

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT *within the P-MRNRD***  
**OCTOBER 2003**

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Thurston County completed 15 HEL determinations.
- Burt County received 2 requests for HEL determinations and 4 requests for certified wetland determinations during the month of October.
- Blair field office has received 1 HEL/Wetland Determination/ASCS-569 request for FY 2004.
- Twelve terrace jobs have been staked and designed during the month of October in Burt County; 10 of the 12 staked/designed have been built.
- Blair field office has received 29 applications for conservation practices in fall 2003; 30% have been laid out and designed; 4 have been built and/or cost shared on.
- Blair field office has received 4 Cropland Conversion applications for approximately 190 acres of native grasses.
- Omaha field office completed for payment a cropland conversion application for 56 acres.
- Omaha field office has received 6 applications for fall terrace construction.
- Blair field office has received 38 requests for tree ordering packets; 1 paid order has been received.
- Omaha field office has received 15 requests for tree planning/planting.
- One fall terrace project was completed in Thurston County.
- Don Doty, Omaha, Don Atkinson, Walthill, and Matt Wray, COE Omaha, met with a Burt County producer to discuss requirements for a wetland restoration plan needed to restore a converted wetland.

**EQIP**

- In Burt County, 4 terrace jobs approved for cost share in EQIP have been staked and designed; three of these have been built.
- Blair field office has completed contracts for 5 EQIP applications.
- Washington County's EQIP grade stabilization structure for landowner Roger Mathiesen has been built.
- Omaha field office received one new EQIP application for a grade control structure.
- Geological investigations were completed on 2 approved EQIP ag waste facilities in Thurston County.

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- A professional land survey to determine legal boundary for a WRP application in Burt County was completed.
- NRCS field office staff from Omaha, Blair and Tekamah assisted the WRP team (NRCS, Nebraska Game and Parks and US Fish and Wildlife staff) with annual status reviews on 4 WRP sites in Burt County and 8 WRP site in Washington County.

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

- Three new contracts/plans, totaling approximately 67 acres, were written for Continuous CRP for filter strips in Burt County. Also, 3 CRP contract revisions were completed for reseeding.
- Blair field office completed 9 general CRP contracts that were accepted during CRP sign-up #26. Also, 3 applications for continuous CRP were received.
- In Dakota County, approximately 8 acres of continuous CRP waterways are in the planning stage, possibly being offered this fall after the crops are out of the field.
- One buffer contract was completed in Thurston County. Copies of CRP contracts and conservation plans were mailed to producers in Thurston County.

## **PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED**

- Construction is progressing on the Pigeon/Jones Creek Structure #3 northwest of Hubbard.
- Approximately 30 acres of contour buffer strips and 10 acres of waterways will be laid out after beans are out on the Dan and Pearl Hartnett farm located in the P/J Creek watershed. Layout is scheduled for November 4-5, weather permitting.
- Follow-up with landowners and operators is ongoing.

## **WATER QUALITY**

- Douglas/Sarpy Counties abandoned 1 well; received 2 new applications; 7 well applications are pending.
- Washington County abandoned 1 well; 14 well applications are pending.
- Dakota County abandoned 1 well; received 1 new application; 8 well applications are pending.
- Burt County has 5 well applications pending.
- Thurston County has 2 well applications pending.

## **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- Blair field office, Ralph Arauza, Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager, assisted with the Career Fair at the Lincoln Devaney Center for UNL students.
- Neil Jensen, RC at Blair, participated in the "Sixth Grade Conservation Days" at Summit Lake; 352 students and 42 teachers from 15 area schools took part in the scheduled activities.
- 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 October. The news items were: Continuous Conservation Reserve Program sign up underway, Sixth Grade Conservation Days at Summit Lake, Forest Land Enhancement Program sign up and Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D's Computer Recycling Day. The photos with captions were Sixth Grade Conservation Days at Summit Lake (NRCS soils presentation), Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D's Computer Recycling Day and terrace system layout in Thurston County with Vern Dean, NRCS, and Jason McCauley, BIA.

## **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- Andy Bohnenkamp and Jennifer Sundberg, Tekamah field office, and Don Atkinson, Walthill field office, completed a week long training session for certifying wetland determinations, Regulatory IV. The training was presented by NRCS and the Corps of Engineers.
- NRCS field office staff attended training on farm programs.

- All field office staff attended the NRCS/NRD All Employees' Meeting at Tekamah. At the meeting, Ralph Arauza, Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager, discussed "Sexual Harassment-Annual Policy Reminder" and safety information regarding smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and child safety on Halloween Night.
- Kelly Fravel, South Sioux City, attended the South Sioux City Tree Board meeting on October 14, and recorded meeting minutes.
- Don Atkinson, Dennis Cady and Blaine Gaer, Walthill field office, attended a one-day workshop "Conservation Trees and Shrubs" at Concord.

#### **DISTRICT INFORMATION**

- Rod Kinning and Denny Piper conducted maintenance on Tekamah Mud and Silver Creek structures and inspected a Pigeon Creek structure (near Hubbard). They also conducted general maintenance on the rural water system.

#### **PERSONNEL**

- The Resource Conservationist position at the South Sioux City field office has been filled. Neil Stockfleth, currently a District Conservationist at Seargent Bluff, IA, will start December 1, 2003.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha  
November 6, 2003

Cc: Ken Noonan, ASTC/FO, NRCS, Lincoln  
RH:le:Activity Report