

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Burt County received 32 Food Security Act (FSA) re-determinations on acres requiring new Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations; 1 new wetland determination request was received; 3 determinations were completed.
- Burt County has 29 FSA compliance reviews to conduct; notification letters and appointments have been made to schedule reviews for the first 2 weeks in June.
- Douglas/Sarpy Counties have 10 FSA compliance reviews to conduct in June; notification letters have been mailed to producers.
- Blair field office (FO) mailed 13 notification letters to producers with compliance reviews scheduled in May and June.
- Dakota County has status review field visits underway on 17 tracts.
- Walthill FO processed 5 terrace and waterway projects for payment.
- Blair FO has received 5 Conservation Assistance Program applications for summer conservation practices and 29 applications for cost share to plant trees.
- Blair FO rented grass drills to 3 landowners for seeding 56.8 acres of native grasses in May.
- Engineering quality reviews were completed in Thurston and Dakota Counties in May. Several issues to be addressed were identified.
- Dakota County submitted 2 tree plantings for cost-share assistance.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Thurston County has 17 applications signed and approved in Protracts (NRCS computer program for tracking information).
- Burt County has 9 approved contracts consisting of 7 terrace projects, 1 animal waste project and 1 irrigation system, allocating \$207,067 in program funds.
- Blair FO staff wrote 4 new EQIP contracts: 1 livestock waste facility and 3 terrace systems; 1 EQIP payment has been completed on fencing, tank, and nutrient pest management; 2 EQIP applications received and ranked.
- Omaha FO received 5 new EQIP applications and completed 3 applications.
- South Sioux City had 1 pasture project approved in the second round of funding.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Walthill FO staff secured some supporting information and accompanied soil scientist to 1 potential WRP site and 1 WREP site.
- Walthill FO staff secured map files of Indian lands on the Winnebago reservation and sent them to the NRCS State Office GIS specialist for the production of a WREP corridor map.
- Burt County has received 6 signed option agreements from participants wishing to continue the process of enrolling lands into the WREP program, approximately 500 acres.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

**CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)**

- Four existing CRP sites were inter-seeded in Thurston County.
- Burt County completed 16 CRP revisions/modifications for acreage changes.

- Blair FO completed 2 modifications for replanting trees and Burn/Early Succession Habitat planting; they also received 2 new CRP contracts for quail buffers.
- Omaha FO completed 2 CRP contracts.
- South Sioux City finalized plans for signup #29 contracts and prepared 5 CRP Pheasants Forever food plot applications.

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

- Clearing and grubbing for sites 4, 5 and 14 was scheduled to begin on May 31.
- A presentation about the watershed project was made to approximately 30 people participating in the Leadership Dakota County leadership development program on May 19, by Neil Stockfleth.
- A land treatment inventory for site 15 watershed is underway in conjunction with Olsson and Associates.

#### **DAKOTA COUNTY SERVICE CENTER**

- South Sioux City FO plans to move on June 1, to the new facility in Dakota City.

#### **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- Blair NRCS staff, Neil Jensen and Ralph Arauza, assisted staff from Washington County Extension and Cargill Inc. with Fourth Grade Conservation Days at Arbor Park Elementary School. Approximately 250 students and teachers participated in the conservation games and demonstrations on soils, erosion, wildlife and groundwater. Tree seedlings were donated by the P-MRNRD and given to the students and teachers.
- The South Sioux City staff provided new items and photos with captions for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of May. The news items were: Are You Ready for CSP?, Backyard Conservation, Check Connections to Ensure Safe Water Supply, and Pesticide Container Recycling for Dakota and Thurston Counties. Photos with captions were included of fifth grade students with tree seedlings provided by the Papio-Missouri River NRD, tree planting by Papio-Missouri River NRD staff, and the nearly completed Dakota County Natural Resources Center in Dakota City.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION**

- Walthill FO NRD staff mowed structures in the Pigeon/Jones Watershed; they also assisted with tree planting in Washington County.

#### **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- Walthill FO staff attended tribal consultation meetings with the Omaha and Winnebago tribal councils, and they assisted BIA employee with crop residue measurements.

#### **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- Neil Jensen, NRCS Blair, attended Ag Emergency Planning Session in Omaha.
- Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, attended the Washington County Pheasants Forever business meetings.
- Sam Thomas, NRCS South Sioux City, attended Soil Compaction and Field Control training in Fort Worth on May 16-20; she also attended gabion basket utilization training in Council Bluffs on May 27.