

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Burt County completed 2 wetland determinations.
- Omaha field office (FO) completed 10 plan revisions and 4 Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations.
- Dakota County had 2 “Not Actively Applying” conservation compliance determination appeal variance requests granted by the NRCS state office.
- Dakota County was the site of a streambed stabilization structure site showing by the P-MRNRD on August 19. The structure will be constructed on the Elk Creek approximately one mile northeast of Jackson.
- Dakota County received 1 wetland restoration application.
- Thurston County completed 1 waterway project, and the staff reviewed CRP soil rental rates and submitted recommendations to FSA’s County Committee.
- Blair FO reports that 10 practices for summer have been completed; 1 practice will be completed in September.
- Blair FO has received 21 applications for conservation practices for fall; they have also received 24 requests for ordering trees in the fall.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- P-MRNRD has secured \$960,000 in EQIP thus far this fiscal year (FY 2005) with potential for up to another \$20,000 - \$50,000.
- EQIP Funds Utilized FY 2002 through 2004:

FY 2002:	\$157,681
FY 2003:	\$506,337
FY 2004:	\$445,765
- Dakota County had 1 dam and pasture system application approved.
- Omaha FO completed 1 EQIP application and another is pre-approved.
- Burt County has 8 terrace projects approved and scheduled for fall construction.
- Burt County is working with 3 prescribed grazing contracts to install fence, wells, tanks, pipelines, etc. on over 200 acres of pastureland.
- Burt County has also been following up with previous year contract holders to ensure that practices are being applied according to the schedule of operations.
- Walthill FO staff surveyed 8 EQIP terrace projects.
- Blair FO reports that the Ciurej EQIP grade stabilization structure has been completed.
- Blair FO has written 5 EQIP contracts for terrace practices, and they have received pre-approval for 2 EQIP applications.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Burt County staff and the Wetland Assistance Team are working on completing all the necessary documentation for 10 applications which will ultimately restore over 1,000 acres of wetland habitat.
- Dakota County has completed the boundary survey on a fourth WRP parcel on the Missouri River floodplain.
- Walthill FO staff mailed information to selected individuals and visited with the Omaha and Winnebago tribes concerning the WREP program; they also received 4 WRP contracts.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Dakota County received 1 application which includes filter strips and habitat buffers for upland birds in the area of a new watershed dam.
- Walthill FO staff checked 1 Quail Initiative signup for eligibility.
- Blair FO completed 5 status reviews.
- Omaha FO completed 2 CRP revisions and completed 10 CRP status reviews.
- Omaha FO processed a CAP cost-share application to reseed approximately 51 acres of CREP.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- Construction was completed on Site #4 and has started on Site #14 near Hubbard.
- Representatives from Olsson and Associates, under contract to the P-MRNRD, interviewed several landowners in the Hubbard area regarding historical floods along the Pigeon Creek.
- Neil Stockfleth, NRCS Dakota City, toured the watershed with Bill Rohde, newly hired Dakota County Road Department Superintendent, to review planned road structure sites.

DAKOTA COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

- An open house to showcase the new facility was held August 25; over 300 visitors registered.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Omaha FO reviewed critical area seeding mixture for the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) at Wehrspann.
- Omaha FO completed level 2 account activation for a Technical Service Provider (TSP).
- Omaha FO provided conservation and resource information to Chuck Leinen, Civil Engineer at Omaha, for 2 watershed rehabilitation structures.
- The Dakota City staff provided news items for the NRD Share Page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of August. The news items were: Erosion Control Structure Planned on Elk Creek, Pesticide Container Recycling and Stop the Spread of Purple Loosestrife. Photos with captions were included of agricultural pesticide container collection efforts, Purple Loosestrife infestation threats and NRD rain gauge drawing results.

NEBRASKA LOESS HILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)

LOCAL WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Weed Superintendents from Dakota, Thurston, Burt, Washington, and Cuming Counties make up the Middle Missouri Valley Weed Management Area. On July 20, members of the group took a boat trip down the Missouri River to map infestations of Purple Loosestrife. Seventy-one patches were mapped in the 41 mile stretch between South Sioux City and Decatur – just on the Nebraska side of the river. A second boat trip, this time starting at Decatur and ending at the bridge east of Blair resulted in mapping another 200 patches. This trip covered an additional 43 miles. A third Boat Trip conducted from the Blair Bridge on south to the Washington / Douglas County line resulted in yet another 20 patches being found making a total of 291 patches being mapped. Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a noxious weed which invades and completely takes over water bodies making them useless for recreation or wildlife habitat. For more information or if you'd like to get involved, contact the RC&D office at: 402-685-5175.

CIVIL RIGHTS

- Don Atkinson, Walthill, attended 2 National Civil Rights Committee meetings.
- Don Atkinson, Walthill, supplied revised acreages for the Omaha, Winnebago and Santee tribes to NRCS national headquarters.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS/INFORMATION

- Walthill FO staff maintained Tekamah Mud and Silver Creek structures.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Neil Stockfleth, NRCS Dakota City, made an informational presentation on the Pigeon/Jones Special Watershed Project to the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D on August 16.
- Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, attended the LB962 meeting at Fremont.

Reported by: Robert Hall, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Omaha, September 13, 2005