

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

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**CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION**

- Blair field office (FO) has 53 conservation applications for fall construction; 31 have been approved. Layout, survey, design and construction are underway with 8 contractors working in Washington County.
- Dakota County completed 180 acres of conservation plan revisions; they also completed a design for a grass waterway and a water and sediment control basin scheduled for fall installation.
- Walthill FO staff conducted field work for 1 certified wetland determination.
- Omaha FO completed 3 wetland determinations on sites approved for Rehab.
- Of the 30 terrace projects already lined up for construction this fall in Burt County, 8 terraced jobs have been completed so far; the field office continues to receive and process new applications.
- Tekamah FO processed NRD applications for terraces and grass seedings for CRP acres.
- Patrick Cowsert, NRCS Soil Scientist, assisted Burt County with the field visit portion of 5 wetland determinations to be certified.
- Omaha FO has 17 conservation applications for fall construction; 7 have been surveyed, designed and construction is underway.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- Thurston County staked 4 terrace projects and 1 payment on an EQIP contract was completed.
- The needed documentation has been received to finish up the EQIP payments on Charling Farms animal waste facility in Burt County. They have also received irrigation management records for a producer that need to be reviewed and the EQIP payment processed.
- Burt County has 3 Silver Creek structures, 2 animal waste facility structural practices and 1 irrigation water management that they are waiting for quantities, bills and/or records to process the payments.

**WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)**

**WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

- Dakota County has a modification and compatible use request pending on a restoration to be completed this fall.
- One new WRP application has been received in Burt County and needs to be processed and sent to the Wetlands Team in Syracuse.
- In Burt County construction has been completed on 3 WRP restoration sites with seeding to occur after November 15. Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, assisted the WRP team with surveying and construction checks.

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

**CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)**

- Blair FO reports 17 landowners used the Managed Haying and Grazing option on 571.8 CRP acres.
- Dakota County is working on several new Continuous CRP applications.
- A Continuous CRP application for a filter strip that goes around one side of Silver Creek Site 30 and along the channel of Silver Creek Site 39 has been processed.

## **PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED**

- Repair work on post-construction erosion is completed on Site 5. The waterway was reshaped and reseeded and the dam was over seeded.

## **INFORMATION/EDUCATION**

- NRCS and NRD staff from Washington, Thurston and Dakota Counties assisted with the Sixth Grade Conservation Days at Summit Lake in Burt County; approximately 270 students, teachers and parents participated.
- The Dakota County FO staff provided news items for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of October. Article topics included: Farmers Get Paid for No-till Efforts, Students Attend Field Day at Summit Lake, 90% Cost Share Available for Conservation Practices, and Grants for Restoring Community Trees. Photos with captions were included of a wetland restoration project near Dakota City, the new Papio-Missouri River NRD General Manager, and the Sixth Grade Conservation Field Day at Summit Lake.
- During the week of October 23, NRCS offices across the nation, approximately 3000, were busy completing a mandatory work assignment that involved collecting and documenting workload information from 2006. NRCS is directed to complete a workload analysis (WLA) every third year based on agency programs and mandates. The last WLA was completed in 2001.

The Activity - Based Costing – 2006 (ABC-2006) model is being used for the current workload analysis data collection process. The process will incorporate data from many of the key NRCS accountability systems such as: Performance Results System (PRS), Protracts and Total Cost Accounting System (TCAS). The contributions of partners assisting NRCS with meeting its mission are also being collected.

## **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE**

- Walthill FO staff provided technical assistance to BIA employee, Jason McCauley, to control ditches in pastureland.
- Walthill FO staff also provided assistance to Hollis Stabler, Omaha tribal member, regarding a road right-of-way survey.

## **TRAINING/MEETINGS**

- Blair FO NRCS staff completed the online ethics training.
- Neil Stockfleth, NRCS Dakota City, presented information on the Pigeon/Jones Special Watershed Project to a group of Homer High School seniors.
- Justin Linder, NRCS Tekamah, attended REG IV training held in Lexington, NE; he is now certified to make wetland delineations.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, November 13, 2006