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/designated 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 Sargent Bluff, IA, will start December 1, 2003.