

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- The following tree orders have been received for spring 2006 plant: Blair 8,075 trees; Dakota City 875 trees; Omaha 5,925 trees.
- Blair field office (FO) has written 6 conservation plans for wildlife.
- Blair FO has 18 conservation applications for \$103,798 and 16 seeding applications for \$17,818; 9 have been completed.
- Dakota County completed engineering designs on 2 water and sediment control basins and 1 waterway.
- NRCS staff, Chuck Leinen (Omaha), Sam Thomas and Vern Dean (Dakota City), completed engineering site visits on 6 dam sites in Dakota County.
- Walthill FO submitted 2 terrace projects and 2 waterway projects for payment.
- Walthill FO staff conducted field work for 2 certified wetland determinations.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO completed 3 EQIP payments; the practices were terrace systems for \$4,333.44.
- Blair FO received an additional 6 EQIP applications (February) for the second sign-up.
- Walthill FO completed 10 EQIP payments; 9 of these were also submitted to the P-MRNRD for additional 15% cost share.
- Omaha FO received 7 new EQIP applications in February; also, one contract was paid.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Blair FO received a WRP application and mailed an application to a producer for signatures; each application is about 40 to 50 acres.
- Dakota County submitted an application for a parcel adjoining the Blyburg Lake Wetland complex; they are working on 2 additional applications, one adjoins the Blyburg Lake complex.
- Walthill FO received 18 WREP applications from the Omaha and Winnebago tribes for a total of 3,600 acres.
- Omaha FO received 1 WRP application.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO wrote 2 CCRP contracts for quail buffers; they also received 3 CCRP applications: a quail buffer, a wetland and a grass filter strip.
- Dakota County completed 2 new CCRP contracts.
- Walthill FO completed 8 filter strip plans and are waiting for BIA signatures.
- Omaha FO received 1 CCRP application for a field windbreak.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Landowner contacts are underway promoting watershed structures and additional structure sites.
- A landowner meeting was held on February 15, to provide an update of watershed activities; 25 watershed landowners took part in the meeting. Ralph Puls, NRD, and Neil Stockfleth, NRCS, took part in an interview with the Sioux City Journal regarding the project.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Walthill FO staff met with NRCS PL566 team members and Omaha tribal employees to discuss the Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) program.
- Walthill FO staff made numerous contacts with Omaha and Winnebago tribal staff regarding WREP/WRP and RWA programs.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist-Omaha, and Craig Goodwin, Geologist-NRCS State Office, made power point presentations at an Erosion Control Seminar sponsored by the City of Omaha. More than 200 developers and consultants attended.
- The Dakota County FO staff provided news items for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of February. Article topics included: CRP Sign-up Announced, Woodland Management Workshop Scheduled, Imagine a World Without Trees and Funds Available for Nebraska Buffer Strip Program. Photos with captions were included of the completed Elk Creek streambed stabilization structure, the Pigeon/Jones Watershed meeting and windbreak benefits.
- Neil Stockfleth, NRCS, gave a presentation on conservation programs to 25 farmers attending a local fertilizer company meeting.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- NRD employees attended First Aid and CPR training.
- NRCS employees attended RUSLE2 (Revised Soil Loss Equation) and CPA-52 (Environment Evaluation form) training.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, March 8, 2006