions and HEL and Wetland determinations received from FSA; they have completed 33 HEL determinations and they continue to process pending requests. Also, several wetland determinations were completed.
- Walthill and Omaha FO staff completed the Natural Resource Inventory for Thurston, Douglas and Sarpy Counties and entered this information into an online database. This is a county natural resources assessment that is completed every other year.
- Walthill FO staff completed 4 HEL determinations; they also conducted field work for a certified wetland determination.
- Walthill FO received 1 waterway application.
- Omaha FO staff met with FSA County Committee and a local farmer in regard to a "Good Faith Determination" request related to Highly Erodible Land Compliance (HELCL)

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO completed 1 conservation plan for an EQIP contract.
- Blair FO completed payments on 9 EQIP terrace systems for \$113,081.59 and 1 EQIP pipeline for \$1,018.44.
- Dakota County is preparing a swine facility application, an irrigation management application and a number of pasture management and grade stabilization structure plans for EQIP applications.
- Justin Linder, Tekamah FO, has been actively working with EQIP contract holders that have Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans to review soil sampling and manure analysis records before applying requirements for a nutrient budget.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, Tekamah FO, has been working on estimates for new EQIP applications.
- In Burt County, to further promote EQIP, a news article pertaining to EQIP was submitted to the local newspaper. All individuals that responded have been contacted.

- Walthill FO staff completed 1 EQIP payment.
- Walthill FO staff mailed Comprehensive Nutrient Management Practice (CNMP) letters and accompanying packet of information to EQIP contract holders having CNMP in their contracts.
- Omaha FO completed 5 EQIP payments for terrace/tile systems. Also, 3 contract modifications were completed and 1 new application for a pond was received.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Dakota County completed the earthwork on 1 restoration project this fall and half of the earthwork on a 2nd project.
- The survey on Harbor 671 was completed this month and the survey for Tobin & Sons is ongoing.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO completed 19 CRP enrollment contracts for FY2008, FY2009 and FY2010.
- Tekamah FO completed 30 CRP contracts for reenrollment for FY2008, FY2009 and FY2010.
- Tekamah FO received 3 Continuous CRP applications: 2 Conservation Practice (CP) 23's (Wetland Restoration); 1 CP22 (Riparian Buffer). Also, a contract was approved for a CP21 (Grass Filter Strip) received earlier.
- Walthill FO staff completed 5 reenrollment contracts, revised 5 reenrollment contracts and completed 2 CRP seedings.
- Omaha FO completed 13 CRP enrollment contracts for FY2008, FY2009 and FY 2010.

SILVER CREEK WATERSHED

- Staff from the P-MRNRD, NRCS and Olsson Associates visited Silver Creek grade control structures that were built spring 2006 to review and discuss erosion concerns.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- One of the water and sediment control basins constructed this fall in Dakota County was in the P/J watershed project area.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

- Dakota County completed tree clearing on 15 acres of a native prairie remnant restoration project.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Walthill FO staff provided news articles to the Pender Times on pasture management and no-till; they also submitted a pasture management article to Thurston County Farm Service Agency.
- 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: Conservation Fund Deadline Nears; Informational No-till Meeting Set; Pasture Management Seminar Scheduled; and Tree Seedlings Available. Photos with captions were included of a wetland restoration excavation project near Hubbard, and of 2 Water and Sediment Control Basin construction projects.
- Justin Linder, NRCS Tekamah, has been working with the NRCS State Office staff to review documentation and eligibility requirements for an upcoming CSP (Conservation Security Program) training session.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Walthill FO staff provided Andy Baker, Winnebago Agency, crop production information by soil type.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- Walthill FO NRD staff are checking the status of filter strip plantings and conducting fall inspections of Silver Creek, Tekamah-Mud and Pigeon/Jones structures.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Omaha, Blair and Walthill FO NRCS staff completed the on-line NO FEAR ACT training.
- All NRCS/NRD field office staff attended an All Employees Meeting in Tekamah.
- Kelly Fravel and Neil Stockfleth attended the Dakota County Board of Commissioners meeting on December 18, to discuss road structure cost share in the Pigeon/Jones Creek Special Watershed project.
- 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. Publicity activities for these meetings are underway.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, January 10, 2007