

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Blair field office (FO) has completed 3 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations and 3 wetland determinations; they have also updated 4 conservation plans to meet compliance requirements.
- Blair FO has received 55 applications for conservation practices for fall; 24 practices have been designed, staked and are under construction. Eight area contractors are currently working in Washington County; construction in parts of Washington County has been temporarily halted due to moisture conditions.
- Blair FO has received 2 requests for the grass drill for fall seeding; they have mailed 31 packets for ordering trees for spring 2006.
- Burt County has 32 new HEL/Wetland determinations to complete and 134 HEL re-determinations to complete.
- Burt County currently has 7 NRD Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) terrace projects to complete for fall construction, and 2 NRD tree plantings for spring tree season.
- Dakota County completed 6 HEL determinations and 6 wetland determinations; 1 wetland determination appeal was received.
- Dakota County completed conservation plan revisions on 4 tracts; they have 1 water and sediment control basin project staked and designed; they certified a tree planting project and a filter strip installation.
- NRD tree sales have begun and 125 trees have been ordered to date in Dakota County.
- Walthill FO processed 2 cost-share applications for payment for terraces, waterways and underground outlets. They also processed 4 Lands for Conservation cost-share payments.
- Walthill FO staff assisted Washington County with terrace surveys.
- Walthill approved 4 CAP applications for fall construction.
- Walthill FO completed 5 certified wetland determinations and completed documentation for 2 certified wetland determinations.
- Walthill FO provided assistance to Nebraska Department of Roads regarding status of wet areas surrounding proposed road realignment project.
- Omaha FO completed 6 conservation plan revisions and received 2 requests for wetland determinations.
- Omaha FO completed 1 Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) payment for terraces and processed 1 Lands for Conservation cost-share payment.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Omaha FO completed 2 EQIP modifications and 2 EQIP payments.
- To date, Burt County has 3 EQIP applications (FY06) for terrace projects.
- Currently in Burt County all terrace construction has ceased due to very dry conditions.
- Burt County completed 2 EQIP terrace projects, 4 terrace systems have been staked and designed, and 9 projects are ready to be staked and designed.
- Blair FO reports that 2 EQIP payments have been made (a No-Till Incentive contract and a terrace system).
- Dakota County certified the completion of an irrigation conversion project and 3 grade stabilization dams. They are contacting landowners to complete applications for new contracts.

- NRCS reached an agreement with USA Tire Management Systems Inc. of South Sioux City which allows use of their rubber tire tanks in EQIP funded pasture management systems.
- Walthill FO approved 6 cost-share applications for EQIP contracts in the P-MRNRD. They also approved 4 cost-share applications for EQIP contracts in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. Walthill staff also completed 5 EQIP modifications.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Burt County received 11 new applications for WRP/WREP totaling over 1,000 acres with bio-engineering team appointments scheduled in November. The estimated total for recorded WRP easements would be approximately 3,150 acres in Burt County. Our estimated total for all applications received thus far as well as recorded easements would be close to 5,000 acres on the Missouri River bottom.
- Mark Deisley from the Wetlands Assistance Team performed a topographic survey on a WRP site in Dakota County; Dakota County is contacting landowners seeking new applications for WRP/WREP.
- Omaha FO assisted Patrick Cowsert, Resource Soil Scientist, with a WRP application.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Dakota County received applications for 2 filter strip projects.

SILVER CREEK

- Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, and Mitch Keebler, NRCS Omaha, attended the site showing in Burt County and assisted staff from Olsson's with the bid opening for Silver Creek structures 23, 24 and 25. Five bids were received, and the potential successful bidder is Taylor Excavating.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Final inspection and acceptance has been completed on Sites 4, 5 and 14; representatives from Olsson and Associates, under contract to the P-MRNRD, are conducting an analysis of agricultural chemical usage in the Site 15 watershed.
- Copies of the recreational site conceptual plan were provided to the Hubbard village clerk for public distribution and discussion.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- NRCS/NRD staff assisted UNL Extension and other agencies with the Sixth Grade Conservation Day at Summit Lake; 330 students and teachers participated in the sessions.
- Blair FO, Darlene Hensley, NRD, is working with area schools to expand the Outdoor Classroom Grant Program in Washington County.
- The Dakota City staff provided news items for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of October. The news items were: 90% Cost Share Available for Fall Terrace Construction, NRD Tree Prices Announced, Woodland Stewardship Conference, Students Attend Field Day at Summit Lake and RC&D Coordinator Honored. Photos with captions were included of system checkout on a new Pigeon/Jones Watershed dam, Sixth Grade Conservation Day and Kent Neumann receiving the Outstanding Nebraska RC&D Coordinator award.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION

- Walthill NRD staff conducted fall maintenance (mowing, dormant seeding and noxious weed control) on Tekamah Mud and Silver Creek structures.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- NRCS field office staff attended training in Omaha on October 6, on using the NRCS Environmental Evaluation form (CPA-52).
- All field office NRCS/NRD employees attended the NRCS All Employees meeting at Dakota City.
- Kelly Fravel, Dakota City NRD, attended the South Sioux City tree board meeting on October 18.
- Neil Stockfleth, Dakota City NRCS, made an informational presentation on the Pigeon/Jones Watershed project to the South Sioux City Kiwanis Club on October 19.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, November 8, 2005