

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Burt County has received 119 Food Security Act (FSA) re-determinations on acres requiring new Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations.
- Burt County completed 31 conservation compliance reviews; determination letters will be sent out in July.
- Blair Field Office (FO) has received 11 Conservation Assistance Program applications for summer conservation practices in Washington County, and they have received 12 cost-share applications for fall conservation practices.
- Blair FO staff completed compliance reviews. Many of the fields were no-tilled; 12 of the 13 farms have been notified that they are meeting compliance requirements. A variance has been requested on the remaining producer.
- Omaha FO completed 13 compliance reviews.
- Omaha FO completed 15 plan revisions to report conservation tillage.
- Burt County processed 6 billings for tree plantings.
- Dakota County completed compliance review field visits on 19 tracts and submitted a terrace project for cost-share assistance.
- Thurston County has 10 conservation projects approved for NRD cost share and 18 Lands for Conservation cost-share applications approved by the NRD.
- Thurston County staff completed field work for 7 conservation compliance reviews.
- Ongoing work performed on a certified wetland determination appeal in Thurston County.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Omaha FO received 3 new EQIP applications.
- Burt County received 4 new EQIP applications for terraces and 1 for Ag Waste Facility.
- Blair FO staff modified an EQIP contract to add technical service provider funding for a private consultant to complete the design, inspection and certification of an Ag Waste System.
- Blair FO technical staff reports the completion of Van Dyke's EQIP grade stabilization structure. Clearing and grubbing has begun on the Ciurej EQIP grade stabilization structure.
- Dakota County staff members have survey and design work underway on a recently approved pasture system project, and they are also assisting with the installation of practices on 2 pasture projects.
- Walthill FO staff surveyed 2 water pipelines and 5 new applications for EQIP contracts were received.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Omaha FO received 2 new applications.
- Burt County received 3 new WRP applications offering 120 acres total.
- Dakota County had a WRP offer accepted on a 27-acre site, and they have boundary surveys underway on 2 WRP parcels on the Missouri River floodplain.
- Walthill FO staff made 10 contacts for possible WREP applications.
- Walthill FO staff met with the Omaha tribal council and received 7 applications for WREP.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Burt County completed 22 CRP revisions/modifications for acreage changes and completed 4 CRP status reviews.
- Blair FO has completed 11 of the 13 General CRP contracts that were approved; contracts start on October 1, 2005.
- Walthill FO staff completed 19 revisions due to acre changes.
- Walthill FO staff completed 4 general seedings and 2 filter strip seedings.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Construction work has begun on 2 of the 3 dam projects planned for summer installation near Hubbard.

DAKOTA COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

- The move to the new Natural Resource Center located in Dakota City has been completed.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Robert Hall, RC at Omaha, provided seeding recommendations to the Corps of Engineers (COE) located downtown for 2 restoration sites in Sarpy County. Also, filter strip establishment and maintenance information was provided to the Omaha COE office at Wehrspann Lake.
- Don Atkinson, RC at Walthill, provided tree identification information to Walthill's 3rd and 4th grade students.
- Don Atkinson completed updated FY 2005 Special Emphasis (Indian) Program Manager report to NRCS State Conservationist.
- The South Sioux City staff provided news items and photos with captions for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of June. The news items were: New Home for USDA Service Center Agencies, What To Do With Cropland Ditches, Scrap Tire Collection, and Pesticide Container Recycling Continues. Photos with captions were included of technicians from REGA Engineering Group conducting a WRP boundary survey in Dakota County, employees of Ray Cooney Fertilizer of Walthill unloading metal pipe to be used in construction of Pigeon/Jones Watershed dams near Hubbard, and Lance Oelrich, P-MRNRD technician, inspecting plastic agricultural containers collected for recycling.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION

- NRD FO staff at Walthill mowed structures in Burt and Dakota Counties and rented drills to 2 operators.
- Walthill NRD staff submitted 3 waterway projects for cost-share payment.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Wetland team leader and Walthill FO staff met with an Omaha tribal council member to discuss a possible WRP site.
- Walthill FO staff, Verlon Barnes, DC Omaha, and NRCS State Office staff, met with Omaha tribal council to discuss possibility of Blackbird Creek watershed becoming a PL 566 project.
- Walthill FO staff talked to an Omaha tribal employee regarding his concerns about the WREP program.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Blair FO, Neil Jensen RC, has completed the web-based training on sexual harassment, computer security and civil rights.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, July 12, 2005