

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

CONSERVATION PLANNING/APPLICATION

- Blair field office (FO) has 8 conservation applications for summer construction; 1 grade stab structure, 1 toe wall structure, 1 tile extension and 5 terrace systems. The grade stab and one terrace system have been completed and paid.
- Blair FO has 39 miscellaneous NRD cost-share applications for FY2007; 15 are completed and paid. These applications included CRP/CCRP seeding, pasture renovation, tree planting, Pheasants Forever/wildlife habitat seeding, field buffer/filter strip seeding and cropland conversion.
- Dakota County completed over 1,400 acres of conservation plan revisions during August.
- Dakota County prepared an application for a water and sediment control basin to be constructed this fall adjacent to a Pigeon/Jones Watershed structure.
- Burt County has been revising conservation plans for producers, updating their conservation cropping rotation and tillage practices.
- Burt County completed 15 Highly Erodible/Wetland determinations.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- Blair FO completed 2 payments for cross-fencing and a livestock pipeline for \$4,931.87.
- Dakota County has 2 pasture fence and pipeline projects and 2 grade control dams under design.
- Dakota County had a water and sediment control basin and a 14,000 ft. fence system constructed.
- Burt County completed installation of 2 pivot systems that were converted from high to low pressure and are conducting follow up with Irrigation Water Management (IWM) plans.
- A grazing system that included tanks, a pipeline and fence has been installed in Burt County.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (WREP)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

- Dakota County is developing 2 wetland restoration plans for projects to be completed by fall.
- NRCS engineering staff met to review restoration workload status in Burt County on August 16.
- NRCS staff attended a WRP restoration design concept meeting in Omaha on August 22.
- Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, held a pre-construction meeting for the WRP projects that are being implemented.
- Burt County received 2 WRP applications; the applications have been processed and forwarded to the Wetlands Team in Syracuse. Also, restoration of 2 WRP sites has begun.
- Burt County completed certified wetland determinations for WRP applicants.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- Blair FO staff wrote 29 conservation plans for CRP; they also completed 28 CRP contracts for the CRP general signup.

- Dakota County completed plans on several general CRP re-enrollment contracts; there are a total of 36 contracts to prepare.
- Thurston County completed 4 filter strip and CRP #33 contracts.
- Burt County has been processing NRD Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) applications to cost-share on CRP seedings; they have also completed the CRP #33 sign-up contracts that will begin October 1, 2006.
- Burt County completed a status review requested by the Farm Service Agency on a CRP field to determine if it was established before being released to be hayed or grazed.

PIGEON/JONES CREEK WATERSHED

- NRD officials worked with local landowners to realign a proposed access road and park boundary.
- NRCS and NRD staff agreed on post-construction erosion repair work to be performed on Site 5.
- Preliminary work is underway for surveying and design work for a landowner dam site above the main site.

SILVER CREEK

- Terry Schumacher, NRD Blair, reports that Taylor Excavating has completed the Silver Creek structures on sites 23, 24 and 25 in Burt County.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

- Dakota County is working with the contract holder to complete approximately 5 acres of brush clearing this summer.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION

- Neil Jensen, NRCS Blair, assisted the Farm Services Agency (FSA) staff with the setup of a booth at the Washington County Fair in Arlington.
- The Dakota County FO staff provided news items for the NRD share page published in the Dakota County Star for the month of August. Article topics included: Pesticide Container Recycling a Success; Study Confirms CRP Increases Pheasant Populations; NRCS Welcomes New Chief; Historical Marker Site Improved; NRD Meeting Scheduled for Dakota City. Photos with captions were included of Pesticide Container Recycling; Fair Drawing Winners; and Historical Marker Renovation.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

- Teresa Murphy, NRD Walthill, and Christine Jacobsen, NRD Omaha, worked with Rhonda Pitt (Little Priest College) to assist her in securing an outdoor classroom grant for an outdoor arboretum at the college.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- Walthill FO NRD staff mowed the Silver Creek structures, helped install Towantonga historical marker and delivered drills as needed.

TRAINING/MEETINGS

- Blair FO NRCS/FSA staff attended a teleconference regarding Federal Employees Retirement options.
- Blair FO staff had a safety meeting regarding the memo from P-MRNRD on "Winter Safety and Weather Precautions".
- Neil Jensen, NRCS Blair, attended the County Emergency Board meeting to assess drought conditions in Washington County.

- Walthill FO staff attended the Thurston County Emergency Board meeting; the Board reviewed a flash report that was filed the day before the meeting.
- Justin Linder and Andy Bohnenkamp, NRCS Tekamah, attended the final inspection meeting of the EQIP funded Silver Creek Watershed structures.

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