

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- ❖ Walthill field office completed 12 HEL determinations.
- ❖ South Sioux City field office has received 22 HEL determination requests for FY 2003 with 19 being completed
- ❖ Blair field office has received 35 HEL/Wetland Determination/ASCS-569 requests for FY 2003.
- ❖ During the past month, Burt County has received requests for 1 certified wetland determinations and 5 requests for HEL determinations.
- ❖ In Thurston County, 8 summer terrace projects were staked.
- ❖ Due to a lack of moisture, construction of conservation practices was halted in most counties for the month of August.
- ❖ Field offices are receiving applications for conservation practices to be completed fall of 2003.
 - Blair FO has received 19 fall applications for conservation practices.
 - Omaha FO has received 5 fall applications
 - Tekamah FO has received 10 fall applications.
- ❖ Burt County and Omaha FO staff met with a Burt County producer to discuss options for a wetland mitigation/restoration plan on an area that was converted in 2000 & 2003

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- ❖ Construction is progressing on Pigeon/Jones Creek structure #3. The inventory and evaluation process for P/J Creek Structure #5 is scheduled for September 10.

EQIP

- ❖ NRCS field offices are waiting for official notification from Lincoln as to which EQIP contracts will be funded. It is anticipated that of the 37 EQIP applications submitted for ranking, 23 will be approved for funding.
- ❖ Burt County has completed status review for all 11 existing EQIP contracts. Nine of the existing contracts will expire September 30, 2003.
- ❖ Washington County landowner, Roger Mathiesen, has received a construction permit from DNR and has selected a contractor. Construction of the EQIP grade control structure will begin within 60 days.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- ❖ Burt County has received 10 requests for CRP Managed Haying and Grazing for nearly 200 acres.
- ❖ Within the NRD, 93 CRP offers were approved for CRP signup #26. Following is a listing of approval by county; Omaha – 23 Blair - 10, Tekamah - 15 Walthill – 44 S.Sioux City -1.

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- ❖ A WRP application was approved in Burt County. Also, 1 new application was received.

WATER QUALITY

- ❖ Dakota County has 10 well applications pending.
- ❖ Washington County abandoned 2 well; 13 well applications pending.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- ❖ The South Sioux City FO provided news items and photos with captions for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of August. The news items covered: Pesticide Container Recycling Program, Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area approved for USDA funding, Lewis and Clark Motorcoach Tour, and Lewis and Clark Byway Photo Contest.
- ❖ NRCS and NRD staff from Dakota and Thurston Counties, and NE Loess Hills RC&D staffed a booth at the county fair.

TRAINING

- ❖ John Zaugg, FR Omaha FO, attended Grade 4 water operator training in Omaha.
- ❖ Numerous NRCS employees attended a Pasture and Rangeland Workshop in Stanton.
- ❖ Jenny Sundberg, RC Tekamah FO, attended Conservation Buffer Strip training in Nebraska City at the Lied Center.
- ❖ Lee Appleby and Andy Bohnenkamp, Tekamah FO, and Blaine Gaer, Walthill FO, attended a no-till Seminar in Norfolk.
- ❖ Andrew Bohnenkamp, Tekamah FO, attended a 3 day training session on the use and functionality of an Arcview modeling process designed to help target potential WRP sites. Andrew used this process to complete a target WRP site map for Burt County and has also started the process for Washington County.
- ❖ Chuck Leinen, Omaha FO, and Andrew Bohnenkamp, Tekamah FO, attended a WRP/Wetland priority meeting in Lincoln to address a GIS based model for targeting potential WRP sites along the Missouri River Corridor.

CIVIL RIGHTS

- ❖ Blair field office, Ralph Arauza, HEPM, attended the quarterly civil rights meeting at the State Office in Lincoln. Also, Ralph Arauza has been working with Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Agnes and Assumption Parochial Elementary Schools in Omaha to relocate 150 NRCS '98' laptop/desktop computers that are being replaced in the NRCS field offices. This distribution is part of a program to assist minority educational facilities in obtaining technology for their students

WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

- ❖ Terry Schumacher, FR Blair FO, contacted numerous landowners encouraging them to complete an application and pay the hookup fee for the potential Washington County Rural Water Project.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha
September 11, 2003

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